

# VESTIGES

January 2016  
Volume 36  
Number 1

*Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association*

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## President's Letter

**Richard Jenkinson**

Seasons Greetings to all! I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to departing board members Francois Gohier and Joe Brame. They have served our organization well and we hope they will still provide their valuable input as we move forward.

The board will have its annual retreat in St. George on Martin Luther King weekend. We will decide the location for next year's symposium at that time and put together a schedule for our 2016 field trips. If you have any issues, complaints or just plain great ideas that you would like for us to consider, please email them to me or to any board member. Our contact information is at the bottom of each issue of Vestiges. Board meetings are open to all members.

## Photo Documentation, Sand Dune Site

**Diana Acerson**

URARA Members Participate in a BLM Site Photo Documentation Project

Site Location: Bluff, Utah      Friday, November 16, 2015

Participants: Dave Manley, Project Leader and Photographer; Tom Hahl, Data Board Recorder; Leigh Grench, Computer/Camera Operator; Steven Acerson, Tripod/Pole Assistant; Diana Acerson, Activity Recorder; Keith Fessenden, Photo Log Recording; Mary Gillam, Equipment Assistant and Observer; Pat Sullivan, David Carey, Richard Jenkinson, Lynn Jenkinson, and Oscar Olson, Equipment Assistance.

January 2016

The purpose of this event was to complete the photography of the remaining panels at the site to facilitate the next step in documentation, which is the drawing phase. Most of it had been photographed previously and it was a matter of finishing up the few high panels that required the telescopic photography provided by David Manley. The number of people needed to accomplish this was determined by the amount of equipment needed to be taken up the steep slope to the site, and the number of people to fill the various onsite duties.

Once at the first panel, the equipment was set up: a table for the computer, the telescopic pole on the weighted tri-pod for the camera, the data board on its pole, and the photo recording sheets with a clipboard. The computer was set up on the table, with a wireless connection to the camera which Dave attached to the top of the telescopic pole. A computer application for the camera enabled Leigh to operate and take photos through the computer. With a canvas tarp over her head and computer to enable viewing the screen in shade, Leigh was able to perform the functions to take the photos. She could view the image area as if she was looking through the camera lens. As the area to be photographed was identified by Dave, Leigh would take the picture. Tom had a data or "mug" board on a pole at the base of the area to be photographed, identifying the panel number and other data. Keith would record the photo numbers on the clipboard, and the process would begin again with the next piece of the panel. The camera was raised and lowered to the level even with the panel elements being photographed. A second photo was taken for each panel area without the data board, nicknamed the "beauty shot".



Each photo overlaps the next a little to create a complete panorama of the panels and all the elements and symbols. The process was slow as the wireless connection to the camera would be lost off and on, but we were able to make progress and move into some precarious areas to get the shots. Leigh eventually abandoned the table to hold the computer on her lap with the canvas shade over her head, as the terrain didn't accommodate the table very well. The heavy tripod with stabilizing weights on the legs took both Steve and Dave to position it over the rocks. Tom would extend the data board out as far as he could, hovering in places most of us would never venture, but all to get the job done.

The group slowly progressed around the face of the rock wall on the narrow rocky path, tolerating in good humor the frequent disconnects and reconnects of the wireless system. As breezes would come up, the high extension of the camera on the pole made everyone a little nervous as they watched it sway from side to side. But other than occasionally losing connection to the computer, it was fine. By lunchtime, a few folks ventured on to see other rock art sites, leaving enough people to proceed on with the project. Leigh toughed it out with the computer on her lap for the remainder of the day. It enabled her to be closer to the camera to minimize the signal loss, and be able to deal with the uneven rocky slope.

The day was perfect for photographing, with little wind. But passing clouds changed the light and required some waiting for a good exposure. As the last photos were taken and the sun getting ready to set, everyone was pleased with a job well done. Although tired and ready for a good meal and a night's sleep, everyone managed the trip down the slopes to the vehicles in good time.

Now the drawing portion of the documentation can proceed to help monitor and manage the site. Many thanks to Dave Manley, and all these wonderful people who made the completion of this part of the project possible. Walt Layton, URARA member, is the site steward for this site and will take charge of the next step with BLMs continuing thanks to all involved.



## Field Trip Report Nine Mile, Dec 5-6

By Steve Acerson

Being in the great outdoors in December, isn't there snow on the ground? Yes, but we will be staying in the Nine Mile Ranch, and the Meads will be cooking our food, and Ben Mead will be reciting cowboy poetry while we eat.

World famous rockart along a paved road for a distance of multiple miles and on so many levels. Saturday found the group trying to climb/crawl up snowy slopes to visit Warrior Ridge. The sun was out and the air crisp as we slid across the frozen creek. We enjoyed many panels of images with shields and armament facing each other in defensive positions. Thanks go to Hunt Oil allowing access and Troy Scotter taking time to guide us, it was a great day.



After a cozy night's rest, Dutch oven dinner, and breakfast. We loaded into our vehicles and tried to keep up with Lane Miller for his informative Ute panel tour through the canyon. Starting at the owl panel, Rasmussen Cave, bison images, spirals, family panel, and ending with beautiful

feathered Ute leaders on horseback. Lane did a great job keeping us on task and moving through the canyon. Thanks Lane.

This field trip was indeed the frosting on the cake as we wrapped up the year. Members from France, Colorado, Arizona, and multiple locations in Utah attended. Twenty plus folks is a long way from the beginning field trips with, Oscar, Diana, Steve, and maybe one or two others. Thanks for your interest in the field trips, and time you share with us.

At the board meeting in January we will decide on places to visit in 2016. If you have any ideas email me, and we'll post the schedule in February Vestiges.



At the Owl Panel, Oscar Olson

## Rock Art in the News

Rob Bishop lands bill, Des News, Dec 13, 2015

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865643606/Where-is-Rob-Bishops-promised-lands-bill.html>

Earth Notes: Dissecting a Mammoth, Diane Hope, KNAU, Dec 16, 2015

<http://knau.org/post/earth-notes-dissecting-mammoth#stream/0>

Preserving Melba Petroglyphs Online, KBSX-FM/KBSU, Boise, Dec 23, 2015

<http://boisestatepublicradio.org/post/preserving-melba-petroglyphs-putting-them-online>

# Annual Holiday Party Lineup

Photo mosaic by Oscar Olson



## Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips

January 16-18	Annual Board Retreat, St George
May 27-30	ARARA annual meeting, Las Cruces, New Mexico

2016 field Trips: Stay tuned

## 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](http://www.utahrockart.org) .

### 2016 URARA Board

Richard Jenkinson, President	435-260-0918	<a href="mailto:rcjenkinson@yahoo.com">rcjenkinson@yahoo.com</a>
Steve Acerson, Vice President	385-985-5402	<a href="mailto:dace1950@gmail.com">dace1950@gmail.com</a>
Oscar Olson, Field trips	801-485-0862	
Paula Quay, Treasurer	435-754-5225	<a href="mailto:paulaquay@ymail.com">paulaquay@ymail.com</a>
Nina Bowen, Publications	801-499-0585	<a href="mailto:nina_bowen@comcast.net">nina_bowen@comcast.net</a>
James Farmer	804-231-1215	<a href="mailto:jfarmer@vcu.edu">jfarmer@vcu.edu</a>
Deloy Norton	801-571-0935	<a href="mailto:dlnorton5@hotmail.com">dlnorton5@hotmail.com</a>
Dennis DeVore	970-256-7887	<a href="mailto:ddv48@mac.com">ddv48@mac.com</a>
Keith Fessenden	303-907-5184	<a href="mailto:khfessenden@gmail.com">khfessenden@gmail.com</a>

### URARA Appointees

Archives, Margaret Grochocki	801-282-5850	<a href="mailto:margaret.grochocki@gmail.com">margaret.grochocki@gmail.com</a>
Database Manager: Troy Scotter	801-377-6901	<a href="mailto:troyscotter@gmail.com">troyscotter@gmail.com</a>
Field Trips, Joe Brame	435-414-0457	<a href="mailto:urara.joe.brame@gmail.com">urara.joe.brame@gmail.com</a>
Mailing, Barbara Saxon,	801-262-4432	<a href="mailto:fredbarb900@gmail.com">fredbarb900@gmail.com</a>
Membership, Lois Mansfield	435-634-1787	<a href="mailto:lem@virginia.edu">lem@virginia.edu</a>
Vestiges editor, Ben Everitt	435-986-0075	<a href="mailto:rockdoc@xmission.com">rockdoc@xmission.com</a>
Website Manager: Tom Getts	970-533-1861	<a href="mailto:tomgetts@gmail.com">tomgetts@gmail.com</a>