

VESTIGES

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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Letter

Richard Jenkinson

Recently Nina Bowen and I spent two days in Escalante checking out facilities in preparation for next October's URARA symposium. We will be in the local high school for presentations on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday night's banquet will be held in the high school gym. High school principal Bert Steele has been extremely cooperative and is very excited about having URARA come to Escalante. Lodging and dining will be tight in such a small town. Lodging options are listed below. Be sure to make arrangements as soon as possible. Escalante is becoming more and more popular with tourists and late September and early October are very busy times. We are not yet settled on a caterer, and we are looking into the possibility of having sack lunches available for Saturday and Sunday. We look forward to seeing you in Escalante in October. The rock art and the landscape are truly spectacular!

Lodging Options in Escalante

1. Canyons Bed & Breakfast 120 E. Main St. 435-826-4747 canyonsbnb.com
2. Canyons of Escalante RV Park 495 W. Main 888-241-8785 canyonsofescalantepark.com
3. Circle D Motel & Eatery 475 W. Main 435-826-4297 escalantecircledmotel.com
4. Cowboy Country Inn 25 S. 100 West 435-826-4250 cowboycountryinn.com
5. Escalante's Grand Staircase B&B/Inn 280 W. Main 866-826-4890 escalantebnb.com
6. Escalante Outfitters & Bunkhouse 310 W. Main 866-292-0041 escalanteoutfitters.com
7. Escalante's Wild West Retreat 269 S. 200 East 866-292-3043 wildwestretreat.com
8. Kiva Kottage Highway 12 Milemarker 73.8 435-826-4550 kivakoffeehouse.com
9. La Luna Desert Retreat 580 S 600 West 435-826-4708 lalunadesertretreat.com
10. La Luz Desert Retreat 680 W 600 South 435-826-4708 laluz.net
11. Padre Motel 20 E. Main 435-826-4276 padremotel.com
12. Prospector Inn 380 W. Main 435-826-4653 prospectorinn.com
13. Rainbow Country B & B 585 E. 300 South 800-252-8824 bnbescalante.com
14. The Shooting Star RV Resort 2020 West Highway 12 435-826-4440 shootingstar-rvresort.com

Lodging Options (continued)

15. Slot Canyons Inn North Creek Lakes Exit on State Highway 12 866-889-8375
slotcanyonsinn.com
16. Southwestern Retreat 600 W. 600 South 435-826-4708 southwesternretreat.com
17. Red Rock Ranch Escalante 450 East 300 South 801-619-6434 redrockranchescalante.com

In addition to the options above, camping is available on surrounding BLM lands in any area that is already disturbed. There are also many houses available for short term rental. Real estate agent Leslie Venuti (435-668-0540) can inform you regarding availability of rentals and help you make arrangements.

Call for Papers, 35th Annual Symposium

Richard Jenkinson

The symposium program chair announces a call for presentations and papers for the Utah Rock Art Research Association's 35th annual symposium, October 2-5, 2015, in Escalante. Papers will be delivered Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th. We are particularly interested in papers related to the Escalante area in southern Utah. We are interested in a broad range of subjects, including those which

- o bring historical understanding to rock art studies
- o heighten the experience of visiting rock art both culturally and aesthetically
- o report on rock art preservation projects, preservation issues or current threats.

Please submit abstracts to Richard Jenkinson by July 1, 2015.

Email: rcjenkinson@yahoo.com or phone 435-260-0918

Lake Mountain No-shoot Area Extension - Update

DianaAcerson

Last Month we sent a mass email to all members requesting you get on the BLM notification list as to when the comment period starts and ends for the extension of the "no target shooting" area at Lake Mountain, the subject of Steve Manning's "**West Side Utah Lake, Plea for Protection**" article in last month's (April) *Vestiges*. As of the date of this writing, no notice has yet been posted, so there is still time for those of you who have not gotten on the BLM notification list, to do so.

As members of Utah Rock Art and Research Association we have a great window of opportunity to *end* open target shooting and protect ancient rock art there in Utah County. We have been trying to do this as an organization for 20+ years. This window is time sensitive and we need our members, their families, friends, (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and anyone else we can think of, to get on the BLM list to be notified, if you haven't already, when the "comment period" is going to start. Then compose and send comment letters supporting the closure, during that comment period. State that you want to be added to the mailing list for notification when the Lake Mountains' planning process begins and ends. You need this information so you will know when you can submit your comment letter. The agency's mailing list is the easiest way to be kept informed of the comment timing and where the public meetings will be held.

Lake Mountain (continued)

We can't stress enough how important it is for as many comments as possible be received by the BLM during the comment period.

Randy Griffin, retired BLM (15 years at the Salt Lake Field Office), has been instrumental in keeping us informed on the situation at Lake Mountain for many years. Feel free to contact him to learn more about this initiative and how the process works: Randy Griffin 385-237-6978

Send your notification request via e-mail or regular mail as follows:

Email: pschulle@blm.gov

Regular Mail:

Pam Schuller

Bureau of Land Management

2370 South Decker Lake Boulevard

West Valley, UT 84119

Cave Springs Recording Completed

Pamela Baker

In late March, URARA members Pam & Quent Baker, Darrell and Marty Thomas, and Glenn and Margaret Stone joined BLM Canyon Country Fuels Archaeologist Leigh Grench to complete the recording of the Cave Springs site which was started last fall. Despite a new site etiquette sign posted last November when the crew was there recording, new graffiti dated 2015 had appeared.

There is heavy recreational use of the site which is accessible only with 4 wheel drive. The BLM is in the process of assigning a Site Steward to the site. Please bring any information you may have on any site destruction to the attention of the managing agency.



Marty Thomas, Darrell Thomas, and Quent Baker

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Leigh Grench, BLM Canyon Country Fuels Archaeologist, works on 2015 graffiti removal.



Glenn and Margaret Stone

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Alamo Nevada Field Trip Report

Steve Acerson

Sixteen people travelled to this oasis in Nevada. Virginia, Boston, Sedona, California were represented, with the rest of us from places in Utah. We found a variety of places to stay, cabins, trailers, inside vehicles, and campgrounds. Anne and Elaine had two days of sites to visit, so after a meet and greet Friday night, and an hour wait for dinner, we were ready for the morning. Joe and Jeff drove in from St. George that morning. The rest of the group had breakfast after another hour wait. If you are thinking that we caught the restaurant off guard, bringing more folks than they had seen since the 1886 silver rush, you'd be about right. Gave us time to visit, and talk about rock art. No surprise.

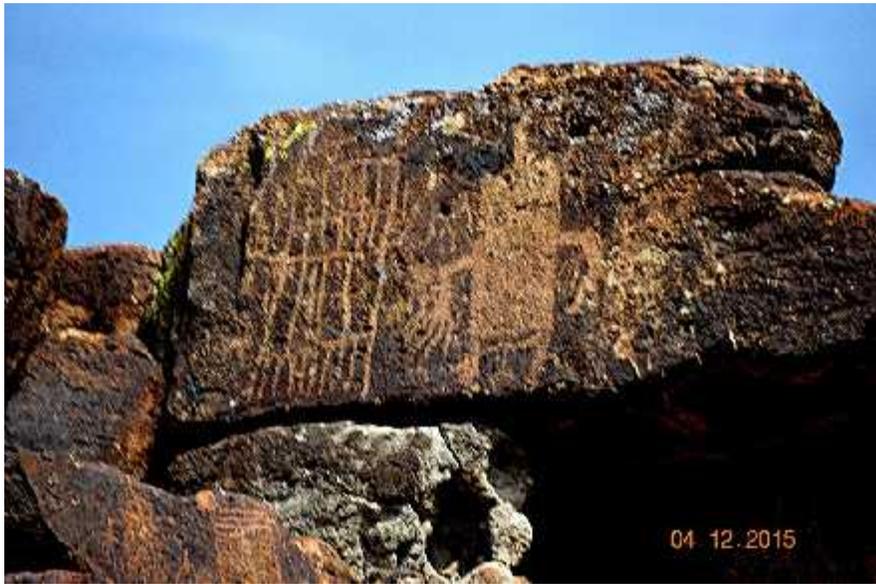


The group arrived at the meeting point, signed the trip papers, and headed for Mt. Irish. Slowing



down for one speed trap we found ourselves at the Echo panel. Then on to several more groupings of assorted styles of rock art. After a short hike we found the BIG Sheep panel... WOW. Nina knew of some things close by so, over hill and dell we saw a few more things. Someone took the rope off of Steve, then Joe and a few others followed and took a scenic loop back to the vehicles. There was a full day of exploring at this location, and still left more to see.

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Back to town found us at a Mexican restaurant for dinner, only to find out the only other café had caught fire after we left that morning. So with a little persuasion, we talked the good folks at the Mexican place to come in on Sunday to fix breakfast for us.

Sunday morning found us travelling east out of town to a location with a boulder sidehill with lots of different images. This is country that a person could explore for several days without coming

in contact with another living thing. We found our way back to Alamo, and after eating lunch our gracious guides said good bye. We saw some sites next to the road, and had a nice visit with an officer of the US Fish and Wildlife. After another dinner, and hugs, we ended our day. Thanks for all of you who attend and lead these trips. Everyone had a great time, and enjoyed the weather and the area.

URARA Summer Picnic, Blanding

Joe Brame

The annual summer picnic is scheduled for the weekend of July 31 – August 2, 1915. As last year, camping will be at the Nizhone Campground group site SG1, north of Blanding. The proposed schedule of activities follows:

Pre-picnic activities:

- 07/29/15 Wednesday Record Coal Canyon site
- 07/30/15 Thursday Record Coal Canyon site

Picnic:

- 07/31/15 Friday Check in after 2 PM to Nizhone Campground group site SG1
- 08/01/15 Saturday Day 1 field trips
- 08/02/15 Sunday Day 2 field trips
- 08/03/15 Monday Check out before 1 PM from group site SG1

Post-picnic / pre-Pecos optional recording by remaining attendees:

- Finish recording Coal Canyon
- Hovenweep – need location of rock art
- Canyon of the Ancients – need location of rock art
- Mesa Verde – need location of rock art

Pecos Conference in Mancos Colorado (97 miles / 2 hours from Blanding), August 6-9

www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/2015-Pecos-Conference.pdf

Calendar and Field Trip Schedule

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
Jul 31-Aug 2	Colorado URARA Summer Picnic, Blanding
August 6-9	Pecos Conference Mancos, Colorado
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.

Cedar Mesa, Land Transfer News

Ben Everitt – with a little editorial

In the April 12 New York Times Sunday Review, David Roberts reviews the movement to designate Cedar Mesa as a National Conservation Area or National Monument, in light of the current effort by the State of Utah to appropriate federal lands, and the supposed long-standing antagonism between the state and the federal government. See:

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/12/opinion/sunday/saving-whats-left-of-utahs-lost-world.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=c-column-top-span-region®ion=c-column-top-span-region&WT.nav=c-column-top-span-region&_r=1

While we are on this subject, the State of Utah has now released its study of the proposed transfer of federal lands ([An analysis of the transfer of federal lands to the State of Utah](#), November 2014). The URL: <http://publiclands.utah.gov/current-projects/transfer-of-public-lands-act/> will get you to the PLPCO web site; then click “current projects” > “transfer of federal lands act and report”.

It’s a good read as government documents go, and is packed with statistics and background information. The authors are refreshingly honest in not providing a completely rosy picture of the financial feasibility of state management of BLM, forest, and NRA lands, even using the current budgets of admittedly underfunded federal agencies. The bottom line is “--the land transfer could be profitable for the state if oil and gas prices remain stable and high, and the state assumes an aggressive approach to managing its mineral lease program.” Another interesting conclusion is “A cost per-acre analysis reveals that federal agencies are relative efficient managers –” (as compared with comparable state agencies).

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The analysis focusses on the economic activity and tax revenue flowing from energy resources, tourism, and recreation. It is understandably a little weak on assigning a dollar value to the environmental, cultural, and educational services provided by the existence of undeveloped wilderness lands. A good example of such service is the benefit of an untrammelled watershed to maintain a clean dependable water supply, which was the primary driver in establishing many of the national forests in Utah. On the expense side of the ledger, I looked in vain for a dollar value for protecting the sacred cultural sites of Utah's indigenous people, or enforcing the 1906 Antiquities Act.

Section 2, *Background*, is a brief review of the history of federal land law, from wholesale disposal early on, to increasingly restrictive management of the remainder, as population pressure and environmental deterioration created the need. The narrative unfortunately skips over Utah's early involvement in public land management reform in response to disastrous erosion and flooding from unregulated grazing on public land in the nineteen teens, '20's, and dirty thirties. You with REALLY white hair will recall that it was Utah congressman Don Colton who, in 1933, introduced the first legislation, later modified and passed as the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, which regulated the use of unclaimed public land. (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taylor_Grazing_Act_of_1934.)

URARA Board Contacts

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.
Please address all membership applications/renewals and checks to URARA, Box 1351, Washington, UT 84780. www.utahrockart.org .

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