

# 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

By now most have read about URARA's involvement in the BLM decision to defer certain parcels from the lease sale in the San Rafael Swell, but here are some references to bring you up to date.

**BLM Pulls Controversial San Rafael Swell Parcels** by Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News, Friday, Nov. 15 2013 3:50 p.m. [www.deseretnews.com/article/865590655/BLM-praised-for-pulling-controversial-land-parcels-from-oil-and-gas-sale.html](http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865590655/BLM-praised-for-pulling-controversial-land-parcels-from-oil-and-gas-sale.html)

**Western Energy Alliance Files Appeal on Utah BLM Lease Deferrals**, January 13, 2014, ©2014 Western Energy Alliance

[www.westernenergyalliance.org/press-room/western-energy-alliance-files-appeal-utah-blm-lease-deferrals](http://www.westernenergyalliance.org/press-room/western-energy-alliance-files-appeal-utah-blm-lease-deferrals)

**Energy industry appeals Utah BLM decision on oil, gas leases: Oil and gas trade group says rock-art association wielded undue influence with BLM**, by Brian Maffly, The Salt Lake Tribune, Jan. 14, 2014. [www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57390180-90/blm-utah-energy-auction.html.csp](http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/57390180-90/blm-utah-energy-auction.html.csp)

**My View: Meeting over San Rafael Swell Fair**, By Steven Manning, For the Deseret News, Published: Tuesday, Jan. 21 2014 12:00 a.m.

[www.deseretnews.com/article/865594538/Meeting-over-San-Rafael-Swell-fair.html](http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865594538/Meeting-over-San-Rafael-Swell-fair.html)

The Western Energy Alliance statement refers to URARA as a special-interest group wielding "undue influence" with the BLM. Consider it a compliment. A ragged bunch of un-paid volunteers has as much influence in managing Utah's public land as a Denver-based lobby. Knowledge trumps cold cash. I think Governor Herbert was on the right track when, in his State-of-the-State address last Wednesday, he said that Utahns know best how to manage Utah's land. But it would be unfair for URARA to take all the credit. Thanks go to the outdoors enthusiasts who live and work in Emery County, the many Utah businesses who earn a living from the outdoor

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recreation industry, the native Americans who still revere their sacred sites, and the many Utahns who work for their local BLM districts and care deeply for the scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational values of the land they are charged to manage.

## Planning Calendar

March	Arizona Archaeology Month
April 4-6	URARA Rock Art Rendezvous, Page, AZ Signup via e-mail to <a href="mailto:urara.joe.brame@gmail.com">urara.joe.brame@gmail.com</a>
May 3-10	Utah Archaeology Week
June 5-8	USAS Convention
July 4-7	ARARA Conference, Rock Springs, WY <a href="http://www.arara.org">www.arara.org</a>
August 7-10	Pecos Conference, Blanding, UT
August 15-18	URARA Picnic (Tentative)
October 10-13	URARA Symposium Kanab, UT

## URARA Rock Art Rendezvous, Page AZ

Submitted by Joe Brame

There will be a three-day weekend of field trips in and around Page, Arizona the weekend of April 4-6 for URARA members. Non-members who wish to participate in the Rock Art Rendezvous should join URARA before March 8.

In February, members will receive an e-mail with a list of field trips and a signup form. Complete the form by indicating, for each member of your group, first, second, and third choices for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday field trips (symposium style, on a first-come-first-served basis), and mail the form in no later than March 8.

Field trip sites are located on BLM managed land and in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA), Grand Staircase Escalante-National Monument (GSENM) and the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument (VCNM); therefore trip size will be limited.

There is an opportunity for two potential field trips by boat, for which there is a fee.

1. A trip down the Colorado River from the Glen Canyon Dam to panels along the river. The cost is estimated at \$110.00.
2. If we have 6 to 8 signups, we can rent a motor launch to cross Lake Powell to the Dominguez-Escalante 1776 Inscription (pending approval from the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area). The cost will be about \$100.00. The trip involves an hour's boat ride on Lake Powell, which may be cold, windy, and choppy, and an hour's hike through tamarisk and over slickrock. These trips will be contingent on the weather.

Although there is technically no limit on the number of participants, we do need to have an estimate of attendance in order to plan field trips, line up field trip leaders, and obtain permits to visit some sensitive sites. Over 23 members have already reserved a space. Please be sure to indicate if you are definitely interested in the boat trip. Those members who have already reserved a space should indicate their interest in the boat trips with a second email.

Two evening programs are planned to be held in the Page library. Friday evening, April 4, Paul Ostapuk will give a talk on the authentication of the Escalante inscription. Saturday evening, April 5, Art Cloutier has offered to give a program on Navajo Cosmology. 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 via e-mail to [urara.joe.brame@gmail.com](mailto:urara.joe.brame@gmail.com). More information will be forthcoming.

## 2014 URARA Fieldtrips

Submitted by Steve Acerson

February 8-9	Eagle Mountain Area Oscar Olson and Steve Acerson
March 15-16	Lake Point UT Oscar Olson and Steve Acerson
April 4-6	URARA Rock Art Rendezvous, Page, AZ Signup via e-mail to <a href="mailto:urara.joe.brame@gmail.com">urara.joe.brame@gmail.com</a>
May 17-18	Salina UT Oscar Olson and Steve Acerson
June 14	Fruitland UT Oscar Olson and Steve Acerson
July 12-13	Fillmore UT Oscar Olson and Steve Acerson
August 15-18	URARA Picnic, Elk Ridge or Natural Bridges, UT (Tentative)
September 27-28	Price UT BLM Site Documentation TBA
October 10-13	URARA Symposium Kanab, UT TBA
November 1-2	Delta UT Oscar and Steve Acerson
December 6-7	To be Announced

Oscar Olson and Steve Acerson have submitted these fieldtrips, which are principally in northern Utah except as noted. Steve reports that the February and March fieldtrips will be on flat terrain with minimal elevation gain. Sites are on paved and gravel roads. Weather conditions could require all-wheel for possible mud or wet roads. Steve and/or Oscar will provide further information including meeting time and meeting place. To sign up for February or March fieldtrips, please contact Oscar Olson at 801-485-0862 or Steve Acerson at 801-423-7044 or [whiteh20rockart@gmail.com](mailto:whiteh20rockart@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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.

## San Diego Rock Art Assn Blog

Submitted by Don Liponi

We have started a blog for our members that anyone can read. We try to center on the Kumeyaay, our local culture's rock art, but anything is welcome. At the moment, only members can post, as we are just getting started. The blog URL is [donliponi1.blogspot.com](http://donliponi1.blogspot.com)

As always, we meet the first Sunday of every other month in the city of Poway (northern San Diego Country) and everyone is welcome. Details are on our main website:

[www.sandiegorockart.org](http://www.sandiegorockart.org)

## URARA Board Retreat Minutes

Submitted by Ben Everitt

January 18, 2014

**Present:** Steve Acerson, Nina Bowen, Joe Brame, Ben Everitt, Francois Gohier, Richard Jenkinson, Paula Quay (phone), Oscar Olson, for the current Board; Margaret Grochocki, Diane Orr, and Troy Scotter for the outgoing Board

### Organization

#### Officers

President - Ben Everitt  
Vice President - Richard Jenkinson  
Treasurer - Paula Quay  
Secretary - Nina Bowen

#### Committees

Conservation-Preservation - Diane Orr  
Education - Richard Jenkinson  
Field trips - Triumvirate Brame, Acerson, Olson  
Symposium - Margaret Grochocki  
Digital database - Scotter, Brame, Acerson

#### Appointees

Archives - Margaret Grochocki  
Membership - Lois Mansfield  
Publications - Chris Oravec and Joe Brame  
Vestiges - Jeff Allen

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PO Box runner – Bill Hirt  
Christmas party – Barbara Green and Barbara Saxon  
Website manager -- Tom Getts, with Joe Brame as backup

Board

Nina Bowen volunteered to fill in the empty board seat

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership.** Lois's figures suggest membership is slowly declining. The Board discussed the speed with which the software drops members who forget to pay their dues, and suggested more leniency. One thing we could do is send the Vestiges notices to everyone, whether or not dues are paid, since Vestiges is available to all anyway. We need to make it clear that membership is required for symposium and field trips. Paula would like a list of complimentary registrations available to her at symposium, so people don't get turned away at the door. Diane suggested historical members be sent Vestiges emails, which would require them to unsubscribe.

**Treasurer.** Paula has not split out membership dues from symposium fees. She will do that and update us for the next board meeting. She has been in touch with Zion's Bank about setting us up to use credit cards for registration at symposium time. .

**Conservation-Preservation.** Steve Acerson reported on Utah Lake activities, working with the BLM, landowners, and developers to preserve petroglyphs on both public and private land. Many sites are threatened by spreading urbanization, unorganized shooting, dumping, and wildfires. The BLM has provided land to Utah County to build a shooting range to take the pressure off wild-land shooting, but the County has not yet acted on it. There was some discussion of Hurricane City's land-swap ordinance as a model for other cities who want to preserve historical heritage or open space.

Diane Orr reported for Pam and Quent Baker on more proposals for documentation in the Moab area next spring.

Nina Bowen summarized preservation efforts in Dixie and complemented the Color Country BLM for a model site steward program. She organized a tour for the Board of the ongoing excavation of the Confluence Ruin in St George, led by archeologist Greg Woodall. Besides some interesting petroglyphs and cupules, the site shows multiple occupation levels, suggesting possible continuous occupation from Basketmaker to historic time. It would have been a more valuable archaeological archive if it had not been so thoroughly turned over by pot hunters for the last 150 years.

Diane and Troy reported on meetings with the BLM on the Molen Reef/San Rafael oil leases. The BLM decision to defer sale of 57 leases, based partly on information submitted by URARA has been appealed by Western Energy Alliance and Castle Valley Holdings, LLC. We're waiting to see how this plays out. More areas are proposed for leasing, including Quitcupah and Mussintuchit; URARA needs to do a better job monitoring the BLM web site for upcoming lease sales.

Troy reported that the plans for the Parowan Gap upgrade have been reviewed, and that hopefully money for construction will be received this year.

Diane reported on the proposal to upgrade and pave the road in Nine-Mile Canyon for increased truck traffic. Should we worry about this? Early on paving was one our proposals to prevent dust and chemicals from coating the petroglyphs. She thinks that the paving project does

not include widening or re-orienting the roadway. Bill Barrett has sold out to a Texas company. It is unclear how this affects the Bill Barrett archaeological research fund.

By telephone, Terri Martin reported on SUWA's Greater Canyonlands Proposal. For the first time we saw a map, which includes a large area of public land surrounding Canyonlands and Arches national Parks, proposed for additional protection. Terri suggested three things that URARA could do to assist the effort: (1) Write a letter of support to the Obama administration or ask the interested membership to write letters; (2) Supply documentation of rock art within the project area, with photos; and (3) Continue education. She wants us to help them identify the specific value of rock art in the new acquisition area. The Board is reluctant to write letters under URARA's signature because our mission and goals are not those of SUWA, and we are not necessarily interested in wilderness-style protection. Our strength lies in the knowledge of sensitive sites on the local scale, and here we can be of value by documenting sites in jeopardy. Diane Orr recommended reorganizing the group of Greater Canyonlands enthusiasts formed at the Moab symposium into a committee to work with Terri on documentation and education. Such a committee would be under URARA's control and not SUWA's. Paula expressed concern that the Greater Canyonlands Coalition might use our name without our knowledge.

Publications – Nina and Troy reported on progress of digitizing past publications. All publications have been digitized and Volumes 1-5 have been redacted. They will be posted on the website. Troy will transfer the rest to word-recognition software, edit, and post on the web site. Joe and Chris have volunteered to be publications chairs.

### **Field trips**

There was discussion about being a URARA member before being allowed on a field trip, and whether guests signing the waiver was sufficient for insurance coverage. The consensus is that field trips are for members only. Field trip leaders should have membership forms and liability waivers available for guests and walk-ins.

Summer picnic. Joe thinks maybe we have worn out Boulder Mountain and suggested camping on Elk Ridge or Natural Bridges which have access to interesting country in all directions, including Cedar Mesa, White Canyon, Dark Canyon, Beef Basin, Salt Creek Indian Creek, Arch Canyon, and Comb Ridge. It would be the weekend of August 16-17, following the Pecos Conference in Blanding.

### **Going electronic with dues and symposium registration**

Discussion was deferred because of Jim Farmer's absence.

### **Digital rock art database**

Troy gave a presentation on the complexity of creating a digital database of Utah rock art. This was followed by a lengthy discussion of the details and alternatives: Does URARA have the fortitude, time or money to do this? How will the URARA database interact with existing databases? Do we develop our own site identification numbers, or borrow someone else's system? Can we ensure security, and how will this be done? What happens to the database if URARA ceases to exist or folds into another organization? Will photographs be included in the database or referenced by links, and how is this to be done? Most of these issues have yet to be resolved. The board voted to authorize the committee to begin a pilot project. The database is to include only Utah sites and will include archaeology only minimally. The database will be maintained by a triumvirate appointed by the Board of Directors, rather than a single individual, to ensure continuity of purpose and oversight. The database is to be confidential and will be used primarily

for educating land management agencies about sites within their purview and reviewing development proposals under Section 106. Secondly the database might be used for research. URARA members or contributors to the database should not expect to have access to it unless they submit a peer-reviewed research proposal. Ultimately, a subset of the database may be developed for use by field trip leaders.

The committee will develop a standard reporting form, perhaps based on the IMACS rock art attachment.

### **Record-keeping**

URARA has been somewhat lax in maintaining its business records. Both paper and electronic records are kept by individual directors or committee chairs, but are not easily accessible to everyone. New Board members may not be aware of who has worked on what in the past. Troy proposed that we find a cloud based repository for digital records, starting with his, so they would be accessible to the Board and to people working on conservation-preservation and symposium. He and Joe will review options.

### **Symposium**

The 2014 symposium will be in Kanab, Utah, on the weekend of October 10-13, which is Columbus Day weekend. The two options for a venue were discussed, but not decided on. Camping is available adjacent to the old middle school, which has showers

## **URARA Board Contacts**

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.

Address membership applications to URARA, Box 1351, Washington, UT 84780.

[www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org) .

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