

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

Your publications committee has completed the digitization of the URARA symposium publications. The whole set, going back to 1981, is now posted on the web and available for download. Scan the titles. There are some interesting papers in there. You can shred that set of paper volumes that's taking up 2 feet of shelf space in your den and use 'em for kitty litter.

Symposium will include the customary membership meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 12. Bring your ideas and proposals, grumbles and gripes. Remember, we haven't figured out how to vote on-line yet. You miss the meeting, you don't get to vote on where to hold symposium next year.

Troy is proposing that URARA consider producing a book on the rock art of Utah, similar to the recent "Rock Art of the Grand Canyon". We have so many members, both those familiar with various regions of Utah and its styles and those in academia, familiar with the literature, theory, and global connections that we need to put this resource to work while we still have it.

Agenda

- Three board members; nominations; election
- Treasurer's report
- Membership Report
- Field trip summary and discussion; Should we have another spring rendezvous?
- 2015 Symposium location
- Progress of rock art database
- Book project

September 2014

Fred Saxon, 1930-2014

Ben Everitt

Long time URARA member Fred Saxon died peacefully at home on September 15, after a long struggle with several medical conditions. Fred and his wife Barbara were among the founding members of URARA, joining in about 1979, back when we still met monthly in people's living rooms to discuss Ogam and Middle Egyptian. Fred was born in Pittsburgh, knocked around the world, Korea in the Air Force, met Barbara in Canada, and wound up in Utah as a geologist for the US Bureau of Reclamation. Fred and Barbara fell in love with Utah early on, bought an old jeep and spent weekends exploring the back-country around Moab and Canyonlands before Canyonlands was a National Park. Never one for the limelight, Fred was a steadfast member of URARA, dragging his oxygen bottle to symposium and Christmas party whenever he could.

Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips

September 27	Utah Lake Site Protection Fieldtrip
September 27-28	San Rafael Swell Site Documentation Fieldtrip
October 10-13	URARA Symposium Kanab, UT www.utahrockart.org
November 1-2	Delta UT Fieldtrip--Oscar Olson and Steve Acerson
December 6-7	To be Announced
December 8	Annual Christmas party potluck at the indoor Bicentennial Pavilion, 530 East 8680 South, Sandy, Utah.

To sign up for the November and December fieldtrips, please contact Oscar Olson at 801-485-0862 or Steve Acerson at 385-985-5402 or whiteh20rockart@gmail.com.

URARA Summer Picnic

Richard Jenkinson

The annual URARA summer picnic occurred August 15-18 at the Nizhoni Campground near Blanding. Around twenty URARA members attended. Field trips included a Saturday outing to the Muley Point area on Cedar Mesa and a Sunday trip to Montezuma Canyon with a long visit to Coal Bed Ruin. We had a potluck featuring URARA made chili on Saturday evening. The weather was cooperative and everyone had a good time. Make plans to join us next summer! A special thanks goes out to Joe Brame and others for organization and preparation.



Photo: Barbara Green



Joe leads the way at Coal Bed Ruin.

Photo: Richard Jenkinson

News from Moab

Richard Jenkinson

Some of you may have heard that the Grand County Council was considering the idea of paving a road through Segoe Canyon in order to facilitate the movement of oil and gas from the Vernal area to the interstate and the railroad. The plan was to get someone else to pay for the construction of the road and then charge the energy companies a toll for using the road. The idea has caused a great uproar in the community and contributed to a failed attempt to have the leader of the council put on the ballot for a recall election. Recently, an evaluation of the costs of road construction for three possible routes – Segoe, Hay and East Canyons – was presented to the council. Segoe Canyon was considered to be outrageously expensive and impractical. Of the other two options, the cheapest was East Canyon, but it was still very expensive. Segoe Canyon is now removed from consideration and it remains to be seen if anyone will step up to pay for the high cost of either of the other options.

URARA 2014 Symposium - Kanab

By Margaret Grochocki

Our annual symposium will be held in Kanab, Utah October 10-13 at the Kanab Middle School. 639 South Cowboy Way (Approx. 50 West) –(See attached map).

Agenda

Friday October 10

- Fieldtrips
- Watermelon Social 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Jacob Hamblin Park – 531 North 100 East (See attached map))

Saturday October 11

- Presentations
- Dinner and auction

Sunday October 12

- Presentations
- Business meeting (election of officers, financial report, business)
- Tools Sessions

Monday October 13

- Fieldtrips

Accommodations

If you haven't made your reservations it is imperative that you do so now. This is a major tourist town and they may be hard to find.

A listing of hotels can be found at the website: http://www.tripadvisor.com/hotels-g57030-kanab_utah-hotels.html.

Kanab has several in-town campgrounds with restrooms, water, electrical hookups and wi-fi, but most get

highway noise. Google “Kanab Utah Camping.”

Important Field Trip Information

The pre-registration deadline for field trips was September 20th. For those who are not pre-registered, there will also be a sign up for field trips at the Kane County Volunteer Center (76 North Main) on Thursday, October 9th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

We do not list all of the field trips on our website to avoid indexing by search engines. Contact Joe Brame if you would like a list of field trips or have questions regarding field trips urara.joe.brame@gmail.com Phone 801-993-4007.

New Field Trip for Monday

M11: Upper Snake Gulch

Limit: 12 including the leader **Diane Orr**

Duration: Full Day

Difficulty: Easy-Moderate -This trip begins at the head of Snake Gulch and continues down canyon. *You might hike as much as 6 miles round trip if you look at everything on both walls up and down this part of Snake Gulch.*

Distance from Kanab: One way (35 miles, 1.5 hours) round trip (70 miles, 3 hours).

Vehicle: High Clearance – There are rutted dirt roads.

Description: Snake Gulch has the most spectacular pictographs in the area: turkeys, barrel body anthropomorphs and many individuals and family groups decked out in polychrome finery. Pictographs stretch out on canyon walls for at least two miles. The red-and-yellow pictographs in this remote canyon date from the Basketmaker period (300 B.C.-A.D. 800) and are among the most impressive and extensive in the state.

Auction Reminder

Carol Garner reminds us that it's time to think about donations for the silent auction. Think of something rock art-related and interesting, educational, exciting or just plain funny that you can bring to add to the fundraising. This year Steve Acerson will be our auctioneer.

For any questions or to send a donation if you are unable to attend, contact Margaret Grochocki (801-282-5850 or Margaret.Grochocki@gmail.com)

Address: 3760 W. Vista West Drive
West Jordan, Utah 84088.

Margaret needs help.

If anyone is going through Green River, Utah, we need watermelons and other melons for Symposium Watermelon Social on Friday night. Please contact Margaret Grochocki at (801-282-5850 or Margaret.Grochocki@gmail.com)

Presentations

We are excited to have Steve Freers as our Keynote speaker for this conference. He is co-author with Don Christensen & Jerry Dickey of “Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region.” Steve Freers has been involved in rock art research and conservation for the past 25 years, co-authored “Fading Images” a book on Southern California rock art, and served for five years as the senior editor for the American Rock Art Research Association.

Other presenters currently scheduled include Matt Zweifel (Archaeologist), Connie Reid (Archaeologist), Don Christensen (author), Von Del Chamberlain (astronomer, author, and former director of the Hansen Planetarium-Salt Lake City, Utah), Richard Jenkinson (educator), David Sucec (researcher, author, artist), Nal Morris (Educator & Researcher), and Ekkehart Malotki (author). See September Vestiges for a complete list of speakers.

Tools Session

This year we are bringing back Tools Sessions on Sunday afternoon. Currently scheduled sessions include; GPS (Joe Brame), how to set up documentation for a site (Pam & Quent Baker & Leigh Grench), Dstretch (Bonnie Moser), and how to study rock art sound characteristics (Steve Waller).

URARA Business Meeting

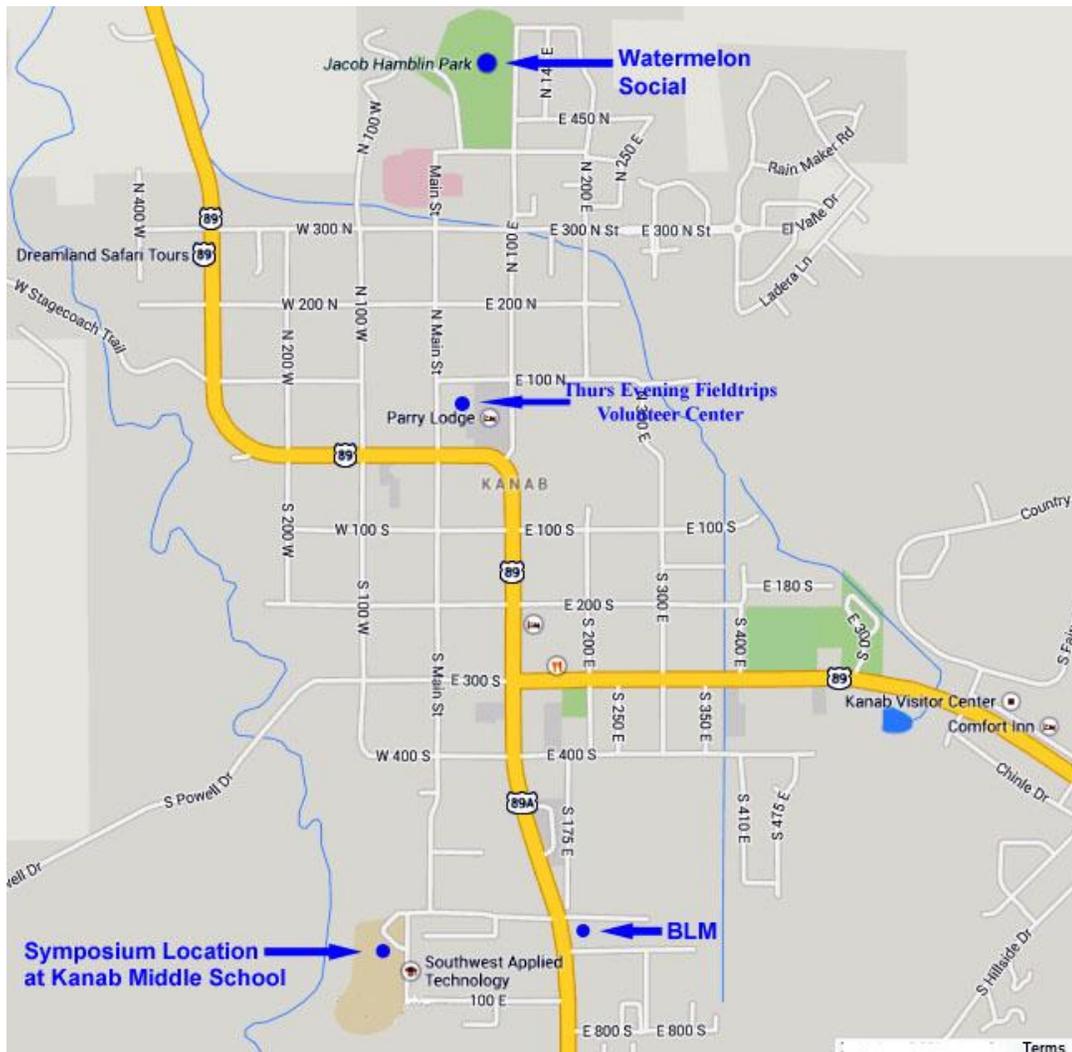
Symposium is the only time when the majority of members all gather in one place. It is our time to meet and elect new board members. One half of our Board of Directors cycle off every year in accordance with our bylaws. We are always looking for new people who are interested in serving on the Board or are willing to help out with the many other jobs we have such as field trips, accounting, electronic communication, Vestiges, membership, documentation projects, or serving on our conservation group. If you would like more information on any of these topics, would like to “throw your hat into the ring”, or simply have an agenda item for the business meeting please, contact Ben Everitt at rockdoc@xmission.com.

Preliminary agenda:

- Election of board members
- Treasurer’s report
- Membership report
- Field trip summary and discussion of the “Rock Art Rendezvous” at Page
- URARA site database proposal
- Other business as may appear

Lunch

There are many fast food and other restaurants in Kanab. There will be tables available at the school for those who wish to use them.



Book Review

Nine Mile Canyon: The Archaeological History of an American Treasure

Troy Scotter

Spangler, Jerry D.; paperback 194 pages; The University of Utah Press; 2013. ISBN: 978-1-60781-226-5. Suggested retail price \$34.95 or \$25.79 on Amazon.

This book might not be what you first expect. It is not so much a history of the archeology of Nine Mile Canyon describing who lived here and what they left behind. Instead it is more of a history of the archeologists who have worked in Nine Mile Canyon. In the end, readers will develop a strong

understanding of the archeology of this narrow slice of Utah, but this understanding comes through a circuitous route.

Spangler is an expert on Nine Mile Canyon. He did his Master's thesis in the canyon working with Brigham Young University in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He has spent considerable time in Nine Mile and the surrounding Tavaputs Plateau and Desolation Canyon areas since then. He has a passion for tracking the work of the early archeologists in the area and rediscovering their sites. From that perspective, Spangler is the perfect person to write this book.

Spangler traces the archeology of Nine Mile Canyon beginning with the collections of early Mormon settlers and continuing with a look at the work of Neal Morriss, the Chaffin-Emerson Expedition, John Gillin, Jesse Jennings, James Gunnerson and Polly Schaafsma. There is also discussion of the detailed survey made by BYU students in the 1970's and recent work associated with the oil and gas development of the area.

Spangler closes the book with a summary of these recent archeological findings and their implications for our understanding of the prehistoric residents of Nine Mile Canyon. It provides a great context for evaluation of the previous hundred years of archeology.

As an avocational rock art enthusiast I found the book enlightening. I have heard many of the names of the historical giants of Utah archeology but didn't have much context through which to understand them. Spangler describes their background while focusing on their work in Nine Mile Canyon.

Rock art aficionados tend to be visually oriented. This book won't disappoint them. There is hardly a page that doesn't have a photo, and many pages have several. We also have a fascination with sites and their locations. Many rock art and archeological sites are mentioned throughout the book. General site location information is provided (e.g. north side of the canyon; two miles down canyon) but specific information regarding location is not provided.

URARA Board Contacts

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Please address all membership applications/renewals and checks to URARA, Box 1351,
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