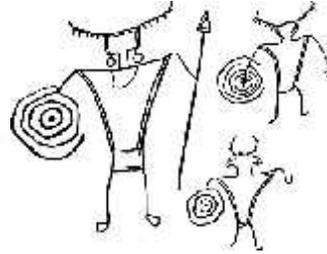


# VESTIGES



May 2016  
Volume 36  
Number 5

Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## Presidents Letter

Richard Jenkinson is currently out of internet range while he and Lynn move into new quarters.

## Symposium Lodging Information

Steve Acerson

Delta Hotels/Motels          Fillmore is 30 miles up the road if addition rooms are needed.

Days Inn                      527 East Topaz Blvd.    Victor Chaudhary    contact  
(435) 864-3882  
82 Rooms                  79.99/71.99  
Mention you are a URARA member for \$10. discount

Budget Motel                75 South 350 East Mike    Patel    contact  
(435) 864-4533  
33 Rooms                  Mention URARA 2BD/\$67. 1BD/\$62.

Deltan Inn                  347 East Main  
(435) 864-5318  
14 rooms

Diamond D Motor Lodge    234 West Main  
(435) 864-2041  
16 Rooms                  \$35 single, \$40 dbl

Rancher Motel & Café  
171 West Main  
(435) 864-2741  
15 Rooms

### Campgrounds

Antelope Valley RV Park  
776 West Main, Delta  
(435) 864-1813  
(800) 430-0022  
96 spaces    RV \$32, Tent \$15  
[www.antelopevalleyrvpark.com](http://www.antelopevalleyrvpark.com)



**Great Gallery, April 9, 2016, Steve Acerson**



**Old Woman Canyon, April 10, 2016, Steve Aceerson**

# Horseshoe Canyon Field Trip

**Steve Acerson**

Again the weather forecast was heavy rains and colder temperatures. Still heavier was the need to get out of the cabin and do some hiking. Urara members gathered on Friday night to decide on how they were going to get to the trailhead by 9:00 on Saturday. Some were staying in Motels a couple tried to camp, after a restless night's sleep. The group still managed to get on the road a little after 7:00.

The ride went well until the turnoff onto the dirt road. The dashboards were so bad some people took their false teeth out to protect their cheeks. Some slowed down, others crossed back and forth like sidewinders. Eventually the speed matched up with the tops and the shocks took over.

In spite of this and the young calves in the road, all arrived just past 9:00. Steve gathered the group for signing and instruction on path conditions and advised them the whole day would be spent in the canyon. The three or four panels below the Great Gallery are worth the hike. The Gallery itself is still awesome. We walked around for views, and sat, trying to get a feel for the why of it. The beauty of the new green leaves on the cottonwoods, the calling of canyon wrens, carried our thoughts from our current condition to an old and spiritual place that is represented by these tall decorated sentinels which have stood at the gateway for centuries.

The National Park Ranger on duty discussed some ideas on the panel, and explained the need for the chain barrier to keep people back from the ledge. Approximately 10,000+/- people now visit this site per year. We ate our lunch, took a few more pictures, and started a sequential departure. Steve, Joe, and Kent Williams, (new member, and the guide for National Park Service for the next week in the canyon), walked up the canyon to see the Deadman's Trail and possibly some more sites.

The whole group arrived back to the cars with the last ones getting there about 6:00. Joe, Steve, and Diana drove over to Old Woman wash to spend the night, the rest went back to Motel rooms or home.

Sunday morning a group of 7 did a day hike up the Old Woman Canyon.

# Volunteering at Horseshoe Canyon

**Kent Williams**

Hello everyone! I'm a new member, joining URARA after finding the web site a wealth of information on rock art. I was researching rock art to prepare for volunteering as an interpretive guide for the National Park Service in Horseshoe Canyon. Of course the NPS provided great material with excerpts from publications by Polly Shaffsma and other academics, but I wanted more and I found more at URARA. I was impressed by the diversity of perspectives and the depth of experience from folks who obviously have spent a lot time at rock art sites, and just as important I think, having the commitment to travel to and from the sites and spending time, a lot of time it looked to me, in the environment. When I saw the field trip planned for the day before my week of volunteer work at Horseshoe, I jumped at the chance. Though I was late in registering, Steve Acerson graciously called me and extended an invitation to join the group.

It was my 3rd week in as many years as a volunteer at Horseshoe. My thinking going in was that after spending the day with Steve and Diana and the URARA members on the field trip I would be better versed in rock art, and I could provide better information to park visitors. Looking back on my week at Horseshoe, it was less about information, and more about awareness. I found myself talking less to visitors and listening more. Stepping back and letting them take in that view of the Great Gallery, for many the first time. Some people wanted the drill, many did not, simply gazing up at the art, talking quietly amongst themselves, nodding and smiling as they left. Those who wanted to talk asked about technical things, such as the date of the art and the materials used. Some wanted to know what it all meant. I just tried to convey the span of time that the area was inhabited, the nature of the environment, what's known about the archaic culture thought to have created the art, and the location of the art - in a very conspicuous spot in what was likely a well-traveled canyon. Several people listened politely, then remarked that some things were better left unknown, kept a mystery. During slow times, I'd read the note book kept on site for visitors to leave their thoughts and impressions. A common theme was a sense of wonder. "House of the Holy" was one entry that stood out. People visited from all over the world with many noting that the Great Gallery had been on their "bucket list" for a long time.

At the end of the week I had a sense of knowing much less, compared with a growing awareness of what is not known or is unknowable. I feel humbled and in awe of what the ancient ones were able to create. They were tapped into something that led to great works of art that have lasted for thousands of years. Art that still draws people in and has the power to render them speechless for a time.

## Lake Mountain Target Shooting Closure

Diana Acerson

**Our Last chance! - Lake Mountain Target Shooting Closure Amendment** (see [http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt\\_lake.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt_lake.html))

The 30-day public comment period on the Eastern Lake Mountain Target Shooting Plan Amendment Environmental Assessment (EA) began April 15, 2016 and ends May 16, 2016. During this comment period, the BLM Salt Lake Field Office will be having a public Open House in Saratoga Springs: **May 11, 2016 from 6-8 pm at Talons Cove Golf Club - Reception Room 2220 South Talons Cove Drive, Saratoga Springs UT 84045**

We need your comments on the Alternatives presented in the draft Environmental Assessment document. We can't stress enough how important this is for everyone we know and URARA members to make a written comment on BLM's proposed plan amendment to close the area containing the petroglyphs at Lake Mountain, to target shooting. This includes getting as many people as possible who are sympathetic to a closure to write in also. The BLM's preferred alternative is **Alternative C** which is the alternative we all should support when sending in our response. Feel free to use the comments included in this request to draft your own comments. We need to have an overwhelming response in favor of Alternative C.

*The target shooting groups will be out in force using all medias to gain support for not closing the area.*

Written comments accepted through 5/16/16 4:30 pm Email: [blm\\_ut\\_sl\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ut_sl_comments@blm.gov)  
NEPA Register: [https://www.blm.gov/epl-frontoffice/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-frontoffice/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do) Fax: 801-977-4397 For more information call: 801-977-4300

It is critical to write in. What is even more critical is don't just say you support one alternative over the other two, but you need to state why you support one alternative over the others.

### Summary of Alternatives:

**(A) *Is the temporary/current condition***, put in place in 2012, renewed in 2014, expires 2016. This was enacted to protect people from errant bullets hitting their homes or vehicles. Also to stop wildfires started from bullets hitting rocks and exploding targets. This alternative would allow the current status to expire and open the area back up to target shooting.

**(B) *This action would make the current temporary 800+ acres closure to shooting permanent***. This area starts by the west side of highway 68 and goes westerly towards a double pole power line and ends there. This moved the shooters right into the area just west of the power poles and right on top of the rock art. As a result for the past four years the rock art has been hit on a daily basis. URARA has been in constant contact with the BLM to take action to stop this destruction.

**(C) *This alternative increases the current closure area to include the rock art as part of the area closed to target shooting***, everyone else will still be able to use the area. The size would be around 3500 acres+/, and was determined by known rock art locations and other areas where it may be present. The other two alternatives do not include or protect the rock art locations. Alternative C also helps for the protection of wildfires and public safety. This alternative is the only one that will begin the protection of the remaining petroglyphs, and hopefully allow for further development for public uses such as hiking trails and educational signs, to help people learn and respect cultural resources.

This is our last opportunity to comment on this Amendment and hopefully save the remaining rock art. Please help by not putting this off thinking someone else will do it, we need high numbers of letters to accomplish this effort. The shooters do not want to lose this location and will pressure local/state politicians to protect their rights to continue to shoot there. There are millions of acres elsewhere where they can shoot. With the closure of this area, the public can then start to use Lake Mountain for other recreational activities.

Thanks so much for taking the time to email or send in your comments.

### **Sample Letter: I support Alternative C: Expand Current Closure and Make Long-Term.**

"My support for this alternative is based on three issues.

1. Protection of cultural resources: I have spent significant time examining the rock art and have assisted BLM archeologists in the documentation of rock art sites in the Lake Mountain area. Almost all rock art sites are considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In my experience, the rock art of the Eastern Lake Mountains is no exception. The rock art in the region includes archaic period rock art and more recent Fremont rock art. The BLM has an obligation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to consider how its actions may affect National Register eligible cultural resources. Target

shooting in the area is damaging rock art. This appears to be mostly accidental. Much of the rock art is small and heavily repatinated making it difficult to see, especially from a distance. But whether the damage is deliberate or accidental is not relevant. The BLM has a responsibility to protect these cultural resources and the best way to do so is to eliminate target shooting in the area.

2. Multiple Use: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires the government to consider multiple use for federal lands. Shooters will argue that the multiple use requirement means that they must be allowed access to the Eastern Lake Mountains. I argue the opposite. Shooting is an activity that threatens the health and safety of participants in any other recreational activity in the area. Even responsible shooters cannot control unfortunate ricochets. Additionally, the space required for shooting means that this activity effectively eliminates the safe participation in other activities over a large area. Because the location of target shooters cannot be predicted the entire area becomes dangerous. Responsible hikers, bikers, ATVers, birders do not threaten the safety of other activities. Multiple use demands that this area be closed to one activity so that all others can be enjoyed. I am supportive of the proposed target shooting range Utah County will be constructing south of this area for the safe enjoyment of this shooting.
3. Fire Safety: There have seen a large number of fires in the Eastern Lake Mountains in the past decade. My understanding is that the majority of these fires have been linked to target shooting. These fires create a cost to manage and mitigate, threaten the encroaching communities, and damage cultural resources by creating surface spalling of rock art sites impacted by fires. "



Lake Mountain target shooting: The lone archer doesn't stand much of a chance.

## Site Stewards Needed, Vernal BLM

**David Grant, Vernal BLM**

The Bureau of Land Management-Vernal Field Office (BLM-VFO) in Utah would like to invite URARA members to participate in our new site stewardship program. The “Cultural Resource Site Stewardship Program” is a public outreach and heritage program that provides the interested public an opportunity to work with professional archaeologists in the field. The adventure will take place the last two full weeks of June, 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. We are asking for eight volunteers each week to come and work with us. We will meet each morning at 8:00 am at the Vernal Field Office and will return by approximately 4:30 pm. During the field trips transportation will be provided by the BLM-VFO. Volunteers are expected to provide their own lunch and to wear apparel that is appropriate for the desert environment (i.e. hat, boots, sunglasses etc.). Typically we will hike approximately 3 to 5 miles a day.

Participants will get the opportunity to visit some amazing previously recorded archaeological sites, discover and help record new sites, and take part in stewardship training, all while enjoying the beautiful desert landscapes of Eastern Utah. Some of the things that we will be doing this year include: cultural resource survey in areas previously determined to contain high concentrations of archaeological sites, a class on how to record Rock Art, and learning about our new “Respect and Protect” program. All activities will be done in the field.

If you would like to participate please let us know by 31 May 2016. All volunteers will need to fill out and sign a volunteer service agreement. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions at [dgrant@blm.gov](mailto:dgrant@blm.gov) or 435-781-3401. Please forward this to anyone you know that may be interested in participating.

Thank you, --

**David Grant**

Archaeologist

Utah BLM - Green River District

Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East

Vernal, UT 84078

Phone: (435) 781-3401

## Lake Mountain Video

**Steve Acerson**

Thanks to our new member Erik Hutchins, we have a youtube piece on Lake Mountain rock art.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMvfuM8f7bU&authuser=0>

Highlight and right click to open to youtube. Eric is filming at various locations in Utah for a new Series on the KJAZZ TV called UTOPIA.

## Rock Art and Public Land in the News

**Ben Everitt**

### Lake Mountain

BLM transfers public lands to Utah County; parcel to be used as shooting range, Brian Maffly, Salt Lake Tribune. <http://www.sltrib.com/news/3748889-155/blm-transfers-public-lands-to-utah>

### Bears Ears

Mike Noel asks constitutional council to investigate group calling for national monument in Utah

Brian Maffly, The Salt Lake Tribune, April 27.

<http://www.sltrib.com/news/3827072-155/mike-noel-asks-constitutional-council-to?fullpage=1>

Harsh words over Bears Ears, KUTV News

<http://kutv.com/news/local/republicans-and-democrats-exchange-harsh-words-over-bears-ears>

## 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).

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## Calendar and URARA Field Trip Schedule

May 14-15	Field trip, Green River, Book Cliffs, Westwater
May 27-30	URARA annual meeting, Las Cruces, New Mexico
June 4	Tour of Smith Preserve, Utah County
June 18-19	Field trip, Vernal
July 16-17	Field trip, Torrey
July 29-30	OSTA Conference, Grand Junction
August 4-7	Pecos Conference, Alpine, AZ <a href="http://pecosconference.com/">http://pecosconference.com/</a>
August 13-14	URARA summer picnic, Blanding
September 17-18	Field trip, Price, Nine-mile Canyon
Sep 30-Oct 3	URARA Symposium, Delta
October 7-10	Colorado Archaeological Society Conference, Grand Junction
October 15-18	Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Boise, Idaho
November 5-6	Field trip, Bluff
December 10-11	Field trip, Moab

For info or sign-up for URARA events, please go to [www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org) or contact Oscar Olson at 801-485-0862 or Steve Acerson at 385-985-5402, [whiteh20rockart@gmail.com](mailto:whiteh20rockart@gmail.com).

The Southern Nevada Rock Art Association in Las Vegas (SNRAA) meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month from 6:45-8:30 P.M. For more complete information about activities, visit the SNRAA website at <http://snraa.org/snraa.org/EVENTS.html>