

VESTIGES



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President's Message

I'm sure we are all looking forward to the URARA symposium, October 8-11, 2010 in Blanding. Walt Layton is the symposium chair and will provide members with periodic updates, beginning with this issue. Walt has a special interest and knowledge of the Blanding area. The field trip coordinator will be Ed Delay. As always, we need volunteers for field trip leaders at the symposium. Contact Ed at etdelay@comcast.net or 801-487-4687, 3377A Honeycut Rd., Salt Lake City, UT 84106.

My first symposium was at St. George in 2002, when John Macumber was president. Since then I have been to Green River, Kanab, Price, Vernal, Moab, Escalante and Cedar City. Each symposium seemed even better than the last. Thanks to Dave Sucec and Diane Orr for co-chairing the symposia programs for five years in a row. Their expertise is unsurpassed, and I am happy to say that Diane has agreed to put together the session on preservation.

The symposium is a great way not only to learn more about rock art, it is also a fine way to greet old friends and meet new ones. Our excellence is due to our members, many of whom live outside Utah.

My first field trip was with Carol Georgopolous and Ray Freeze, now of New Mexico. They have led a field trip every year for URARA. Also from New Mexico was Marglyph with her finely created jewelry. And there were all these wonderful Colorado people whom I have spent so many enjoyable days with: Nancy Mason, who led the URARA field trip program with excellence and dedication for several years, Lynda and Jim McNeil, both of whom have given papers at symposia, Glenn and Margaret Stone, Jan Gorski, Tom Getts, Joanne Morgan, Anne Whitfield, Marsha Perry-Ellis, and Larry and Iris Evans, with whom I have been on two river trips to see rock art.

From Nevada, I can be certain to see Anne McConnell, Elaine Holmes, and Ned and Edna Clem. From California, I am sure to see Francois Gohier, Paula Reynosa, Inga Nagel, Anne and John Fulton, Sherry Eberwein, and Steve and Marion Robinson. From Arizona, there will be Ekkehart Malotki, Harold Widdison, and Art and Marie Cloutier. Of course, Adrienne Shipperus will drive down from Calgary for our symposium once more. In addition, thanks again to our member from El Paso, Glenn Omundson who put together our wonderful five-day field trip in Texas last February.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Blanding!

Jeff Allen
2010 URARA President

URARA Symposium 2010, Blanding, Utah

Walter Layton, 2010 Symposium Chair

Perched on White Mesa near Blue Mountain in southeastern Utah, the town of Blanding sits at the southern end of the Great Sage Plain. Documented Anasazi occupation of this site extends to as early as A.D. 600, with dwellings constructed as late as early 1200s. Archaic Native American sites that far predate this period also exist at the foot of White Mesa. Utes and an occasional Navajo also camped in this area because of the water from local springs and seeps. Before the town was built, Navajos called the location "Sagebrush," because of the plant's luxuriant growth that swept through the pinion and junipers to the base of the mountain.

In 1886, Mormon colonists sent out an exploring party from Bluff to evaluate possible town sites that could be used to support an agricultural and livestock economy. For more than ten years, White Mesa remained the haunt of diminishing livestock herds. By 1905, some of these early Mormon pioneers pitched tents amid the sagebrush in a newly surveyed town that would eventually become known as Blanding. First known as Grayson, the town changed its name in 1914 when a wealthy easterner offered a thousand volume library to any Utah town that would adopt his name. There were two candidates, Thurber (now Bicknell) and Grayson (now Blanding). They decided to change their names and share the books. However, the people of Blanding were somewhat disgruntled to find that many of the books they received were of poor quality.

So why this history lesson? This will be the setting of URARA's 2010 October symposium. Your elected board of directors and some members called for special assignments are currently in the process of filling the days of October 8, 9, and 10 with classroom and field experiences. Additional information is forthcoming which will include an accommodations guide. During a conversation in *The Lost Symbol*, Robert Langley mentions to an associate that he constantly tells his graduate students that a Google search is not research. Because most of us are not currently graduate students, Google can be very beneficial in providing information. However, if you prefer to participate in a more personal mode, please email or call any board member.

URARA – Call for Presentations

30th Annual Symposium, Blanding, Utah – October 8-11, 2010 (Columbus Day Weekend)

Jeff Allen, Troy Scotter, symposium program committee chairs

The symposium program committee announces a call for presentations and papers for the Utah Rock Art Research Association's 30th Annual symposium during the Columbus Day weekend, October 8-11, 2010 in Blanding, Utah. Papers and presentations will be on Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10.

Abstracts should be kept at about 150 words. The deadline for abstracts is July 1, 2010, and we ask everyone to honor this date so that we can develop our program for printing, publicity, etc. Proposals arriving after the deadline, without prior approval of the symposium committee, cannot be considered.

The symposium committee will give preference to presentations that relate to Utah rock art and its native cultures. Presentations, with the exception of keynote speakers, will be a maximum of 30 minutes. Reports will be 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 consider rock art preservation issues and current threats.

Symposium presenters must use Power Point software that will run on a PC laptop (or bring their own laptop).

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

Symposium presenters will have their registration fee waived, receive a modest stipend to offset travel expenses, and be a guest of URARA at the banquet.

Please send abstracts and inquiries to Jeff Allen, at email: allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com and Troy Scotter at email: troycotter@comcast.net. Alternatively, mail to Jeff Allen at 1305 E. Riverside Dr. #13, St. George, UT 84790 (phone 435-986-0977).

Symposium Fieldtrip Leaders Needed

The Blanding symposium will take place October 8 through 11. 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. Symposium field trips will range throughout southeastern Utah from Indian Creek to Cedar Mesa to Comb Ridge. Ed Delay has generously offered to be the symposium field trip coordinator this year. He has already completed a draft of the announcement that will be in the July *Vestiges*. If you would like to volunteer as a field trip leader for the symposium (or for one of our monthly field trips), please contact Ed Delay at etdelay@comcast.net. We will train field trip leaders.

Think About It!



A relatively recent book provides an excellent archaeological discussion of those peoples who inhabited the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau in prehistory. The author states, "The temporal scale is staggering. People have called the Basin-Plateau home for over 12,000 years. Although this number rolls easily off the tongue, to translate it into human terms requires us to consider a genealogy of over 430 generations; over five times as long as the history of Christianity. The resulting temporal cavern houses a staggering diversity of behaviors, cultures, and historical circumstances that beg not to be homogenized as 'prehistory'." (p.14) He further states, now in the epilogue that "The many parts of Basin-Plateau peoples are grounded in conceptions of place too diverse to be captured by the popular stereotype of a monolithic Native American culture and worldview. America was a human landscape whether it was the Paleoindian explorers and colonists, the multicultural Archaic settlers, the tethered and appropriative foragers of the Late Archaic, the Fremont farmer, or the migrating people of the late Prehistoric Millennium". (p271)

Ancient Peoples of the Great Basin & Colorado Plateau, Steven R. Simms. Left Coast Press, Inc, Walnut Creek California, 2008.

[Note: the author is professor of anthropology at Utah State University, where he has taught since 1988. He served as president of the Great Basin Anthropological Association and editor of the journal *Utah Archaeology*.

[Vestiges Editor's note: This is an excellent book. In addition, we have just learned that he will be one of the featured speakers at the October symposium and is a co-author, along with URARA member Francois Gohier, of a new book, which will be of interest to URARA members.

Report Part Two, El Paso Rock Art Experience

By Marie Cloutier, Photos by Arthur Cloutier

See March 2010 Vestiges for Chapter 1, "A Tale of Incredible Texas Hospitality and Awesome Rock Art".

Glenn Omundson organized and led this field trip, jgomundson@yahoo.com, 915-584-7862

Chapter 2

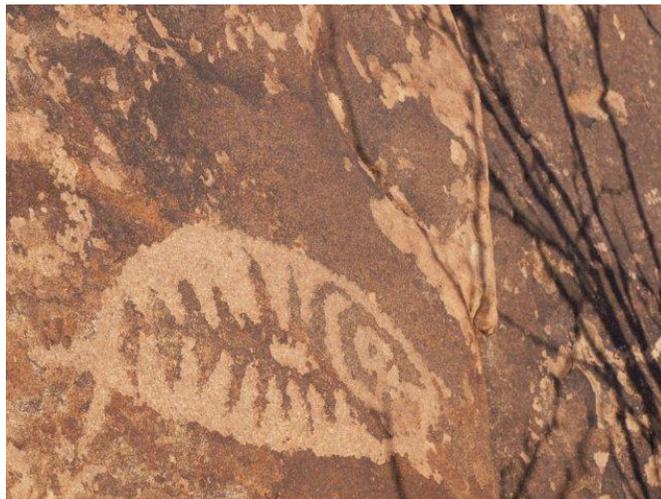
[Marie Cloutier's article is continued. It was edited by Jeff Allen to reflect URARA's tradition of limited site identification in our publications.]

Leaving promptly from Glenn Omundson's house at 7:30 am on February 13, all 50 participants headed for three magnificent sites east of El Paso in canyon and mesa country. Guides for the day were Leroy Unglaub, Mary Alcorn, and Glenn Omundson. The three sites involved traversing an enormous failed land deal covering over 200,000 acres, and getting access to a ranch of 175,000 acres. Mary Alcorn, manager of the McGuire ranch, guided a group, arranged for access to the ranch, and helped get access for crossing other private land. Few areas in Texas afford public access to land. Most land is privately owned.

A shallow cave on a talus slope provided unique pictographs with dramatic effects of vivid white images painted on a black background. A large centipede with seemingly all its legs covers the entire ceiling. Two lines of images stand out in particular, a row of duck-like animals and one of anthropomorphs. Two large images of cranes greet the viewer. A zigzag line, a painted anthro with an atlatl, and sheep keep one's focus. Nearby were a goggle-eyed deer petroglyph and a pupil-less deer petroglyph.

A second site brought a vast number of pristine images. A panel of very large animals and a panel of ascending shamans are noteworthy. The ascending shaman panel was approximately 12 feet in height. Many shumla [style] points were present in the petroglyphs. The shumla point appeared as a triangular body without legs or feet. In some cases, the shumla looked like a large arrowhead-like object. In one instance, the shumla was attached to the body of a large turtle almost as if it were its head. The number of glyphs here was overwhelming.

Our third site had many pecked images: one Mesoamerican type panel, many images of sheep with internal designs, one with what appears to be a heart and lungs. A painted image next to a painted rug is believed by some to be done in memory of a Navaho child's death by snakebite.



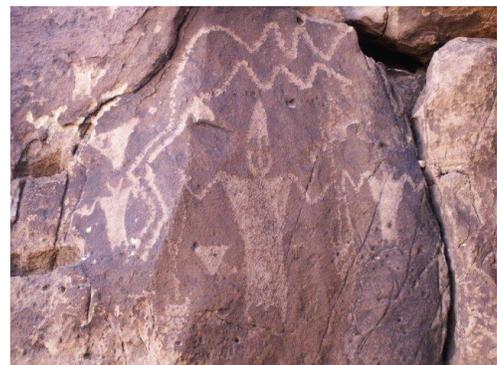


Chapter 3

On February 14, at 7:30 am, the group was off again to three sites in Alamo Canyon. Ken Seiner, Bob White, and Glenn Omundson divided us into three groups. With hundreds of images at each site, camera shutters were clicking.

A major story panel site is marked by a human figure looking toward the sky. Two human-like objects seemed to be holding something over their heads to shade their eyes, and in two settings, star-like images appear in the other images. These images seem to imply this to be a site recording a celestial observation. A two-headed sheep and bear are among the 100 or so images at this site. Nearby, the group found large numbers of petroglyphs depicting many animal figures and geometric designs.

Our third site of the day featured two caves. One was accessed by a ladder brought from El Paso just for us to see the small pictographs in the back of this shallow cave. A larger cave had us crawling in on our backs. It featured giant pictographs, which required special lenses to photograph the large jaguar, bear and horned serpent. This cave is within a site along a cliff side that is 200 meters long and has more than 100 incredibly distinct pecked panels.



Chapter 4

On February 15, guides to Alamo Mountain were Ken Steiner and Glenn Omundson. After traveling 89 miles, 47 of which were dirt roads ending in tracks, Ken Steiner took his group on a speedy ascent of the mountain slopes and its extensive petroglyphs. Glenn

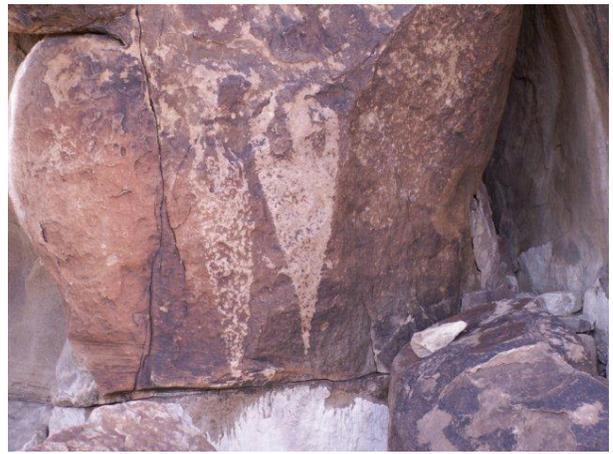
Omundson took his group at a somewhat slower pace and saw an equally astonishing amount of rock art.

At their first site, Glenn's group was delighted by dancing human-like images such as the boogie-board panel, a guitar and musical note human-like figure panel, a highly geometric designed folded-face over the sharp top edge of a rock and many more unique images. The second site provided an armadillo mouse-styled image, a mask-geometric human figure, a human-like figure made of triangles with a flask-like bottom body, horse and cow images, and many more distinctive designs such as a 5 foot tall Tlaloc or goggle-eyed human figure. It was brought to the attention of the group that researchers in the Alamo Mountain area were suspending the use of the term Tlaloc when describing images in this area. Tlaloc is a term usually referring to a Mesoamerican rain god, and at present, this rain god reference has not been documented in this area. Thus, the use of the term goggle-eyed man is used when referring to these images.



Chapter 5

On February 16, the Hueco Tanks excursion got underway guided by two volunteers from the state park who took separate groups to different locations within the restricted area of Hueco Tanks. Crawling in and out, over a dam, under slabs, and in Apache and Masque caves, and sliding into the Giant Serpent (Milky Way) Cave provided photographic opportunities of pictographs such as Starry-Eyed Man. This six hour guided tour filled most SD memory cards.



Chapter 6 - An Optional Trip

On February 17, Ken Steiner guided an optional return trip to Alamo Mountain. A large serpentine figure with a rattlesnake head and forked tail about two meters long caused the group to vie for photographic positions. A depiction of a triangle with sun flames on two sides appeared on a specific rock. This pecked design had been encountered three other times throughout the tour. Many segmented caterpillar images appeared in geometric panels.

Field Trip to Dinetah - Navajo Homeland

By Ed Delay

May 12-13, 2010

This trip will be to Dinetah (Navajo Homeland) and will include Crow Canyon. Bob Young will lead the trip and has arranged for David Casey, who has interpretative knowledge that should enhance the experience, to participate in trips to the sites. They will lead the group to as many rock art sites as possible in two days. A third day, the 14th may be optional.

The trip will be limited to 15 people as some of the sites are near Navajo home sites and we need to be as unobtrusive as possible. Registration will be through Ed DeLay, etdelay@comcast.net, and on a first come basis. Four wheel drive, high clearance vehicles are a necessity. Bring plenty of water and food, as we will be in a remote area. We will try to limit the number of vehicles going to the sites, so if you ride with someone, offer to pay for the gas to the site.

There are several motels east of Farmington on Hwy.64. Check out sites on the internet and AAA guide. Angle Peak RV park is in Bloomfield, 505, 632, 6780. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Salmon Ruins, 505-623-2013, located 4 miles west of Bloomfield and leave from there.

Field Trip to Wyoming

By Bob Reed

August 5-8, 2010

We will begin from Rock Springs and the first stop will be the White Mountain petroglyphs. We will work our way north to the Castle Gardens shield style glyphs, Legend Rock Dinwoody style panels, Medicine Lodge state archaeological site, and Ten Sleep preserve. The focus will be on the east side of the Wind River Mountains, but as time permits, we can work our way across to Dubois, where there are sites at Whiskey Basin and Torrey Lake. I will know more after further research and contact with the Worland BLM office, and will update in future Vestiges. I plan for about 25 members on this trip.

Membership Renewals

URARA has a universal renewal date of October 31 of each year. A solid membership base is essential to our rock art preservation efforts, our field trip program, and our ability to offer an annual symposium.

Annual membership dues are single \$25, family \$30, student \$15. Add \$5 for postal Vestiges. If you have not renewed your membership for 2009-2010, you may do so at the URARA website page, "Who we are". (<http://utahrockart.org>).

You may find our website through Google or Yahoo. Search for Utah Rock Art Research Association. Alternatively, add our website to your favorite's pages.

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Calendar 2010

May 12-13 Field Trip to Dinetah-Navajo Homeland, includes Crow Canyon, Leader, Bob Young
Registration will be through Ed DeLay, etdelay@comcast.net, on a first come basis.

Aug 6-8 Field trip to Wyoming sites, leader Bob Reed, bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com,
801-566-0741

Aug Annual summer picnic, details TBA

Oct 8-11 URARA symposium, Blanding, UT. Walt Layton, chair, 801-561-5228,
wclayton@graniteschools.org

Dec 3 Annual December potluck meeting