

# VESTIGES



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## President's Message

The 2010 URARA symposium will be in Blanding with field trips on October 8 and October 11 and presentations on October 9 and 10. We hope to have 19 field trips in the Blanding/Bluff area as well as a San Juan River trip and two guided trips to the Ute Mountain Park where we will see ancestral puebloan ruins and rock art.

Registration materials will be in the August edition of *Vestiges*. There will be a separate sheet for the symposium registration and another for field trip registration. Sign-up for the field trips are first-come, first-served. Field trip descriptions will be sent to members as a file attachment to the email informing you that the August *Vestiges* is online.

We still need volunteer leaders for some of the field trips. Contact Ed Delay at [etdelay@comcast.net](mailto:etdelay@comcast.net) if you would like to lead a field trip in the Blanding/Bluff area.

Thanks to Sue Gum, Sandra Sandberg and Barbara Bergman for volunteering to help Margaret Grochocki with refreshments at the Blanding symposium. If you would like to volunteer for some of the many other symposium tasks, please contact Walt Layton at [wclayton@graniteschools.org](mailto:wclayton@graniteschools.org).

We hope to see you at Blanding in October!

**Jeff Allen**  
2010 URARA President

## Documenting Rock Art in Nine Mile Canyon

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.

Only a few people at a time 3-5, (perhaps more), will do this survey so the numbers are limited. If there is a lot of interest, preference is 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](mailto:jamie.5.clark@hotmail.com) or call (801)-792-7364.

## Field Trip to Wyoming

*August 6-9, 2010*

**Bob Reed, Leader**, [bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com](mailto:bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com), 801-566-0741

The trip will begin in Kemmerer, Wyoming. From there we will drive north and meet BLM archeologist Sam Drucker at Names Hill. He will lead us to the Gateway site and the LaBarge Bluffs sites, along with petroglyphs at Names Hill. That night, we will bed down at Rock Springs or Green River and meet retired BLM archeologist Russ Tanner for a tour to White Mountain and Cedar Canyon sites. If time allows, we can head up to Rawlins or bed down again in the Rock Springs area. I will lead us from Riverton to Castle Gardens and up through Thermopolis and Legend Rock. The next day, BLM archeologist Mike Bies will take us to Medicine Lodge park and the nature conservative near Ten Sleep. This will complete the formal tour, but if enough folks wish, we can explore sites near Dubois on the west side of the Wind River Mountains. There are many things to explore related to the Oregon and Mormon trails, and the area is spectacular. If you have never experienced South Pass, this is the trip. Be prepared to stop on back roads for cowboys moving cattle between pastures. I recommend members be prepared to camp and do motels. Kemmerer has limited developed campgrounds, Rock Springs has them but they are treeless, crushed rock sites. When you get to Riverton/Ten Sleep/Worland, the campgrounds are fine. For those attending, I will provide a detailed attachment with meeting places, times and recommendations. This will be an adventure trip, with driving similar to the Texas field trip. Personally, I plan to carry tenting gear but do motels when practical. Camping in Medicine Lodge Park is memorable, but there is a motel and campground in Ten Sleep. Rock art styles we will see include Dinwoody, Castle Gardens and Shield.

## Field Trip for Documentation - Sept 24-25, 2010

**Steve Manning, Leader**, [sjmanning@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## URARA Symposium 2010, Blanding, Utah

*30<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, Blanding, Utah – October 8-11, 2010*

*(Columbus Day Weekend)*

**Walter Layton**, 2010 Symposium Chair

**Jeff Allen, Troy Scotter**, symposium program committee chairs

Two of the Featured Speakers at the symposium will be Steven R. Simms, professor at Utah State University in Logan, Utah and Francois Gohier, URARA member from San Diego, California.

# Book Review -Traces of Fremont: *Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*

*Text by Steven R. Simms, Photographs by Francois Gohier*

By Stephen Robinson

Both the current and June *Vestiges* Think About It! include quotations from the just published book *Traces of Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*. The text is by Steven R. Simms, a professor at Utah State University and the photographs are from Francois Gohier, a URARA member. Both will be featured speakers at the upcoming October symposium. I look forward with great interest to these presentations. The University of Utah Press and the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum published their 132-page book.

I first learned about the book from our current URARA Board President, Jeff Allen. I immediately emailed Francois Gohier, who responded in early April as follows,

The rumors are indeed true. The book is the result of a more than 15 yearlong project on my part. The idea was to present the Fremont Culture through the rock art as well as the artifacts such as ceramics, baskets and figurines. It took me many years to find and photograph the rock art panels and to obtain permission to photograph objects in museums and private collections in Utah and Colorado.

It was very pleasant when Steve Simms was chosen by the University Press to write the text, two years ago. I met Steve on two occasions; we went in the field together. I like the man and I like the text (fast-paced, informative but not scholarly-dry, very original).

Of course, the book seemed very interesting both in terms of my own likely pleasure in reading it and in relation to the possibility of reviewing it for *Vestiges*. I contacted the publisher. They were kind enough to send me a review copy. At the same time, Francois offered to send me a copy. His now has a place of honor in my library in pristine condition. The other copy has been marked, highlighted, and written in from beginning to end. There was never a question in my mind but that it deserved a URARA book report.

The wonderful, beautifully finished book is unconventional in size--9"x 10". It is printed on very high quality slick pages that enhance the excellent all-color photography, which appears throughout the book. The book is a lovely work of art in which the full color photographs are complimented by the organization and content of the excellent written word. It deserves to be carefully read from beginning to end. This book pairs the beautiful photography to the scholarly, well-organized and highly informative written word. To my knowledge, there is not another book on Utah rock art and archaeology, which is comparable to this presentation of the Fremont society and culture.

In addition to the 60 plus beautiful, often full page or more, rock art photographs in the book, there are many interesting photographs of other cultural artifacts. This includes, for example, a "one-of-a-kind cradle board nestling a Fremont figurine", and an excellent photograph of the 10 well-known figurines from the Pilling Collection which is found in the Prehistoric Museum of the College of Eastern Utah. There are many other beautifully photographed Fremont cultural artifacts included in this richly rewarding documentation in word and photographs of a complex prehistoric Utah society.

Exclusive of the acknowledgements, photographic credits, notes and references, Professor Simms has a very informative readable text divided into twenty-one sections. The last five sections

of the book pertain to rock art. These sections total 36 pages, and include over 30 of Gohier's captivating, beautiful, sensitive rock art photographs. All are very interesting and informative.

In the opening pages professor Simms states, "This book employs photography of Fremont rock art and artifacts to investigate the Fremont world. The goal, however, is not a general treatise of all things Fremont. That is available elsewhere." The latter statement is well documented by his extensive five-page reference list of over 80 names, many with more than one title. Of course, it includes Simms' own excellent text published in 2008, *Ancient People of the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau* (See April 2010 *Vestiges'* Think About It!). Continuing he states, "Our focus here is on realms of the Fremont examined by archaeologists only fleetingly and sporadically. I refer to the society and ideology of Fremont people as they developed before the sixth century A. D. and continued to evolve into at least the fourteenth century. Society and ideology include the topics of Fremont social and political organization and religion. Also important is sense of place: how people perceive their landscape and how this arises from and informs their behavioral interactions with the natural world". Simms portrays this worldview in clear, articulate, informative terms as he discusses the various dimensions and characteristics of the Fremont society.

The 15-page section titled My Messages is an excellent presentation of the archaeological framework within which Simms describes the fundamental elements of the Fremont Society. Here he states, "It is not possible to understand the Fremont without considering heritage, so I summarize current thinking on Fremont origins. Archaeologists agree that Fremont heritage is rooted well over two thousand years ago in the archaic period, and in the Basketmaker II period of the Southwest." He continues by commenting on the value of rock art in the Fremont society.

Approximately 70% of the book is a discussion of the sociology, archeology and anthropology of the Fremont culture. It is very interesting and clearly benefits from Simms' knowledge and understanding of the dimensions of the Fremont society. All the rock art sections are very insightful and interesting. Here is a small sample, which I hope will intrigue you.

- Rock art does not passively reflect a meaning, but is a vehicle used to construct meaning as history proceeds (p. 83).
- In a broader sense, rock art represents more than individual artists and spiritual experiences. The very social contexts that shaped the perceptions of the individual artists were borne of the interactions of every day circumstances and a worldview shaped by heritage (p.83).
- Fremont rock art styles are not cultural badges of neatly demarcated ethnic and language groups. Indeed, in the Fremont social tapestry proposed here, such boundaries could have been so entwined, and the histories of peoples so variously woven, that it would be futile to seek such crisp categorizations in the archaeology. Nevertheless, rock art signals something about culture and heritage--a Fremont heritage that was diverse, temporally deep, and transformed (p.84).
- Themes in worldview can transfer the particulars of ethnicity, and the spans of time we see in archaeology and rock art transcend the lives of individual people. My proposal for a greater degree of Fremont social complexity only heightens the expectations of these sorts of group dynamics (p. 103).

In closing, I offer the following quote from the last two sentences of this excellent book. (To read the much longer last paragraph of the book please see Think About It! in the June issue of *Vestiges*.)

"The proposition I have pursued here is that to know the Fremont, one must include rock art. But to know rock art, one must know the Fremont." Simms, (p. 117).

## Think About It!



"In one sense, Fremont Society was small in the sense that dispersed communities would have responded to local circumstances. The practice of rituals and expressions of religion would have involved individuals, local groups, and local places. Much of the rock art conveys this aspect of the Fremont worldview. In another sense, however, ritual and religion were expressed across dispersed communities and regions, thus superseding individuals. The common themes in Fremont rock art across a substantial geographic range show a level of heritage well beyond the individual and, for that matter, the ethnic group. Indeed, the geographic extent of the Fremont as a shared culture is substantially larger than that of the Anasazi."

Text, Steven R. Simms; Photographs, Francois Gohier, *Traces of Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*, The University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, and College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum, Price, Utah, 2010, p. 112.

## 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 August *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](mailto:etdelay@comcast.net). We will train field trip leaders.

## Lodging for Symposium

Information on motels at: [www.BlandingUtahMotels](http://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](http://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

## SNRAA's Rock Art Website

From Elaine Holmes, [kokopelli3@cox.net](mailto:kokopelli3@cox.net)

After many long years, SNRAA (Southern Nevada Rock Art Association) finally has a website. We have URARA as one of our links and I would appreciate if you would mention our website in your links. It is [SNRAA.org](http://SNRAA.org). Our president is still working out kinks in it, so if anyone notices something "off" about it she would like to know (and there is a link for that).

## URARA Contacts

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## Calendar 2010

July	(July 2-4; July 9-11.) Documentation of Nine Mile Canyon, Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance, Jamie Clark, leader. For more information contact <a href="mailto:jamie.5.clark@hotmail.com">jamie.5.clark@hotmail.com</a> or call (801)-792-7364.
Aug 6-9	Field trip to Wyoming sites, leader Bob Reed, <a href="mailto:bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com">bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com</a> , 801-566-0741
Sept 24-25	Field Trip for Documentation, Steve Manning, leader, <a href="mailto:sjmanning@yahoo.com">sjmanning@yahoo.com</a> , 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, <a href="mailto:wclayton@graniteschools.org">wclayton@graniteschools.org</a>
Dec 3	Annual December potluck meeting

## Membership Renewals

URARA has a universal renewal date of October 31 of each year. Annual membership dues are single \$25, family \$30, student \$15. Add \$5 for postal Vestiges. See at [www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org).