

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Message

The URARA 2010 symposium will be held in Blanding, Utah, Friday October 8 through Monday, October 11. I am happy to announce that the Utah Humanities Council has awarded URARA \$2, 650 for our symposium. Thanks to Troy Scotter who prepared the grant application in record time and to Walt Layton, symposium chair. Registration materials for the symposium and field trips will appear in the August *Vestiges*.

Presentations will be on Saturday and Sunday. Our keynote speakers are Winston Hurst and Steve Simms. URARA member and photographer Francois Gohier will join them. Winston is an archaeologist and life-long resident of Blanding. Steve Simms is Professor of Anthropology at Utah State University. Steve Robinson highlighted a section of his book, *Ancient Peoples of the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau*, in "Think About It" in the April *Vestiges*. I am looking forward to viewing Simms' new book on Fremont artifacts, *Traces of Fremont Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*. It features photographs by our very own Francois Gohier. I anticipate outstanding presentations.

We are planning to have the traditional watermelon social on Thursday evening before the symposium. We hope to have an evening reception on the grounds of the Edge of Cedars museum on Friday evening, and an informal get-together on Sunday evening. That will give us plenty of time to see old friends and make new ones.

Ed Delay has been working on the field trips and BLM permissions. To date, he has prepared 19 field trips for Friday and Monday ranging from Bluff to Comb Ridge to Canyonlands. Also, I am pleased to announce that there will be a one-day river trip down the San Juan from Bluff to Mexican Hat to see rock art and ruins. In addition we have arranged a one-day trip and a half-day trip to Ute Mountain Tribal Park, the "other" Mesa Verde where the sites include historic Ute rock art, ancestral Puebloan rock art and cliff dwellings. Information and sign-up procedures for these special trips will be published in the August *Vestiges*.

I look forward to seeing you in Blanding.

Jeff Allen
2010 URARA President

Letter to Editor

From Pamela & Quentin Baker

As you may have read in the May issue of *Vestiges*, we were awarded the ARARA Conservation and Preservation Award. We would like to thank all of our friends in URARA. That award would not have happened without your assistance. URARA, as an organization, has contributed funds for supplies, and URARA members have contributed many hours recording sites and monitoring them as site stewards. Consider this an award to all of us, and keep up the good work. Thank you for your help. We could not have done it without you!

Obituary – Tom and Maurine Freestone

By Layne Miller

A good friend to many of us and a great friend of URARA passed away recently. Clyde Thomas Freestone, age 86, of Vernal, known to us simply as “Tom,” was a kind and giving man. He could easily have been called a gentleman rancher. He wore a cowboy hat, cowboy boots, drove a beat up pickup truck, and acted that part even better than he looked it.

I met Tom at Bottle Hollow, near Vernal, Utah while planning the 1979 ARARA symposium. It didn't take long for us to become fast friends. It seemed anyone who came within arm's-length of Tom became his friend. He eventually invited me to tour and spend time at his ranch, which is located along Little Brush Creek north of Vernal. He told me there was a little bit of rock art on the ranch. Well, the possibility of spending time “on a ranch” with rock art on it sounded terrific. Little did I know what a treat I had in front of me. There were three homes located on the ranch. We spent time in the A-frame home, which was located nearest the rock art.

The house was filled with books on history, horses, rock art and all the things someone interested in the west would read. It was neat and clean and very homey. Tom met my family and me at the locked gate, but before we wound down the road leading into the pastures, he took us to see the “sundial.” Sundial?, I wondered. No one I know had ever heard of a sundial found in the west. But there it was, a perfect circle smoothed on the face of a small sandstone hill. Also found there were two precisely drilled holes to house the gnomons, and perfect deer track petroglyphs, complete with dewclaw marks. So far I was very impressed.

We stopped at the house long enough to drop off our suitcases and promptly headed to the largest of the rock art panels. The main panel contained large figures, seven or eight feet tall, which are located on the National Register of Historic Places. Impressive? Absolutely. The full panel was dozens of feet long and seemed to contain several styles and ages. Found across the sandstone-lined canyon were other panels, some simple with a few figures and some with dozens of figures. Yes, he had rock art on his ranch, lots of rock art.

As we settled in for the night Tom visited with us and pointed out other historic features. There was the hidden foundation of some type of structure. He didn't know how old, but it was hidden several feet below ground, and had recently been exposed by a wash which had uncovered part of it. We sat on the front porch and used binoculars to spot white, fluffy baby eagles living in a large nest built on a ledge midway down a sandstone hill. Also, sitting on the ground nearby was the partial skull of a Pleistocene-aged bison he found on the property.

Yes, it was all impressive. He made us feel at home and I fell in love with his stories. He loved rock art, knew his history and seemed to be living a life many of us dream of.

He told about the history of the ranch. He said his father rode a horse up to the ranch property when he was young and reported the canyon bottom was filled with teepees. He tried hard to help the local Utes. Tom had worked in the local court system and eventually helped the Ute Tribe set up their juvenile court system. He understood their lifestyle, respected their religion and did all he could to help. That respect culminated when he and his Ute friends created a medicine wheel on a

bluff overlooking his ranch. Medicine wheels were made by certain indigenous peoples of North America for various astronomical, ritual, healing, and teaching purposes. A Ute shaman dedicated the site in an impressive ceremony funded by Tom. It was a very proud moment for him.

Tom organized several URARA trips, which were led by Ute tribal members, onto the Ute reservation. The trips into Willow and Hill creeks were a special treat. These areas are not normally accessible to outsiders.

My life and URARA are poorer with the Tom's death. It is interesting to note that his wife of many years, Maurine, died two days after he did.

Field Trip Report *Dinetah - Navajo Homeland*

May 12-13, 2010 Bob Young Leader

From Troy Scotter, photos by Troy (the group pic with Ed Delay's camera)

Crow Canyon. Looks like Utah, but it is not. It is New Mexico and the homeland of the Navajo. The Navajo call it Dinetah. So Dinetah, here come the members of URARA.

We had a wonderful trip. I don't even want to try and count the number of panels that we saw. The camera battery died on the afternoon of day 2. There was a whole new mythos to learn as well. "Born For Water" and "Monster Slayer"; male and female corn plants (who knew?); kachinas, yeibichei, and pueblitos. The rock art was a fascinating combination of Basketmaker, later Puebloan, and Navajo figures. I hadn't expected the Anasazi glyphs and it was a pleasure to see them. Included were several Pueblo IV style figures, which were new to me.

We had three local guides to keep us on the right path and to answer our many questions. Our thanks to David Casey, Gary Duncan, and Bob Young for treating us so well. They even threw in dinner one night. What an unexpected treat!!

Day 1 had a fair amount of hiking. The weather was perfect. The late afternoon warmed up a bit and we had a brief, but memorable, encounter with some no-see-ums. Fortunately we didn't see them again, although they left an impression.

Day 2 was a shorter day to enable dinner in the evening. Most of the sites were drive up sites.

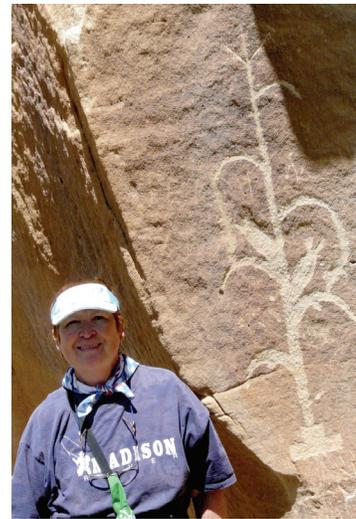
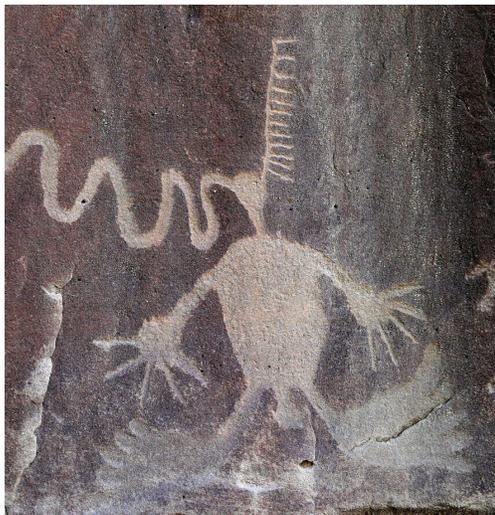
On Day 3 we tried hard to lose Gary Burningham and Ed Delay. But they were persistent and even though they took the path less traveled they still managed to catch up with us. Only one site missed in the kafuffle and that could be seen from the canyon bottom. No harm done!!

Those on the trip were URARA members: Ed Delay, Art and Marie Cloutier, Joe Brame, Gary and Janet Burningham, Charles Molina, Bob and Peggy Wenrick, Barbara Green, Margie and Roger Kendall, Paula Reynosa, [Troy Scotter].





Front row L to R -- Roger Kendall , Bow Wow Kendall , Gary Duncan, Joe Brame
Middle row L to R-- Peggy Wenrick, Bob Wenrick, Marie Cloutier, Margie Kendall , Bob Young
Back row L to R--David Casey, Art Cloutier, Barbara Green, Charles Molina, Ed Delay, Paula Reynosa, Gary Burningham



Barbara Green by corn image

Documenting Rock Art in Nine Mile Canyon

June 11-13; July 2-4, and July 9-11.

From Steven Manning

Members of URARA are invited this year to help document rock art in Nine Mile Canyon with the Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance. We will be searching for sites on private property owned by Hunt Oil Company. Therefore, there is a good possibility that we will be recording sites not accessible to the public. The dates we will be surveying are noted above.

This survey will be done by only a few people at a time 3-5, (perhaps more) so the numbers are limited. If there is a lot of interest, preference will be given to those with IMACS experience and those who know how to draw petroglyphs!

The Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance project director is Jamie Clark. If you are interested in participating or want more information, please contact her at: jamie.5.clark@hotmail.com or call (801)-792-7364.

Field Trip to Wyoming

August 5-8, 2010

Bob Reed, Leader, bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com, 801-566-0741

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 plan a "dry run" to look at motels and campgrounds, and am waiting for information from the Worland BLM office. I plan for about 25 members on this trip.

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. This site was selected 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.

URARA Symposium 2010, Blanding, Utah

Walter Layton, 2010 Symposium Chair

Blanding will be the setting of URARA's 2010 October symposium.

Information on motels is at: www.BlandingUtahMotels.

Comfort Inn, 435-678-3271

Four Corners Inn, 436-678-3257

Super 8 Blanding, 436-678-3880

Gateway Motel, 435-678-2278

Blanding Sunset Inn, 435-678-3323

Prospector Motor Lodge, 435-678-3231

Cliff Palace Motel, 435-678-2264

For camping: www.BlandingUtahCamping.

Cross Canyon Ranch, Box 342, Blanding, UT

Devil's Canyon Campground, 877-444-6777

Kampark So. Main Street, 435-678-2770

Nizhoni Campground, 877-444-6777

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.** We ask everyone to honor this date. We can then develop our program for printing, publicity, etc. Proposals arriving after the deadline, without prior approval of the symposium committee, will not 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: troysscatter@comcast.net. Alternatively, mail to Jeff Allen at 1305 E. Riverside Dr. #13, St. George, UT 84790 (phone 435-986-0977).

Symposium Field Trip 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!



"The spectacular photographic images of rock art and fabulous objects displayed in this book can transport us into a facet of Fremont culture that we understand in only vague terms: their social and ideological world. Archaeologists are reluctant to write about such things, and I am old enough to remember the days when proper archaeologists did not take the study of rock art very seriously. It was seen as too speculative, too difficult to understand through empirical means, and attempts at interpretation led to bloody battles, mostly because the images are subject to the vicissitudes of artistic interpretation. Archaeologists now investigate rock art, but the challenges of comprehending the ancient world of social and political

organization--let alone ritual, symbolism, and cosmology--remain significant. Surely objectivity in the purest sense is a will o' the wisp, but I believe that archaeology and our tool kit of anthropological analogy tell us about these things, just not in a very straightforward manner. People want to know about the life of the mind. They want to be carried into the past. They want the rest of the story. The proposition I have pursued here is that to know the Fremont, one must include the rock art. But to know the rock art, one must know the Fremont."

[Editors' note: Last month this section included a quotation from *Traces of Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*. This month we share the last paragraph of text from this excellent book which is outstanding in both words and photographs. It is entitled TRACES OF FREMONT: POSTSCRIPT.]

Text by Steven R. Simms, Photographs by Francois Gohier, *Traces of Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*, p. 117.

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.

URARA Contacts

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www.utahrockart.org

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Calendar 2010

- June-July (June 11-13; July 2-4; July 9-11.) Documentation of Nine Mile Canyon, Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance, Jamie Clark, leader. For more information contact jamie.5.clark@hotmail.com or call (801)-792-7364.
- Aug 5-8 Field trip to Wyoming sites, leader Bob Reed, bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com, 801-566-0741
- Aug Annual summer picnic, details TBA
- Sept 24-25 Field Trip for Documentation, Steve Manning, leader, sjmanning@yahoo.com, 901-936-4630, URARA rock art recording field trip to the Pumice Site near Milford, UT.

Oct 8-11 URARA symposium, Blanding, UT. Walt Layton, chair, 801-561-5228,
wclayton@graniteschools.org
Dec 3 Annual December potluck meeting

Yahoo Groups

From Troy Scotter

At the last symposium we discussed creating a forum where members could discuss rock art topics and let others know when they were planning trips. We have created a group on Yahoo for these purposes. Membership is limited to current members of URARA.

You can subscribe to the URARA group in two different ways. First you can send an email to: URARA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and then respond to the follow-up email. Alternatively, you can go to the following website: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/URARA/>

You may want to bookmark this page so that it is easy to return. Click the "join this group" button on the right side of the screen.

If you do not have a Yahoo membership you will need to sign up for one.

Once you are in the group you will need to determine how you want your messages delivered. There are two choices: Individual Email or Daily Delivery. I prefer Daily Delivery. I get one email per day which shows all of the messages posted to the site that day. In contrast, Individual Email will send you an email for every post made. If there are 20 posts in a day, you will receive 20 emails.

Membership in the URARA Yahoo Group is limited to URARA members. As a result, a board member will need to approve your application. We will do so by checking that you are a current member of URARA. Please don't despair if it takes us a day or two to do so.

We hope that members will enjoy the site. Share information. Let others know when you are going on a trip and would like some company. However, please respect the following rules:

- No spamming of jokes.
- The forum is not for commercial use - no advertising products or services.
- No disclosure of specific site information including GPS or directions to a site. Where location information is required in a post keep it general (county level) or reply directly to the poster outside of the forum.
- No copying of forum posts to outside groups or individuals.
- You are welcome to post graphics, but please keep file size small.
- No flames. If you disagree with a post critique the issue, not the person. Be civil.
- The board reserves the right to refuse any post which violates these rules. Members who violate the rules may be removed from the forum.

If you are having troubles you can email me at troyscotter@comcast.net and I will try to help you.