

VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Letter

By Ben Everitt

Recently on KUED's Sunday afternoon spot Ted Capener interviewed Sam Daley-Harris, author of *Reclaiming our Democracy* and several other books on citizen activism and mobilization for local causes. His words are encouraging; he sees good work continuing at the grass-roots level based on citizen involvement, to modulate the top-down action which is a necessary aspect of government bureaucracy. As he says, we are not just passengers on space-ship earth: we are the crew. When the sea is stormy, we had better be on deck.

I am proud of the crew we have in URARA, and their accomplishments over the years. Your Preservation Committee has put in many hours reviewing proposed actions by the BLM: Nine-Mile, Moab, Mussentuchit, to name a few. As citizens, we have a responsibility, some say a sacred duty, to protect Utah's cultural heritage.

URARA has come to realize that it is a repository of information about cultural resources under the jurisdiction of the State and the BLM, for which those entities have only an incomplete record. This repository is in the memories and photo collections of many members who have been prowling Utah's backcountry for decades, a kind of "human cloud". Collectively, the URARA membership cloud contains many more sites than the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) or the BLM archives. Several of the BLM regions have come to rely on URARA for supplemental information in the planning process.

One of the items on the 2014 board agenda is whether and to what extent URARA should undertake to create its own formal database of Utah's rock art sites. To speed response to a government action under the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, it would certainly be nice to have a map to pull up that shows all known sites, whether or not recorded and on file with

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SHPO. To create such a database will be expensive, time-consuming and fraught with technical, institutional, and maybe legal difficulties. Would you, as a member of URARA, be willing to contribute your rock art sites to a digital database, and under what conditions? If you prefer not to share your most secret sites, would you be willing to place your name on file as knowledgeable about a certain geographic area or style, in case this information was needed to review, say, a proposal for a new dam and reservoir, or well-field or coal mine?

URARA'S board meetings are open to the membership. The annual board retreat for planning the coming year will be in St George January 18-20. If you have an item, you would like to see on the agenda, send me a note at rockdoc@xmission.com. Reference: Sam Daley-Harris, *Reclaiming Our Democracy: Healing the Break between People and Government*, 2004, Camino Books

Calendar of Events

Jan 10-11	Southwest Symposium, University of Nevada at Las Vegas
April 4-6	URARA Rock Art Rendezvous, Page, AZ
May 3-10	Utah Archaeology Week
June TBA	USAS Convention
July 4-7	ARARA Conference, Rock Springs, WY
August TBA	Pecos Conference, Blanding, UT
August TBA	URARA Picnic
Sept or Oct TBA	URARA Symposium

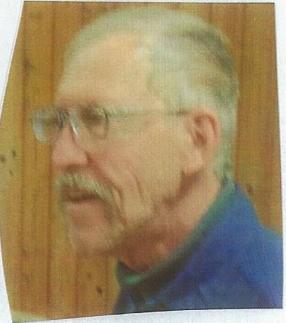
URARA Rock Art Rendezvous, Page, AZ

Submitted by Ben Everitt

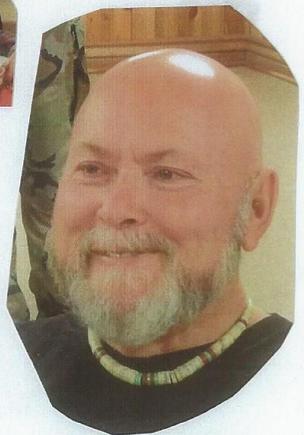
There will be a weekend of field trips in and around Page, Arizona the weekend of April 4-6. Art Cloutier has offered to give a program on Navajo Cosmology on one of those evenings. The pre-Easter weekend was chosen in hopes that lodging in Page (never cheap) will be as reasonable as it ever gets. Camping is available, but we have not located any free camping in town. Please reserve a space with Joe Brame urara.joe.brame@gmail.com. More information will be forthcoming in February.

Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your URAA membership for 2014, you may do so by going to the URARA website (www.utahrockart.org), printing out the membership renewal form, and sending the completed form and your check to URARA, P.O. Box 1351, Washington, UT 84790. You must be a current member to participate in URARA fieldtrips.



URARA
CHRISTMAS
SOCIAL
9 Dec
2013



URARA Holiday Party Report & Photo

Submitted by Oscar Olson

On Monday, December 9, URARA members and guests began showing up at the Bicentennial Park Pavilion for the annual Holiday Party reunion. At 5:30 pm, activities were already in motion as tables, chairs, and decorations were set up. Barbara Saxon and Barbara Green were busy tending to last minute details: ham in the oven and food and dessert tables to be filled. A good group of about 25 (I hope I did not miss anybody in the photos). Plenty of good food was served, and if anybody left hungry, it was their own fault. Introductions and conversations were shared around the tables. Everyone looks forward to this URARA tradition.

Troy Scotter set up the projector for our program. Dordee Woodruff showed URARA fieldtrips from years 2002 to 2004. Great job, it was fun to remember those trips with friends. Diane Orr gave us a brief discussion about her involvement with the San Rafael BLM drilling leases. There has been some success in cancelling some leases in critical rock art areas near Molen Reef. Thanks to all involved. Steve Acerson, one of our new Board members) told us about his ongoing efforts to work with new member Jennifer Morrison from Eagle Mountain to preserve rock art sites in that area from development. Steve showed rock art photos and shared some of his photos from working for UDOT for forty years. Congratulations on your retirement, Steve.

The evening closed at about 9 pm with a good time had by all. Thanks again to the two Barbara's.

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