



Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## President's Message

Kudos to the symposium program committee, David Sucec and Diane Orr. As you will see, we are very fortunate to have three highly qualified and very interesting featured speakers for the symposium this fall. Thank you David and Diane.

Please note Jeff Allen's request for symposium field trip leaders. Jeff has already done an excellent job of identifying field trip opportunities. They are a major part of the symposium and it is critical that we have committed leaders to insure success. For those who would like to help, but don't know the area, see the call for field trip leaders on page 2.

Thanks to Troy Scotter for taking the lead on the summer picnic. He has chosen Vernal as the area and August 8-9 as the date. More later.

We appreciate those "URARAITes" who were involved in the Moab documentation project. Photos and article are included in this issue. A special acknowledgement and thanks go to Pam and Quent Baker who initiated, organized and led this effort in cooperation with the BLM. It is especially noteworthy that there is such a productive, effective interaction between the BLM representative, Leigh Grench and the volunteers.

Some may recall the question raised regarding the appropriateness of using the Nine Mile Canyon owl (see at top of page) as part of our symbology. We invited feedback. There has not been a lot, but almost all that we received has been in favor of our keeping it as part of our logo. We plan to continue its use for *Vestiges* and *Vestiges Brief*.

In lieu of the previously proposed April board meeting, there will be an informal get together, probably dinner, with the available board members and those symposium committee members and any URARA members who would like to join us. The tentative date is April 22. If you are interested in attending, please contact me for details and to confirm attendance at: [slrmar@cox.net](mailto:slrmar@cox.net) or 310-378-0320.

Happy Trails.

Steve Robinson

2009 URARA President

## Update on Nine Mile Canyon

By Troy Scotter

URARA members continue to be involved in meetings with the BLM, Bill Barrett Corp, and other interested parties regarding the West Tavaputs EIS. On March 26, the group had useful discussion about alternative access routes that would minimize traffic in Nine Mile Canyon. URARA appreciates the opportunity to be involved in these discussions.



*Nine Mile Canyon meeting. Photo, David Sucec*

## Field Trip Leaders Needed for Cedar City Symposium

**Jeff Allen, symposium field trips chair, [allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com](mailto:allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com).**

The Cedar City Symposium will take place October 9 through 12. We will offer two full days of field trips on Friday and Monday for up to 200 people, a complex undertaking for a volunteer organization. In addition to the Cedar City area, we will offer field trips from the Fillmore area and Fremont State Park to the Gold Butte area south of Mesquite. This year, we will offer exploratory field trips so that volunteers can learn of new sites. If you would like to volunteer as a field trip leader, please contact Jeff Allen at [allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com](mailto:allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com).

## URARA - Call for Presentations

*29th Annual Symposium, Cedar City, Utah -October 9-12, 2009 (Columbus Day Weekend)*

**Diane Orr, David Sucec, symposium program committee chairs**

The symposium program committee announces a call for presentations and papers for Utah Rock Art Research Association's 29th annual symposium during the Columbus Day weekend, October 9-12, 2009, in Cedar City, Utah.

Abstracts should be kept at about 150 words. Deadline for abstracts is August 9, 2009 and we ask everyone to honor this date so we can develop our program for printing, publicity, etc. Proposals arriving after the deadline, without the prior approval of the Symposium Program Committee, will not be considered.

The symposium program committee will give preference to presentations that relate to Utah rock art. We encourage research projects dealing with Utah. Presentations, with the exception of featured speakers, will be a maximum of 30 minutes, reports 15 minutes.

The 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 will also 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.

\*Please send abstracts and inquiries to David Sucec, at email: [bcspjroject@xmission.com](mailto:bcspjroject@xmission.com) and Diane Orr at email: [beecherllc@aol.com](mailto:beecherllc@aol.com), or mail to: David Sucec at 832 Sege 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 laptop).

\*Symposium presenters will have their registration fee waived, receive a modest stipend to offset their travel expenses, be a guest of URARA at the banquet, and participate in a special rock art field trip on Friday, October 9.

## Three Featured Speakers for Symposium 2009

*Thomas Heyd, Lawrence L. Loendorf, Michael Firnhaber*

An Abstract from each follows:

### **The Case for Aesthetics and Rock Art Research (Abstract)**

By Thomas Heyd, PhD, Department of Philosophy, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia

Only recently has there been a rediscovery in anthropology and archaeology of the importance of aesthetics and art. Nonetheless, hardly any papers have appeared that directly discuss the aesthetics or the art status of rock art. In this paper, I argue that there are good *prima facie* reasons for pursuing the aesthetic consideration of these marks on rock despite the prevailing trends. I point out that it is unnecessary to suppose that, for aesthetic appreciation, we have to ignore context and focus on some universal or 'transcendental' quality. It similarly is unnecessary to limit the term 'art' to those phenomena that resemble those of the modern, European art tradition. Moreover, we need not know the intentions of the makers of rock art in order to usefully approach such manifestations from the aesthetic point of view.

### **Archaic and Older Petroglyphs on the High Plains (Abstract)**

By Lawrence L. Loendorf, PhD, Past Research Professor, New Mexico State University

Over the past three decades, archaeologists have developed a good chronology for Archaic-age petroglyphs on the High Plains. They have also been able to sort out differences in the types of figures associated with the Early Archaic, the Middle Archaic and the Late Archaic. With this knowledge, it is possible to search for sites where archaic petroglyphs are superimposed on older petroglyphs, which by their superimposition are possibly Paleo-Indian in age. Several sites with these ancient petroglyphs have been found on the High Plains. Somewhat surprisingly, the oldest petroglyphs are finely incised abstract designs rather than the big game animals expected by many researchers. Animal scenes are much later on the High Plains when they are associated with drive lines and surround sites.

### **Experiencing Rock Art: A Phenomenological Exploration of the Barrier Canyon Tradition (Abstract)**

By Michael Firnhaber, PhD, employed - Webrelkám, Budapest, Hungary, web content writer

The Barrier Canyon style of rock art is a hunter-gatherer tradition found in southeastern Utah, United States; it dates from approximately 4000 to 2500 B.P. This study is the result of two months' fieldwork exploring 63 rock art sites scattered over 17,000 km<sup>2</sup> of some of the country's most remote and beautiful lands.

It is a phenomenological investigation of place, but also ventures into other disciplines for help in understanding the relationships between the rock art, the landscape, and the visitor.

Second, the physicality of the sites on a very local scale is examined; this allows for a consideration of how the visitor moves in and around the place while at the rock art site. Finally, by considering recent works on the nature of metaphor, and on the corporeal and spatial origins of humans' conceptual systems, the possible meanings of both the rock art and the experiences of visiting the rock art sites may be explored.

The conclusion discusses metaphors gleaned from land, which shows up in the art and its surroundings; it brings these metaphors together with the experiences described to provide a fuller understanding of this rock art tradition. The study also has implications for rock art research in general, as the methods explored here provide the researcher with a radically different way of looking at rock art, one which so changes the focus of study that the conclusions drawn from such explorations promise to change our understanding of the past.

## Moab Site Recording

Submitted by Pamela Baker,

On March 14, 15, 21, and 22, 2009 the Moab site stewards and rock art recorders spent four intense days recording sites near Moab, Utah. Led by Leigh Grench from the BLM, and coached by Pam and Quent Baker, the following folks helped with the effort: Phillip Adams, Colleen Brenner, Walt Layton, Belinda Ledbetter, Ann Phillips, Hannah Russell, Troy Scotter, Darrell and Marty Thomas, and Judy Turner.



*Leigh Grench, BLM, recording. Photo by Pam Baker*



*Kane Creek, Colleen, Judy, Marty. Photo Pam Baker*

The first weekend the Stearns Wash site was fully documented. The BLM requested that this be recorded because a local outfitter has applied for a permit to lead tours in the area. In an effort to manage rock art sites pro-actively, the BLM archaeologists want sites documented before issuing permits for commercial use. They are also adding stipulations to permits for guides to include an educational component during their site visits and to encourage the permittees to become site stewards of the places they visit.

The rest of the effort was concentrated in Kane Creek completing drawings for sites previously recorded but not drawn. This is continuing the work toward a National Register nomination in the

area. Once again, URARA has contributed toward the direct expenses of recording materials and equipment. The volunteers and BLM appreciate the support from URARA.

## ARARA to Gather in Bakersfield, CA

**May 22 - 25, 2009**

**Contacts:** Conference: Donna Gillette [rockart@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rockart@ix.netcom.com) ;

President: Evelyn Billo [ebillo@infomagic.net](mailto:ebillo@infomagic.net); ARARA website [www.arara.org](http://www.arara.org)

The Bakersfield Doubletree hotel in Bakersfield, California will be the setting for the 36th annual conference of the American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA), to convene May 22 - 25, 2009. The Bakersfield region is homeland to several Native American tribes, and the cultural evidence of the prehistoric inhabitants is abundant throughout the area.

A diverse program is planned, exploring the many facets of rock art – the study of prehistoric Native American markings found on stone in natural landscape settings. Presentations on the rock art of California and beyond, plus a special session devoted to rock art site conservation issues will form the heart of the conference. Many field trip choices, a workshop on 3-D recording techniques, committee meetings focused on education, archives, conservation and publication, a fundraising auction and the ever popular vendor room that features rock art-related ceramics, jewelry, photography and publications for sale are all planned. Call for papers are extended until April 1.

ARARA, the oldest rock art association, is a diverse community of members dedicated to the preservation, research and communication of the significance of rock art, which is a non-renewable resource of enduring cultural value, and an important expression of shared human cultural heritage.

## URARA Contacts

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**Library, Archives, and Publications**

Nina Bowen, [nina\\_bowen@comcast.net](mailto: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 2009

Aug 8-9 **Summer Picnic**, Vernal Area, Troy Scotter, contact person, [troyscotter@comcast.net](mailto:troyscotter@comcast.net)

Oct 9-12 Utah Rock Art Research Association's 26th Annual Symposium, Cedar City, Utah.  
Robert Reed, chair, 801-566-0741, [bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com](mailto:bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com).

## URARA Dues

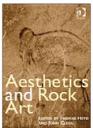
The board has determined that effective as of October 31, 2009, which is the universal membership renewal date, dues will be increased.

<u>Membership Status</u>	<u>Year 2009</u>	<u>Year 2010</u>
Student	\$12	\$15
Single	\$17	\$25
Family	\$20	\$30

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

## Bibliography for Re-Thinking Aesthetics and Rock Art

Picture of book cover from Amazon.com



The article Re-Thinking Aesthetics and Rock Art, by Thomas Heyd and John Clegg, appeared in March 2009 *Vestiges*, starting on p. 3. Because of space limitations, the bibliography was not printed with the article. It is included in this issue of *Vestiges*.

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## For Your Information

### FIELD METHODS IN ROCK ART

May 11-29, 2009

Co-offered by SHUMLA and Texas State University

Taught by Dr. Carolyn E. Boyd, author of "Rock Art of the Lower Pecos," and Elton R. Prewitt, respected Texas archeologist, this three-week course provides hands-on training in rock art recording techniques and many other aspects of archeological fieldwork.

E-mail: [programs@shumla.org](mailto:programs@shumla.org), Web site: [www.shumla.org](http://www.shumla.org).

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

2009 Conference, May 1-3, 2009 - Taos, NM

Register on-line at [www.TaosArch.org](http://www.TaosArch.org).

Contact Nancy Glasgow for the Taos Archaeology Society, [Glasgow@taosnet.com](mailto:Glasgow@taosnet.com).

### SOCIETY for AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

April 22-26, 2009

SAA Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia

### PUBLIC ROCK ART LECTURE

April 25, 2009.

Jean Clottes, David Lewis-Williams, and David Whitley will present a public rock art lecture in Atlanta, Georgia at the Savannah College for Art and Industrial design. This will coincide with the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). All are invited.

Note: If any members of URARA have an opportunity to attend this lecture by three world-renown experts, please send your review comments to be included in Vestiges. Send to [slrmar@cox.net](mailto:slrmar@cox.net).

### COSO PETROGLYPH TOURS STARTED MARCH 27, 2009

The Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, CA announced the start of the spring season tours of the Coso petroglyphs. Tour dates are posted on the Museum web site [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org)