



Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Message

I have just returned from the El Paso URARA fieldtrip and what a perfect fieldtrip it was! Glenn Omundson organized five days of rock art for 45 persons with consummate skill and awareness of site etiquette, dividing the group into three sections daily to minimize impact on sites.

Many thanks to his fine colleagues in El Paso who assisted him in the field; Mike McDonald, Judy and Carroll Walch, Leroy Unglaub, Ken Steiner, Bob White, and Mary Alcorn. All of our guides were highly knowledgeable, highly personable and enthusiastic about the rock art in West Texas and southern New Mexico. Mary Alcorn is manager of a 174,000-acre ranch with rock art that we saw, and Ken Steiner provided each member of the group with two CD's of photographs he had taken of the rock art that we were to see. We are all grateful to Glenn and his colleagues as well as the management of Hueco Tanks, who gave us the opportunity and very knowledgeable volunteer guides to see much more rock art than can normally be seen. Again, thanks Glenn! Rock art fieldtrips are an essential part of our preservation and education efforts.

Due to space and time issues, we are publishing two fieldtrip reports on the El Paso adventure. Marie Cloutier has written an excellent summary of day 1, published below. We will publish Jan Gorski's report and photographs in the April Vestiges.

On a very sad note, long-time URARA member Craig Bowen lost his struggle with cancer on February 17. Craig and Nina Bowen have been mainstays of URARA and involved with virtually every activity that this organization has done. For many years, Craig showed slides of URARA fieldtrips at the symposium social. Craig attended the Cedar City symposium and I remember him on the Peter's Leap fieldtrip as enthusiastic, personable and knowledgeable as ever. Nina, your URARA colleagues offer the most heartfelt sympathy for your loss.

Jeff Allen
2010 President

URARA Loses Long Time Friend-Craig Bowen

From Nina Bowen, Craig's wife, and a URARA board member and past president.

Craig Bowen passed away February 17, 2010. He was only 58. For those of you who have never had the pleasure of meeting Craig, here's a little bit about him.

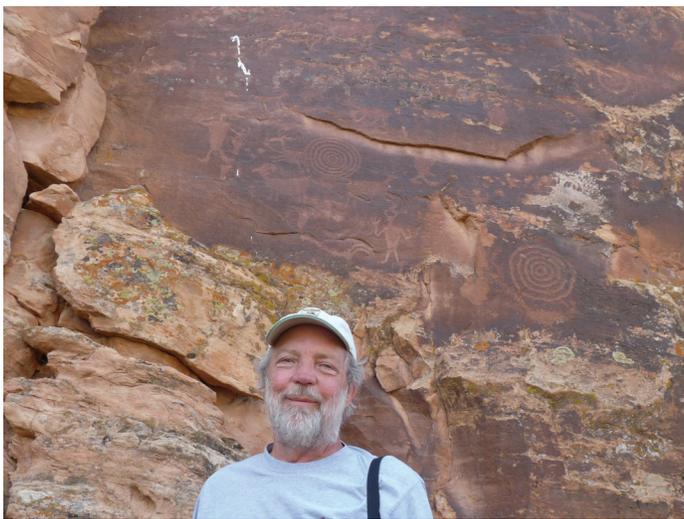
Craig and I joined URARA in 1983 when the group was still very young and there were only a few members. Right away we found that we both liked the group, but for different reasons. Craig loved to hike and enjoyed the beautiful places that we saw. He really had very little interest in the rock art. As time went by, he grew to love and appreciate it even more than I did. He was very fond

of the Barrier Canyon Style of rock art, and after many years, I convinced him that Archaic was just as amazing. We have seen countless rock art sites and had the greatest experiences anyone could ask for with our many dear friends from URARA.

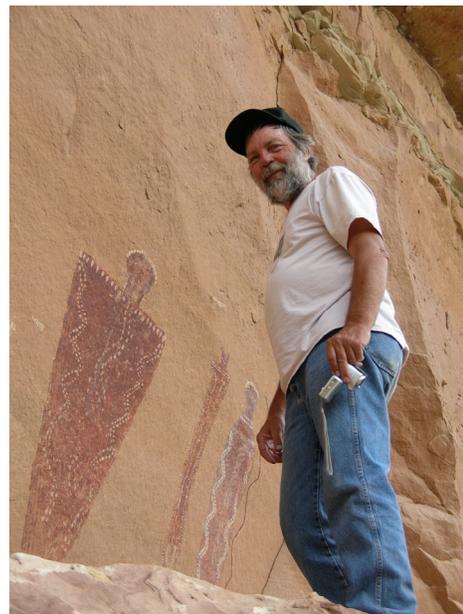
Craig never tired of helping people find sites and could spend hours poring over maps and talking about sites. URARA became more important in his life as his circle of friends and connections broadened from its members.

Craig volunteered his services to the group from the start. He gave presentations at the monthly meetings and led many field trips. He took pictures of people on the field trips all year long, and at each year's Christmas party, he gave quite a show. He spent countless hours preparing his presentations. He processed orders and mailed out publications for several years. He was also right by my side with all of my duties, encouraging me and giving advice when I needed it most.

Craig will be remembered as one who was always ready to take a trip to a new and exciting site, and then was eager to help others find their way there, too.



Smiling Craig Bowen, Photo Nina Bowen



Craig doing what he loved, Photo, Nina Bowen

Field Trip for Documentation - Sept 24-25, 2010

Steve Manning, Leader, sjmanning@yahoo.com, 901-936-4630

Steve Manning has arranged for a URARA rock art recording field trip to the Pumice Site near Milford, Utah. See Castleton Vol. 2, pages 56-58. He selected this site due to increased visitation. Joel McCarty, BLM Milford Field Office archaeologist, will lead the trip on September 24-25. Mark these dates on your calendar and come help.

Field Trip Report, El Paso, TX

Leader, Glenn Omundson, jgomundson@yahoo.com, 915-584-7862

[El Paso, Texas, February during the Presidents' Day weekend. Glenn Omundson, URARA member living in El Paso organized this field trip.]

To the participants of our recent set of field trips, I wish to extend my sincere thanks for a truly wonderful experience. Only with your help and cooperation could we have pulled off such a great trip...you folks were great! From our eight represented states, we achieved a ninth, that of cloud nine--I'm still floating around up there from this event. Thank you for the card and its contents--sure covered the portapotty, gas, and more.

Happy glyphing,
Glenn

From: Deb Mitchell, deb728@hotmail.com

Hello, fellow rock arters. John and I are back in Mesquite, NV. Hope everyone else made it home safely (or where ever you are headed). We just wanted to say it was great to meet all of you and see fabulous rock art. If anyone finds his or her way to Mesquite, be sure to let us know! Deb and John Mitchell

From: Sandra Sandberg, Sandberg@dixie.edu

It was nice to meet so many people with a common interest. The plans were well made, and I believe everyone saw lots of rock art. Thanks to those who made it all happen. Sandra

From: Bob Reed, bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com

Thanks to Glenn's excellent logistics planning, Carol and I saw a lot of Texas, rock art and experienced the joys of ubiquitous cat's claw plants. We went on to Big Bend Park, Carlsbad Caverns and the Roswell UFO museum (not unlike seeing rock art panels).

El Paso Rock Art Experience Part One

By Marie Cloutier, ArthurCloutier@cableone.net

This is "*A Tale of Incredible Texas Hospitality and Awesome Rock Art*": Chapter 1

Guided by Glenn's e-mailed pre-information, which included extensive pictures, reference material, and maps, February 11th found 45 rock art enthusiasts converge on Deming, New Mexico. Many were ready to visit the Deming-Luna Members Museum, and all were ready for a visit to the Pony Hills and Frying Pan petroglyph sites. The museum's *Mimbres* collection of pottery opened the door to this lost culture and its classic geometric designs, including designs that would be seen the following day on the rock art panels. The term *Mimbres* is Spanish for willows and is applied to the river near the ancient habitation site. The Native American *Mimbrenos*, or willow people, appear to have arrived in this area around A.D. 750 and stayed until around A.D. 1150.

February 12th the group was assigned to guides; Mike McDonald, a retired social studies teacher, Glenn Omundson, and long time site stewards Judy and Carroll Walch. Hundreds of pristine petroglyphs greeted the explorers at the Pony Hills site. Numerous rock art paths of pecked human feet appeared to have special meaning, with aspects such as the little toe which would be exaggerated in wiggles or size. Each set of human tracks was unique in some way and some seemed to lead to and from turtles, crane-like birds, quail, and others. Many other glyph images included; stars, snakes, a rabbit on a staff, a squid image or an ocean slug with a beard, outlined crosses, slab paho images decorated on both ends, mountain sheep, a tadpole man, butterflies on an outlined pole, triangles in a shield, and human shapes in relation to a dumbbell, spiral, and stars. Spirals were frequently seen. Spirals are believed by some researchers of the *Mimbrenos* to picture real whirlwinds, cyclones, and whirlpools in water much as the *Bo-ho-ho*, breath of the Hopi, while other researchers of *Mimbrenos* relate the interpretation to the Zuni corn. Carroll Walch told of solstice research done on the unique spirit images and on paths of feet and their meaning.

Between sites, lunchtime provided Glenn the opportunity to give us political background on the sites, and encouraged all to help police the areas. He gave an overview of the 7-day timeline and events. This superb planning and clearly given information enabled all 45 of the group to traverse this 7-day excursion with the greatest of ease and enjoyment. [Glenn Omundson is a retired teacher of biology, has rock art study as his avocation, and put together an outstanding and incredibly well organized seven-day adventure for 45 people in this unbelievable area of what seemed to be over 10,000 glyphs.]

The Frying Pan site provided more rock bouldering and beautiful vistas, along with incredible panels with jaguar or panther images, a flying parrot-like bird with a long tail, vertical and horizontal zigzag snake-like lines, often with a circle enclosing a dot, a human in a sitting position with a curved feather-like headdress adjacent to a staff, intersecting zigzag lines with twin circles enclosing dots, giving eye-like appearances, triangles with curved toes appearing as bear paws, a round face with beard, many lined rain symbols, an emerging man from this period, half hands or sunrises over mountain images, multilinked zigzag lines with heads and one very detailed geometric Mesoamerican design, where the human faces appeared in many body styles, and there were numerous groups of grinding holes. These holes were often grouped so that one could imagine groups of men or women singing work songs as they pounded mesquite beans and other foods into grain. Mike McDonald told of his research in grinding mesquite beans in the *Mimbrenos' method*, and making "health food-like" bars. Mike said, "food was not too bad". Judy Walch pointed out a gravesite and gave history on the massacre at the site. The excursion day, February 12th ended with a drive to El Paso where Glenn had arranged camping near his home, along with a porta-potty in his yard. Many partook of his generous hospitality and others found motels.



Deming, New Mexico sites



Pony Hills

These photos represent a tiny portion of a collection submitted by Marie and Arthur Cloutier

Chapter 2

Leaving promptly on the morning of February 13th at 7:30 a.m. all 45 headed for Centipede Cave, the Mullen Site, and Cunningham Tank. Guides for the day were Leroy Unglaub, Mary Alcorn, and Glenn Omundson. The three sites involved traversing an enormous undeveloped subdivision covering well over 200,000 acres and getting access to a ranch covering over 150,000 acres. Mary Alcorn, manager of the McGuire ranch, guided a group, arranged for access to the ranch, and

helped get access for driving across the subdivision. There are very few areas in Texas which afford public access to land. Most land is privately owned.



*Mullen's Site,
Photo by Cloutiers*

WATCH FOR EL PASO FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

Field Trip - Antelope Island March 12 & 13, 2010

Leader: Steve Manning 801-936-4630 sjmanning@yahoo.com

This trip is to explore for rock art at Antelope Island. We do not know if we will find any. We will be doing extensive walking. Bring lunches, water, appropriate clothing, and good footwear. Camping is available on the island if people are interested. Please contact Steve for timing and meeting location. If you have four wheel drive vehicles please bring them, but they are not necessary.

Field Trip Proposal - Dinetah - Navajo Homeland

Possible dates: May 12-13 or May 22-23, 2010

Leader Bob Young, Contact Bob Young, bobyounphoto@msn.com or Ed Delay, etdelay@comcast.net,

This trip will be to Dinetah (Navajo Homeland) and will include Crow Canyon. The trip will be limited to 15 people over two days. We will see a large number of panels (Navajo pictographs and petroglyphs, and Basketmaker, P-1 petroglyphs).

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Calendar 2010

Mar 12-13	Field Trip, Antelope Island, leader Steve Manning, sjmanning@yahoo.com
May 12-13	Proposed Field Trip to Dinetah (Navajo Homeland) including Crow Canyon,
Or 22-23	Contact Bob Young, bobyoungphoto@msn.com
Early Aug	Field trip to Wyoming Dinwoody sites, leader Bob Reed, bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com , 801-566-0741, details TBA
Aug	Annual summer picnic, details TBA
Sept 24-25	Documentation Field Trip, Pumice Site near Milford, UT. Contact Steve Manning sjmanning@yahoo.com , 901-936-4630
Oct 8-11	URARA symposium, Blanding, UT. Walt Layton, chair, 801-561-5228, wclayton@graniteschools.org
Dec 3	Annual December potluck meeting

Editors' Message

Greetings,

We certainly join with Jeff Allen, as we are sure you do, in expressing our deepest condolences to Nina Bowen upon Craig's death. We felt it was brave of Nina and Craig to come to the October Symposium in Cedar City. We were glad to see them there. We will miss Craig's genuine gregariousness. We remember and are thankful for all the work he and Nina have done in organizing and maintaining the URARA resources, archives and library, which they store in the basement of their home in Bountiful, Utah.

The El Paso field trip organized by Glenn Omundson was clearly highly successful. Almost 50 people took part. Thank you to Art and Marie Cloutier for their special report on the first part of the trip. Their report will be followed by an extensive report in April *Vestiges*.

The next issue also will include important information regarding the symposium in Blanding on October 8-11, 2010.

Happy trails all,
Steve and Marion Robinson