

VESTIGES

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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Letter

By Richard Jenkinson

Don't forget, field trip this weekend, and the annual holiday potluck next Tuesday (see calendar below).

The URARA Governing Board's annual planning retreat is scheduled for the weekend of January 16-18, 2016. Newly elected board members will take office at that time. If there are items you wish us to discuss please convey them to one of your board members.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy solstice holiday season, and a safe journey into a new year.

Rock Art Database Update

Troy Scotter

We have a good start on the Utah rock art site database. I have entered my data and Steve and Diana Acerson have provided me with their site data. I recently received some site data from Pam and Quent Baker. This gives us a starting place of a little over 3100 data points. Not all of those are going to be in Utah and many of them will be duplicates. (I haven't started doing work on that yet.) I know from personal experience that it takes a lot of time translating written records into electronic files. For those of you who just have dots on maps the task is even more arduous. I would love to expand our data set but I don't expect members to do the detailed work required to translate your written records to the electronic format we need. But if you have some unusual sites, places that you don't think many people are aware of, I would love to get those few records from you.

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Fundamentally all I need from you is the site location and datum. I can translate from whatever format you have into the format we are using in the database. But the following information would also be helpful:

- Date you visited the site
- A picture or two of the site. (I don't need every single detail, but some nice overviews would be great.)
- Your name for the site

If there are members who have their data stored electronically and would like to contribute to the database give me a call and I can talk to you about how to do that.

And since we are entering the brave new world of GPS enabled smartphones and cameras if you use those and want to send me pictures from the sites you visit I can pull the location data out of the EXIF data of the photo.

Things I want to do in 2016:

- Finalize some of the tricky stuff in the database that I haven't quite figured out how to do. (If you are a filemaker guru and want to provide some advice I would love the help.)
- Contact ESRI who produces the standard GIS software and see if they will provide a free version of that for URARA's use. They have a non-profit program. Then figure out how to use it. (If someone is a GIS guru and can provide advice I would love to hear from you.)
- Figure out how to start sharing the data with government agencies.
- Explore the idea of building a URARA app.

Thanks for all of your help. If you have questions please don't hesitate to call or email.

Bluff Field Trip November 7-8

By Steve Acerson

A group of about 15 volunteers showed up on Friday to help with the documentation of Sand Knolls area, this is an ongoing project to get the areas panels done so there will be a record of the main sites.

After all of the 30 participants for the field trip drove through snow, wind, rain, and the dark of night, we gathered Saturday morning to see the many rockart sites around Bluff.

Diana and I stopped in Monticello to get our permit and met with the BLM people over this area.

We met at the fairgrounds, and tried to stay out of the mud puddles. With three groups (each limited to 12), Tilted Rock area, John's Canyon, and a few in scout mode, we headed off for the day. Everyone enjoyed the cooler sunshine days, and returned by sunset.





Sunday morning we gained a couple more and lost some to balance back to 30 again. Today's adventures found us in Montezuma Canyon, and below the road in Butler wash. It had rained and snow-melt had the runoff in Comb wash too much for the road, and so no trips.

The two groups found the sites planned, and a couple of extras. Always remember to bring what you need regardless of the leaders thoughts on length and time of the hike.

Of course there were a couple of days before and after the field trip for those retired members.



There are still some areas to be documented. If you would like to help contact Dave Manley, so he can contact you with the info on the next site.

The field trips keep bringing in those who we don't see often, and travel time finds us sharing stories of the area, and experiences to build associations on.

Escalante Break-out Group Gets To Work On Moab NRHP Nomination

By Pam Baker

Under the leadership of Leigh Grench, BLM Fuels Archaeologist for the Canyon Country District, the participants of the break-out group at the Escalante Symposium spent a week working on the National Register Of Historic Places Nomination for the Moab area. They spent 5 office days writing parts of the application, reviewing the earlier draft, and compiling data, plus 2 field days giving visitors an overview of the area and visiting some sites. Participants included Moab locals Pam & Quent Baker, Marty & Darrell Thomas, Nevada members Elaine Holmes, Anne McConnell, and Cherry Baker, and Grand Junction members Carol and Werner Duecker. Much was accomplished, but much remains to be done.



Field checking the sites. Photo by Pam Baker



Elaine Holmes and Cherry Baker working in the BLM office. Photo by Pam Baker



Site forms were scanned and copied and an individual two-page cover sheet generated for each site. This box represents about 60% of the sites. Photo by Pam Baker

Annual Holiday Party

Barbara Saxon

Date: TUESDAY December 8, 2015

Time: 5:30

Place: Sandy City Bicentennial Park, 530 East 8680 South, Sandy

URARA will furnish a honey-baked ham, plates and utensils. Bring a salad, side dish or dessert. Call Barbara Saxon (801) 262-4432 or Barbara Green (801-466-7702) for information or instructions.

The park is easy to find. There is a traffic signal at State Street and Main Street (8720 South). Drive east on Main St to the end (about 9 blocks), take a left and then a right on 8680 South. The building is east of the tennis courts. There is a lot of parking and room inside. Parks Department rules apply (no alcohol). Please come and greet your fellow rockarters. Friends are welcome. Google "Sandy City Bicentennial Park". REMEMBER IT'S TUESDAY!

Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips

Note that the Christmas party is on TUESDAY this year.

December 5/6	Field Trip Nine-Mile and Argyle Canyons
December 8 TUESDAY	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 Board Contacts

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

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