

VESTIGES

July 2015
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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Letter

Richard Jenkinson

URARA's summer picnic is coming at the end of the month. Once again we will be meeting in Blanding. The dates are July 31-August 2. I attended last year, and the campground is shady and high enough in elevation to provide pleasant temperatures. The time and location were chosen to match up well with the Pecos Conference in Mancos, so you can attend both events on one trip.

The comment period is open regarding the RMP for the Lake Mountain area. There will be public meetings in Saratoga Springs on August 4 and in Sandy on August 5. More details below. Comments should be sent to Pam Schuller at pschulle@blm.gov or by mail to the following address:

Pam Schuller
BLM Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South Decker Lake Blvd.
West Valley, UT 84119

Diana Acerson has sent emails to URARA members regarding talking points, but of course you can comment in any way you wish. Your participation can help preserve threatened rock art in Utah.

Don't forget to make arrangements in Escalante for the October symposium. The date is rapidly approaching. See last month's Vestiges for a listing of lodging and camping options.

First Peoples

Chris Oravec

A new series, "First Peoples," is airing on KUED Channel 7 Wednesdays at 8:00. The first episode, on the earliest Native Americans in the Americas, was excellent and can be played on demand from the KUED web site. This week's episode is "Je suis Neanderthal!" For a preview of the series and other clips see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeOvlg69gh0>.

Fillmore-Delta field trip July 11-12

Steve Acerson

Oscar Olson will be leading the field trip to the Fillmore-Delta area July 11-12. Please register for information and meeting place. Oscar: 801-485-0862; Steve: 385-985-5402. Come prepared with lots of water, snacks, lunches, hats, walking sticks and whatever you think you will need for hot weather. Remember that our insurance requires that you be a paid-up member of URARA to attend field trips.

East Lake Mountain Update

Diana Acerson

The BLM has extended the public comment period for the proposed amendment to the East Lake Mountain Target Shooting Plan, so if you still need to submit comments in writing you will have more time to do so. **These comments must be received in the BLM Salt Lake Field Office by August 20, 2015, not postmarked by that date.** This deadline is for **written comments only**. The Amendment covers all BLM-administered lands in Utah County to the west of Utah SR 68 and located in T7S, R1W, Sections 13, 24, 26, 27, and 28. See:

https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/06/12/2015-14296/notice-of-intent-to-amend-the-pony-express-resource-management-plan-for-the-salt-lake-field-office?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov

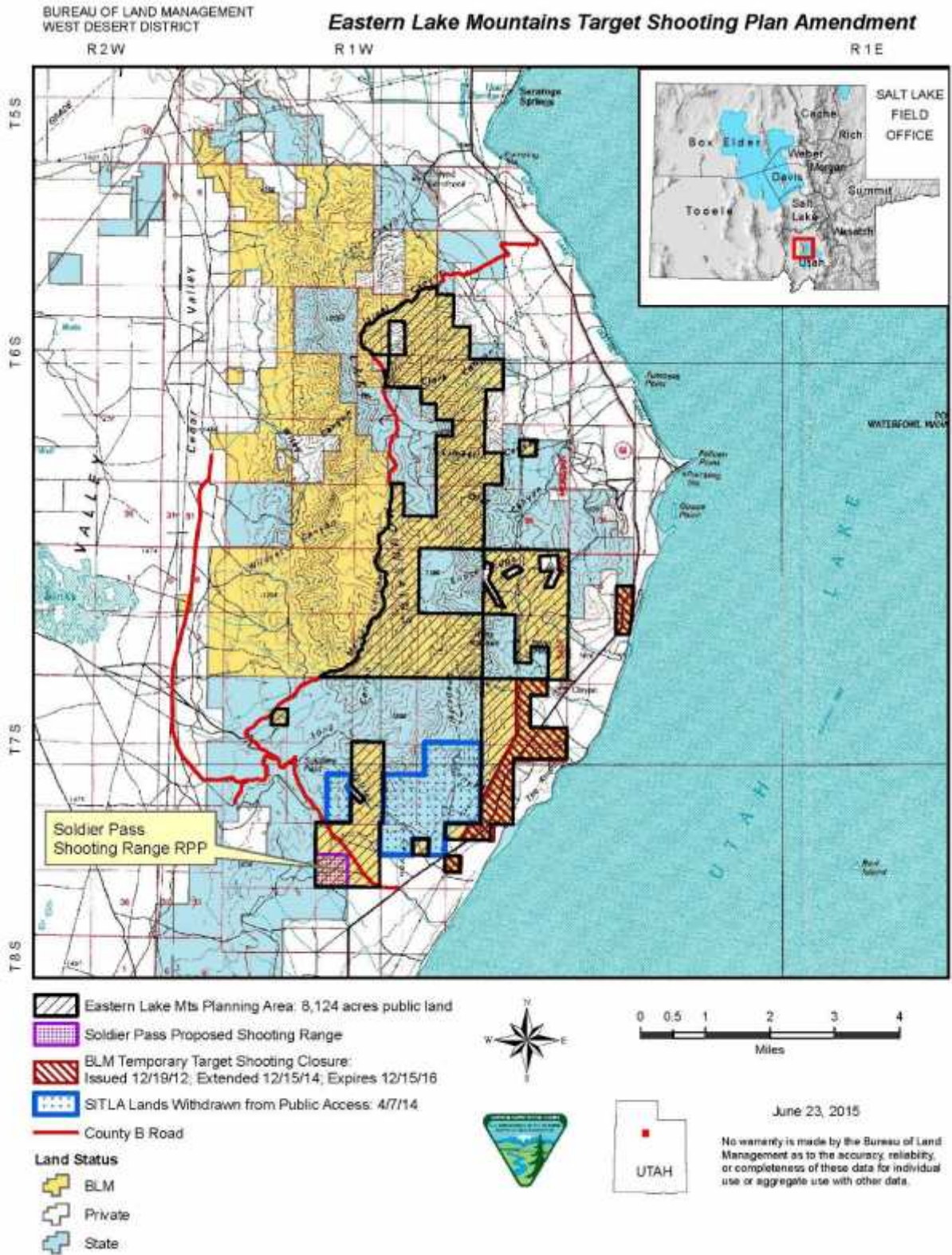
We also need help with attending the two Public Scoping Meetings (PSM) on August 4th and 5th. One of the PSM's will be in Saratoga Springs and the other in Sandy, UT. The exact locations and times of the meetings are:

Saratoga Springs - Tuesday August 4, from 6-8pm Talons Cove Golf Club Reception room
2220 South Talons Cove Dr., Saratoga Springs
Sandy - Wednesday August 5, from 6-8pm, Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom
277 West Sego Lily Drive, Sandy

We believe attending these public meetings is crucial to gaining support from other individuals and groups to URARA's position, the main points of which are:

1. Close these public lands to discharge of firearms
2. No Motorized Vehicle traffic except on permitted and/or designated access roads
3. Prohibit overnight camping and other associated activities for prevention of wild fires
4. Provide enforcement of closure to insure public safety and protection of cultural resources and the surrounding environment.

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Kenneth Johnson 1946-2015

Missing for several days, the body of Kenneth Johnson was found June 27 under a juniper tree in Davis Canyon, where he sat down to rest in the shade near where his jeep was stuck in the sand. See <http://www.vegastraces.com/>, and <http://www.stevescenter.org/>. A long-time rock art enthusiast, Ken Johnson and his wife Carroll moved to a lovely historic house in Kanab several years ago. They joined URARA last year and attended the Kanab URARA Symposium.

Ken was an advocate of popular stewardship. Having been a site steward for the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association, Ken was working to establish a program in Kanab that would require scout troops and others to attend a class similar to a modified site steward program before they could visit rock art sites. He recently appeared on the Death Valley Jim Radio Program about his rock art work in Kanab (<http://deathvalleyjim.com/2015/06/27/rest-in-peace-my-dear-friend-ken-johnson/>).

Symposium Field Trip Leaders Needed

Joe Brame

Leaders are needed for the Friday and Monday field trips to be held during the October symposium in Escalante, Utah, October 2-5. Possibilities include the Confluence sites, Pleasant Valley and Capitol Reef sites as well as others in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. With nearly 200 participants at the symposium, we will be needing many diverse field trips. If you are interested in being a field trip leader, please contact Joe Brame at 435-414-0457 or urara.joe.brame@gmail.com.

Calendar and Field Trip Schedule

July 11/12.	Field Trip Fillmore and Delta Areas
Jul 31-Aug 2	URARA Summer Picnic, Blanding*
August 6-9	Pecos Conference Mancos, Colorado
September.	Field Trip Connor Springs, Box Elder Canyon
October 2,3,4,5.	URARA Symposium, Escalante
November 7/8.	Field Trip Bluff
December 5/6	Field Trip Nine-Mile and Argyle Canyons
December 14	URARA Christmas Party (tentative)

*For summer picnic details, see May Vestiges

Sawmill-Coalville Field Trip Report

Steve Acerson

We had 16 people show up for this one-day adventure, June 13. Some attended for the first time, while others have become regulars.

Seems like when we get permission to go on private land, members will drive great distances to participate and see the rock art. This was the case for Sawmill Canyon. Driving up the old highway used by early inhabitants, pony express, stage routes, wagon trains and finally the railroad, finds the casual passer-by discovering all sorts of inscriptions.

After driving through a couple of locked gates and up a beautiful canyon with a creek running alongside of the road, our gracious guide NaVee turned the group around and stopped us.

After a short hike we came to a rock face just below a conglomerate formation that had some nice petroglyphs on it. Surrounded by pine trees and beautiful mountain landscapes, and a couple of eagles flying overhead, we started back down the canyon.



When the group arrived back at the gate, Steve, Diana, Leigh, and Dave were nowhere to be seen. Finally NaVee drove back up to see what had happened. Everything was fine, but Steve had found a new site. So the group headed back up to see a red pictograph. Hiking up the talus slope, we discovered another one. There was also a historic inscription that said, "Forgotten by God" September 5, 1927.

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Driving back to Coalville we stopped to look at some ladders in the cliff face above us, and visited an old church in Echo. Returning to Coalville, the group climbed up the hill to a place called The Ledges. There was a lot of graffiti, spray paint, etc. With a little effort our eyes started to see some old pictographs a few layers under the recent names of family members from great grandpa, to the recent high school graduate. There were some nesting cliff swallows that were feeding their young, and the sun trying to bake us to a medium rare status.

Afterward, the group returned to the County Courthouse and ate some lunch and said our good-byes to our host and a few members. The rest of us drove to Redcliff area, to Granny's in Heber for a milkshake, then over to Cascade Springs and down American Fork Canyon.

The next field trip is July 11-12, in the Fillmore/Delta area. Let Steve or Oscar know if you would like to join us. Most of the sites will be drive-up. It's just too hot to hike.

Till we share the same path, enjoy life and those around you. Steve

New Books

Joe Brame

A Study of the Coso Patterned Body Anthropomorphs, by **Caroline S. Maddock**, has been published by the Maturango Museum of Ridgecrest, California. The book shows 428 figures from Lower Renegade Canyon, Petroglyph Canyon, and Sheep Canyon in the Coso range of eastern California. It includes photographs, sketches, and classification of the figures, and provides a treasure trove of designs for artists working in ceramics, jewelry, textiles, or other crafts. The book is \$12.95 plus tax and shipping and can be ordered by calling the Maturango Museum at 760-375-6900 and asking for the museum store. Museum hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, daily, Pacific Time. It is also available online at shop.maturango.org.

The White Shaman Mural: An Archaic Codex, by **Carolyn Boyd in collaboration with Kim Cox**, will be published by the University of Texas Press in the distinguished Linda Schele Series in Maya and Pre-Columbian Studies. The book is the culmination of decades of research by the Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center. Look for it in mid-2016.

The book signals a major shift in the understanding of ancient pictographic murals in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands. In the book, Carolyn demonstrates that these ancient murals can be "read" or interpreted. They are visual narratives that, like books, were composed with purpose and meaning. Carolyn's innovative and meticulous research yielded overwhelming evidence that the White Shaman mural is a creation myth likely painted by early Uto-Aztecan speakers who shared a belief-system that has endured for thousands of years in Mesoamerica.

(abstracted from Shumla e-news)

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Western Message Petroglyphs



For those curious about Western Message Petroglyphs (WMP's), here is a photo of the Grand Junction Panel that didn't fit into last month's trip report.