

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Message

By Ben Everitt

I want to thank all of you for a great past year and one of the best symposiums ever. 2011 will be hard to top.

Planning for the 2012 event in Vernal is well underway. We still need volunteers to help with logistics or field trips; talk to the symposium co-chairs Troy Scotter or Diane Orr.

Welcome to three new board members elected at the September 25 membership meeting: Francois Gohier, Richard Jenkinson, and Joe Brame.

Richard Jenkinson has been a high school English teacher for 32 odd years. The first 14 years were in Kayenta, Arizona on the Navajo reservation, where he taught Navajo literature, among other things. The last 18 years have been spent in Moab, which is a wonderful place to see rock art. He enjoys hiking and exploring the desert for more rock art sites. Richard has presented at URARA's symposia regarding his observations of how rock art is relative to ancient migratory routes.

Francois Gohier grew up in the Basque country of southwest France. His passion has been the photographic documentation of the natural world. He has photographed the vistas of South America, whales and dolphins, and the artifacts of pre-historic native Americans of the southwest. Since 1988 Francois has lived in San Diego. His most recent book is *Traces of Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*.

Joe Brame spent 25 years working as a software engineer specializing in computer security. While working with ones and zeros, Joe nurtured interests in hiking and the archeology of South America. After moving to St. George he attended a class by Boma Johnson which introduced him to Utah's rock art. He maintains his interest in hiking and is actively involved in the Outback Hiking Club. But he is also passionate about rock art. A wonderful day for Joe involves a good hike to a great rock art panel.

URARA Board Annual Retreat

By Troy Scotter

On January 14th the URARA board members met at the home of Nina Bowen to discuss the 2012 year. The following represent abbreviated minutes of that meeting.

Discussion: Engage and activate the membership

Symposium – this is where we have all of our members. How can we make symposium more useful for engaging members?

If there aren't clear projects people don't volunteer. At symposium we will have volunteer opportunities that people can sign up for in committee meetings or a project desk where people can sign up. Make the conservation and preservation section have some future oriented projects.

How do we let individual members communicate with each other about what they are doing outside of the Board?

To do: Let's get our Yahoo group site working. Print joining instructions in Vestiges and have computers available at symposium for joining and a session discussing how to join at symposium.

We need to follow-up with our new members, especially the ones we see at symposium and on field trips.

At the end of each field trip we should send a group photo to the participants to be distributed by the fieldtrip leader. We should be making a phone call to new members who sign up at symposium or fieldtrips. We need a person who does this. We should send membership applications with the field trip leaders.

At symposium we should have new members stand up so that others sitting around them can say "hello." Have a new member meeting (breakfast) at symposium. Have a special nametag that identifies new members.

Discussion: Field trip database

If we go back and read Vestiges and get the field trip lists from symposium we can quickly generate a list of field trips that we have done over the past few years that we can use as a "database" for future fieldtrips.

Discussion: Field Trips

We will plan eight field trips during the year.

Discussion: Additional Board Member

It was approved for Richard Jenkinson to fill Bob Reed's spot on the board. Richard was contacted by phone and accepted.

Discussion: Organizing Ourselves

President: Ben Everitt

Vice President: Nina Bowen

Membership: Lois Mansfield

Vestiges Editor: Troy Scotter

Treasurer: to be filled

Archivist: Margaret Grochocki

Symposium Chair: Troy Scotter

Symposium Field trips: Francois Gohier; Jeff Allen to be on write-ups

Field trip coordinator: Joe Brame

Symposium marketing, local government, T-shirts, and food: Margaret Grochocki

Utah Rock Art Publication: Nina Bowen

Symposium tech support: ??

Secretary: Richard Jenkinson??

Discussion of Vestiges

The Board discussed alternative formats for communicating with our members other than a newsletter. Discussed facebook, blogs, etc. The problem with using a blog is that it won't print out as easily. It was decided that since Troy is familiar with Word and PDF formatting that a separate layout editor would not be necessary at this point in time. We had a discussion about what we want Vestiges to achieve. We agreed that a simplified Vestiges with notices was appropriate for most months with a quarterly larger Vestiges with more content to be used. Only the quarterly version will be printed. Next year we need to reassess whether any printing will be done at all or whether all communication will be electronic.

Treasurer Report

Ben presented the financial report. Board members had various questions and requested more information regarding the split between membership revenue and symposium registration, printing costs for vestiges, and facility rental for symposium. We have about \$40,000 in CDs and bank.

Discussion of the 2011 Symposium

Symposium went very well. Speakers and field trips received very favorable reviews.

Discussion of Request For Funds For Site Documentation

Steve Manning requested \$480 for 8 sites that he has documented. The board approved the request.

We discussed the Sand Island documentation proposal. The board approved funding of \$4000. \$2500 at the beginning of the project, \$1500 upon approved submission to SHPO. We request that one copy of the electronic project documentation be sent to the Special Collections at the University of Utah and one copy to the archives of ARARA.

Discussion of Publications:

We are out of some of the publications and have over thirty publications from other years. Nina recommends we sell what we can next year and then we donate the rest to libraries. All past issues need to be scanned into pdf. We reviewed the previous agreement to sell hardcopy of the most current publication and then offer all past publications in a digital format on the website.

Discussion of Bylaws

Bylaws should be on the website for the membership to read. There is some concern with the transition from one board to another. Our practice has been to transition the board on January 1 following elections. The board believes that this is a good practice and that the Bylaws should be amended to reflect this practice.

Discussion of field trip archiving

The purpose of creating a field trip archive is to facilitate field trip planning. The intent is not to document all of the sites in Utah but to document field trips that we have done in a manner that they are easily replicated in the future. The Board approved, data to be stored in a password protected location on the website.

Discussion of centralized storage of URARA administrative data

We discussed the URARA skydrive account that currently exists but is not being used by the Board members. The board agreed it was a good idea to have a centralized



It wasn't all work (L to R) Joe Brame, Troy Scotter, Diane Orr, Ben Everitt, Nina Bowen. Photo: Francois Gohier

storage area. Dropbox was also discussed. We agreed to test skydrive and switch to dropbox if skydrive is too difficult. A third alternative is to utilize the same password protected location on the website discussed in the field trip archiving section.

Discussion of 2013 Symposium location

Moab if we can find a location. Richard Jenkinson to check if we could use a school or if there is another location large enough to suit our needs.

Treasurer's Report

By Ben Everitt

In spite of large symposium expenses, URARA ended 2011 in the black. Cash assets are \$49,684, an increase of 6,450 for the year. \$3132 of that increase is from the 2010 Utah Humanities Grant which was credited in 2011. URARA's request for a Humanities Grant was not accepted for 2011 was not accepted and not applied for in 2012. So we won't be receiving these funds in the future.

The largest cash flow in 2011 is associated with symposium, with income of \$13,754, and expenses of \$16,364. The symposium deficit of \$2610 is offset by membership revenue of \$5900 and sales of publications and t-shirts of \$1500. Thanks to the good efforts of Carol Gardner, our auctioneers, and our many contributors the auctions brought in \$2400. A detailed financial report will be posted on URARA's web page.

Call for Field Trip Leaders

By Joe Brame

URARA needs volunteers to lead field trips during the year. Field trips typically last two days over a weekend but may be up to five days in length, and involve day hiking or backpacking.

Utah and nearby states have numerous destinations with rock art, for example:

Northeast Utah: Book Cliffs, Brown's Park, Desolation Canyon, Dinosaur National Monument, Green River, McConkie Ranch, Nine Mile Canyon, Range Creek, Vernal. Sites in this area will be the focus of our September symposium in Vernal.

Central Utah: Buckhorn Wash, Capitol Reef National Park, Cedar Mountain, Fremont Indian State Park, Henry Mountains, San Rafael Swell.

Southeast Utah: Arches National Park, Butler Wash, Canyonlands National Park, Cedar Mesa, Colorado River, Comb Ridge, Comb Wash, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Gulch, Great Gallery, Moab, Montezuma Creek, Natural Bridges National Monument, San Juan River.

Southwest Utah: Escalante River, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Indian Canyon, Little Black Mountain, Kanab, Nampaweap, Paria River, Parowan Gap, Saint George, Vermillion Cliffs, Zion National Park.

Arizona: Agua Fria National Monument, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Flagstaff, Gila River, Grand Canyon National Park, Holbrook, Little Colorado River, Paria Plateau, Petrified Forest National Park, Rock Art Ranch, Quartzite, Sedona, V-Bar-V Ranch, Winslow, Willow Springs, Wupatki National Monument.

California: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Ayers Rock, Bishop, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Kern River, Owens Valley, Ridgecrest, San Bernardino National Forest, Sequoia National Park, Tehachapi Mountains.

Colorado: Browns Park, Canyon Pintado, Colorado National Monument, Cortez, Glade Park, Grand Junction, La Junta, Mesa Verde National Park, San Luis Valley, Raftopoulos Ranch, Rangely, Springfield, Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Vermillion Canyon.

New Mexico: Alamo Mountain, Bandelier National Monument, Chaco Canyon, Dinetah (Navajo Homeland), Galisteo Basin, Petroglyph National Monument, Rio Grande River, Three Rivers.

Nevada: Alamo, Gold Butte, Laughlin, Mount Irish, Sloan Canyon, Valley of Fire State Park, White River Narrows.

Texas: Big Bend National Park, Del Rio, El Paso, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Hueco Tanks, Seminole Canyon State Park & Historic Site, White Shaman Preserve.

Wyoming: Castle Gardens, Dubois, Legend Rock, Medicine Lodge, Ten Sleep, Torrey Lake, White Mountain.

If you are interested in leading a URARA field trip at any time during the year, please contact Joe Brame at urara.joe.brame@gmail.com or 801-993-4007.

If you are interested in leading a URARA field trip at the Vernal symposium, please contact Francois Gohier at fgohier@simplyweb.net or 858-805-1185.

Rock Art Vandalism Near Moab

By Troy Scotter

Pam and Quent Baker sent a notice regarding recent vandalism of the Owl Panel on Kane Creek Road near Moab. The local newspaper has covered the incident.

http://www.moabtimes.com/view/full_story/16931298/article-BLM-investigating-vandalism-at-Moab-rock-art-site?

2012 ARARA Conference

By Jeff Allen

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will hold its annual conference in St George during Memorial Day Weekend (May 25-28, 2012). ARARA officers will be working with members of URARA and the Dixie Archaeological Society (DAS) to make local arrangements. Fieldtrips will be held in many locations throughout the area: Gold Butte, St George, Cedar City, Zion National Park, and Arizona Strip. More information, including a call for papers, is available on the ARARA website (www.arara.org). About 250 people are expected to attend, according to Donna Gillette, conference chairperson.

URARA plans to hold a special field trip for URARA members following the conference.

2013 IFRAO Conference

By Jeff Allen

The American Rock Art Research Association will host the 2013 International Rock Art Congress in Albuquerque, New Mexico from May 26 through May 31, 2013. There will be four days of presentations and one day of fieldtrips. The theme "Ancient Hands Around the World" is designed to bring together the diverse interests of the many people who study and work to conserve pictographs and petroglyphs throughout the world. About a thousand people are expected to attend. There will be special cultural events throughout the week including evening lectures, dances by Pueblo groups, and vendor offerings of rock art related merchandise.

Mansard Site Documentation

By Paula Raynosa

The Mansard Site Project originated in the spring of 2010, on a hike offered by the city of Kanab, Utah. I remarked to Matthew Zweifel, archeologist for the Grand Staircase, Escalante National Monument, how much I would enjoy/love drawing this site. I got the job and we set up the team. In the spring of 2011, URARA members Steve Manning, Art and Marie Cloutier and myself accompanied Park Ranger Mitzi Heinz to the off road site. Three days, two nights, and 17 hours of work were spent at the site.

One of the most remarkable features is the sloping Navajo sandstone slab floor. Tilting some 20 to 40 degrees, the sloping floor provided the canvas for many petroglyphs exposed on some 84 square meters of sandstone. However, due to natural exfoliation from weathering conditions over centuries, the sloping slab floor is one third covered with sand fill hiding the balance of the petroglyphs below. Without permission, we were unable to remove this fill and the sleeping petroglyphs below remain a tantalizing future project.

The exposed petroglyphs are comprised of incised, pecked, and abraded elements that vary from completely repatinated to recent and fresh. The patina, within the pecked holes varies. The top edge may have no patina due to wind or erosion but very dark patina exists below.

The outstanding elements at this site are the 5 sets of abraded grooves that I refer to as slides (see the above photo). Their purpose appears to have been to

slide down the tilted sloping floor. These 5 sets of slides are all parallel to one another. The only completely exposed one is 18 meters long. The others disappear under the sand. I hypothesize that these were used as grooves for feet. One can slide down the whole length of the slide. A little sand and bare feet make them a very fast way to the bottom of the floor. Was this for a game or for entertainment? We will never know.

This site includes an interesting variety of anthropomorphs in addition to the usual stick-like figures. These include:

- a figure with body, legs, claw feet and flaring arms with fingers, arranged to suggest a turkey's head with wattle
- a figure with flapping ears and two different style feet
- a figure with a protruding stomach, suggestive of a pregnant female
- a possible flute player
- an archer with a bow shooting four t-shaped projectiles.

On the floor is the figure of an atlatl suggestive of a time line prior to the use of the bow.

Avian zoomorphs are represented by a standing turkey, a flying turkey, and many bird-like tracks. This is not surprising as this alcove falls in the area where there were domesticated turkeys. In addition, there is a long billed hummingbird-like figure encircled by a ring of dots.



Marie Cloutier and Steve Manning at Mansard Cave. Photo: Paula Raynosa

Finally, there are bear tracks and possible badger tracks. Snakes, a common figure associated with rain rituals in arid environments, wiggle or zigzag up the sloping floor.

Abstract elements consist of amorphic pecking to elaborate rectilinear designs and circles within circles.

While at first we did not find convincing evidence of grinding holes, two holes, originally assumed to be mortar holes, were later recognized to be post holes. This meant that the site included a shelter area. Within the two meter width between the post holes are three grinding slicks. One was highly patinated and the other had been vandalized.

Solar Eclipse

By Ben Everitt

Archaeoastronomers will want to put May 20th on their calendars. The first solar eclipse visible in the southwestern United States in several years can be seen along a swath from northern California to west Texas. Although an annular (ring eclipse), it will be well worth watching. The southwestern Utah towns of St George, Cedar City, and Kanab lie in the path of maximum eclipse. "Sky and Telescope" has provided a table of times and durations for locations along the track: http://media.skyandtelescope.com/documents/May2012_Annular_table_24hr.pdf.

Rock-arters may want to think about how they would describe a total or annular eclipse to their friends who missed it, if they lived in an age before photography. How would you depict outstanding features? There is an apparent hole in the sun; the corona; the crescent phase; the motion of the moon itself across the face of the sun; and especially the apparition of Venus adjacent to the darkened sun. Have you seen anything like this in rock art?

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