

VESTIGES

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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

Table of Contents

Board Welcomes DeLoy Norton.....	1	Indonesian Cave Paintings Dated.....	3
Calendar and Field Trip Schedule.....	2	Completion of Sand Island Project.....	4
Moab BLM to Host Workshop March 12-13.2		Moab Field Trip Report.....	4
Preservation Report	3	URARA Board Contacts	5

President's Letter

Richard Jenkinson

As you probably already know, this year's URARA Symposium will be in Escalante October 2-5 2015 (NOT the customary Columbus Day weekend). As usual there will be field trips on Friday and Monday and presentations on Saturday and Sunday. We will use the high school for our venue as we did a few years ago. It is not too early to be thinking about presentations. If you wish to submit a presentation, send a title and abstract to me at rcjenkinson@yahoo.com. We hope to see you all in Escalante.

At the annual board retreat in January in St. George, the board decided to retune the URARA mission statement. Here is our current mission statement:

The Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) is a group of enthusiasts who enjoy finding, photographing, studying, preserving and documenting Utah's pictograph and petroglyphs.

Board Welcomes DeLoy Norton

Ben Everitt

The URARA Board welcomes new member DeLoy Norton. DeLoy is a long-time URARA member, recently retired from driving for Garrett Freightlines. He majored in geology at the University of Utah, loves all aspects of the outdoors from hunting to skiing. He trained with the Arizona site-steward program and has been stewarding rock art sites on the Arizona strip for 15 years. He has also been stewarding sites out of the Fillmore BLM office.

Calendar and Field Trip Schedule

March 12/13	Moab Stewardship & Recording Workshop
March 21/22.	Green River Area
April 11/12.	Caliente Nevada Area
May 1/2/3.	Western Colorado
May 22-25	ARARA Symposium, Laughlin, Nevada
June 12/13.	Sawmill and Coalville sites
July 11/12.	Fillmore and Delta Areas
August 6-9	Pecos Conference Mancos Colorado
August.	URARA Summer Picnic, Blanding
September.	Connor Springs, Box Elder Canyon
October 2,3,4,5.	URARA Symposium, Escalante
November 7/8.	Bluff
December 5/6	Nine-Mile and Argyle Canyons

For info or sign-up for URARA events, please contact Oscar Olson at 801-485-0862 or Steve Acerson at 385-985-5402, whiteh20rockart@gmail.com.

Moab BLM to Host Workshop March 12-13

Pam Baker

The Canyonlands country surrounding Moab has intriguing rock art sites within its landscape. In the last two decades visitation to Moab area has increased to over 2 million visitors per year. This increased visitation has brought with it more incidents of graffiti placed over irreplaceable pictographs and petroglyphs. The Bureau of Land Management, Moab Field Office has teamed up with the Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA), to offer a Site Stewardship and Rock Art Documentation Workshop on Thursday and Friday, March 12-13, 2015 at the Moab BLM office.

The workshop will consist of two days of instruction both in the classroom and in the field. Participants will learn how to properly record and photograph rock art sites, and become site stewards for the Moab area rock art sites. Becoming a rock art site steward means that you agree to document and/or monitor rock art sites in the Moab vicinity. Site stewards are encouraged to visit assigned archaeological sites twice a year to monitor and report changes.

If you would like to participate in the Moab's site stewardship/rock art recording workshop, contact Don Montoya at dmontoya@blm.gov (435)259-2149, or Michael J. (Jared) Lundell lundell@blm.gov (435) 259-2137.

No experience necessary! All are invited to attend; those under 16 please register with an adult to attend the workshops with you. Registration is limited to 20 participants so register early.

Preservation Report

Diane Orr

On February 11th, BLM announced its decision to defer leases on 36 of 53 parcels nominated for oil and gas sales in Canyon Country. URARA had joined Friends of Cedar Mesa, National Parks Conservation Association, SUWA, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service in protesting the leases. We submitted comments on the EA and follow-up comments during the Protest period. We focused on the parcels near Alkali Ridge and Montezuma Canyon. Nine of the eleven parcels we requested were deferred. Thanks to everyone who helped. If you have not emailed Diana Acerson with information about the regional areas where you have experience and knowledge of the rock art, please do. We need everyone.

We did not comment or protest the Color Country EA. Nina Bowen, our regional advisor, reviewed the parcels for lease and determined that BLM archeologist Jared Lundell had done a fine job reviewing leases before the EA. Jared transferred to Moab, so we look forward to working with him there.

Steve Manning and I met with Jenna Whitlock, the temporary state BLM director, and members of her staff. Steve discussed the continuing problems at Utah Lake and recent new rock art damage. Then, we reviewed our latest site map and photographs of rock art in the Reef. Ahmed Mohsen, Director of the Price Field Office, participated in the discussion. We have greatly appreciated Director Mohsen's and Archeologist Amber Koski's encouragement and guidance supporting our efforts to document Molen Reef area rock art. We have made real progress and owe a big thanks to Jon Bailey for his dedication and hard work. The Price Office has modified the forms necessary to provide the information they need to make land use decisions. This allows us to document quickly and focuses our energy on exploration.

An article by Patsy Stoddard in the Jan 20 Emery County Progress discusses URARA's presentation at the January meeting of the Emery County Public Lands Council, and the BLM's land management plans in the Molen Reef. See: [What can be done to protect the Molen Reef area?](http://www.ecprogress.com/index.php?tier=1&article_id=16745), Emery County Progress, http://www.ecprogress.com/index.php?tier=1&article_id=16745

The Price Field Office is next in the cycle for oil and gas lease sales. We need volunteers to continue work in the Molen Area and South of the Moore road. We want to provide Price BLM with as much cultural information on proposed parcels as possible. Please contact me with your availability. We need to complete some sites and we need to explore some areas which are not easily accessible. Terra Incognita. Five or six volunteers could make a big difference.

Indonesian Cave Paintings Dated

Ben Everitt

A preliminary age dating of Indonesian cave paintings suggest that they may be contemporaneous with the more famous cave paintings of southern France and northern Spain. See: <http://www.sci-news.com/archaeology/science-indonesian-cave-paintings-02194.html>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/08/us-science-caves-idUSKCN0HX29W20141008>

Completion of Sand Island Project

Paula Quay

With completion of the final report and submission to State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO), the Board of Directors has released the last payment of URARA's grant to the Sand Island Documentation project (described in February Vestiges). Many thanks to our many members and friends who have donated to URARA through the annual auction or direct contribution, for preservation and documentation of Utah rock art. The Board wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to Ann Phillips and the team for the tremendous undertaking in this extensive documentation. The work involved on this site was ground-breaking and the results were extraordinary. We congratulate you all for completing the final recording and for being part of such a successful and worthwhile project."

Moab Field Trip Report

By Steve Acerson

The weather this winter has been warmer and dry. Moab is a great location both now and for early habitation of the people who left symbols for us to enjoy. We had a good group of folks show up and decided to split into two groups. Richard Jenkinson and Dave Manley led the hikes to Millcreek, Amasa back, and Arches. The group put on their hiking boots and long pants and enjoyed the warm days and trails that led us to sites that had a variety of styles and symbols.



We are so blessed in our State to have access to our public lands, and private landowners willing to grant us the opportunity to visit locations on their property. URARA and its members need to strive to leave no trace and police the areas we visit. Good stewardship will allow others to use the same areas in the future. We need to remember these sites are still part of an active ongoing cultural heritage, and act and respect with reverence during our time there.

As trip leaders we would encourage you to become active in the process of documentation and preservation of these locations. Some of our members sadly have been to panels through the years and personally seen the destruction and vandalism that destroys a non-replaceable piece of history of the American story.

Check Vestiges for the schedule of the next field trips, and especially the Moab stewardship workshop March 12-13.

Photo by Steve Acerson



Photo by Nina Bowen

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