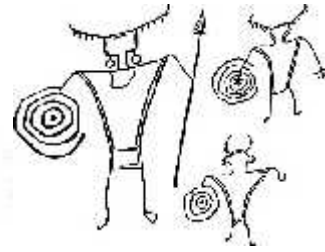


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

Table of Contents

Membership and Dues Again.....	1	Upper Butler Wash Documentation	7
Bluff Area Field Trip	2	Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips	10
San Juan River Trip	6	URARA Board Contacts.....	11

President's Letter

By Richard Jenkinson

I will host the January board retreat at my home in Kanab January 28-29, 2017. The annual URARA Board of Directors retreat is when the board organizes itself, chooses officers, and plans activities for the coming year. If there are items you wish us to discuss please convey them to one of your board members. Board meetings are open to the public; if you would like to attend, let me know so I can give directions and round up extra chairs. 435-260-0918.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy solstice holiday season, and a safe and healthy new year. And don't forget the DECEMBER MOAB FIELD TRIP this weekend!

Membership and Dues Again

Troy Scotter

Membership is expiring for many of you old-timers who renew at the end of October. Wild Apricot is SUPPOSED to send out automatic reminders. Here are the payment options:

Check: You can pay by check by selecting the "Invoice Me" option when you get to the payment page. Just send the check to "URARA" at the Salt Lake address:

P.O. Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT, 84151-1324

Credit Card: PayPal (our credit card processor) REALLY, REALLY wants you to become a PayPal member. But you don't have to. Look at the bottom of the first and last pages to find the credit card option and the "I don't want to be a member", or something along those lines, option. We'll find a less obnoxious processor for next year.

December 2016



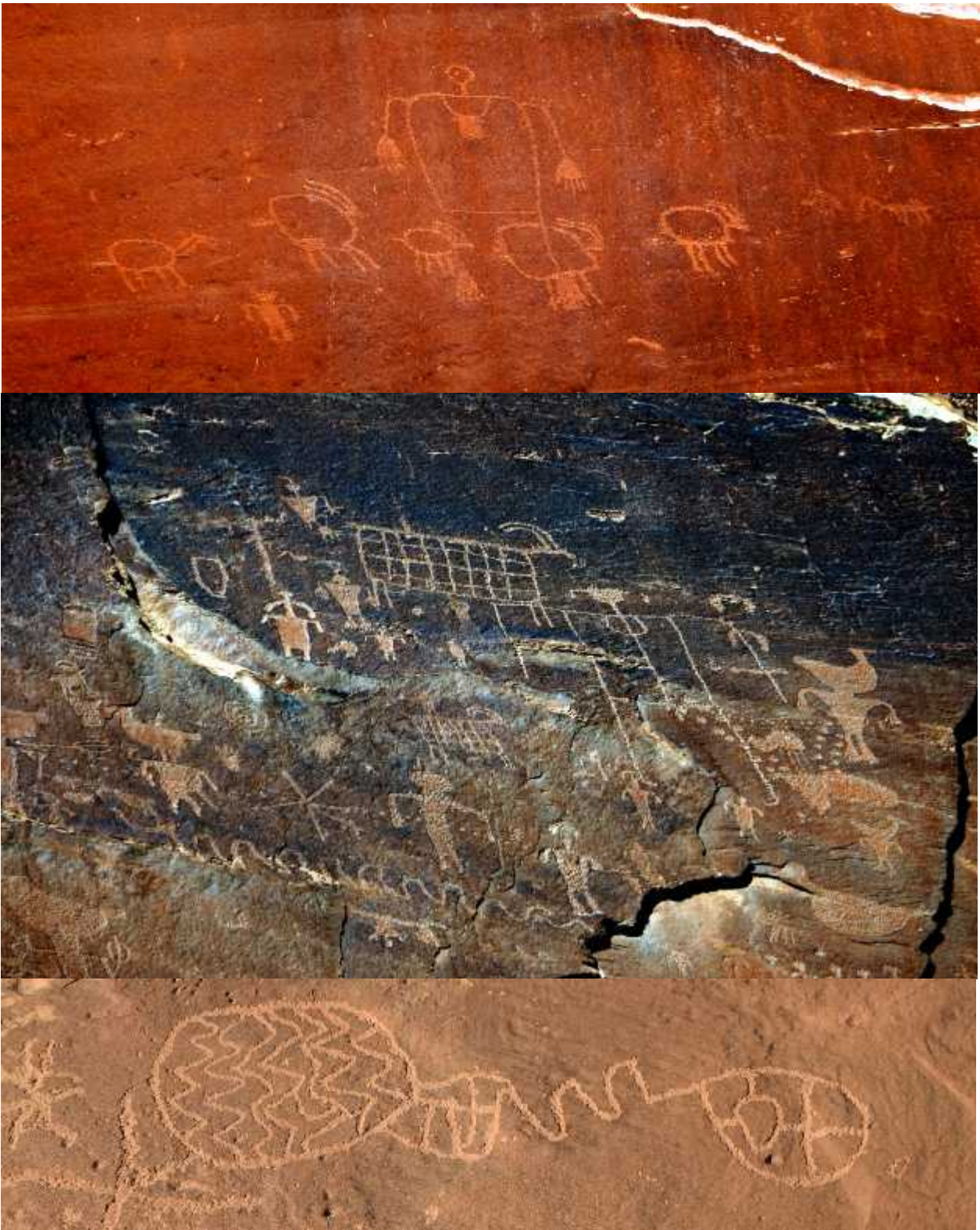
Bluff Area Field Trip November 5-6, 2016

Steve Acerson

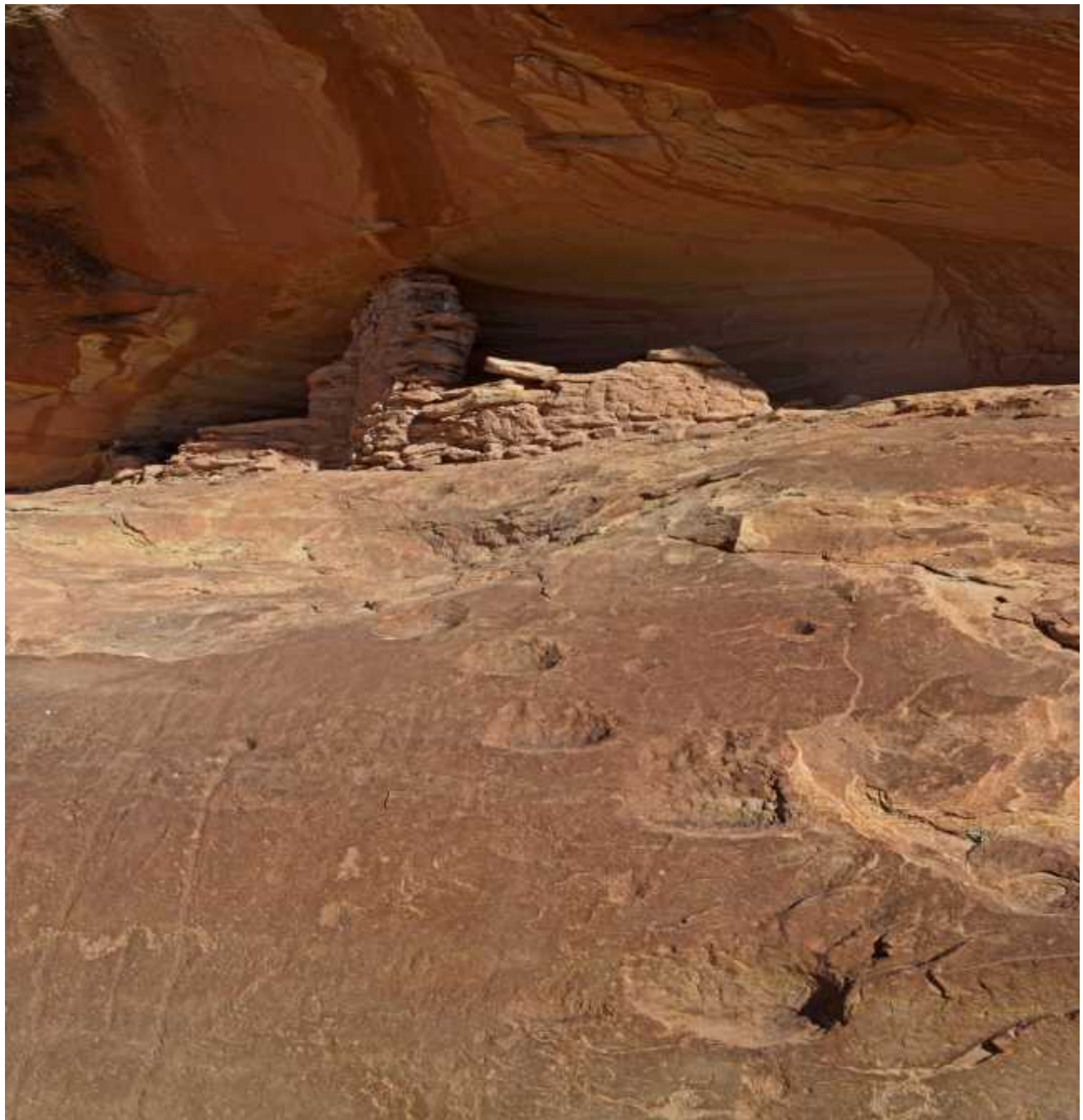
The city of Bluff and its surrounding landscapes contain hundreds of “artifacts of distant hands” (rockart) created by Native Americans. Places like: Sand Island, Sand Knoll, Butler Wash, Comb Ridge, Comb Wash, Cedar Mesa, and the San Juan River corridor.

This Region has had human footprints left on the landscapes, people who struggled to maintain life on sparse food sources, cultural clashes, and finally Mormon pioneer settlements.

The field trip attendees divided into two groups. Some went for long hikes, and others drove to sites closer to the roads that followed drainages. The different types and styles that are on the walls of the canyons have all of us wondering what the images may have expressed to those passing by.



Many are located by habitation sites and ruins that are tucked under sandstone rims and ledges.



Water sources are close by and we could imagine what it was like to climb the small indented steps that were carved into the faces of vertical walls so they could carry water to care for fields in flat valleys. Some of the structures seem to be in areas where they could defend against those trying to raid their groups.



The weather was very comfortable. Time spent with members allowed us to gain more interest in each other, and share stories of rock art we had seen recently. Time passed too quickly and found the group headed towards home and promises of getting together in Moab next month.

All of you field trip attendees....please remember to share your great pictures of us that you took while enjoying the field trip.



San Juan River Trip November 5, 2016

Oscar Olson



San Juan River trip Nov 5, 2016, Bluff to Mexican Hat. Left to right Margo Fenton, Keith Fessenden, Pat Sullivan, Gina Hupka, and Dave Carey. Marcus Buck (Navajo) at the tiller, is very knowledgeable on geology, archaeology, botany, and river history.



Part of the "Desecration Panel" on the Navajo side of the river, pretty much opposite Butler Wash. It is a large panel with many still unique glyphs. Many images are pristine, but some have been scratched or obliterated, presumably by Navajos who were offended for religious or cultural reasons.

Upper Butler Wash Documentation Oct 11-16

Steve and Diana Acerson

Ann and Dave Phillips continue to progress through a now 10 year process of documenting the rock art panels along the San Juan river near Bluff, Utah. This latest phase of the project was photographing upper Butler. URARA members who assisted Ann and Dave were Dave Manley, Janet Lever-wood, Steven and Diana Acerson, and Tom Hahl, who has helped Dave Manley on previous projects.

The BLM office in Monticello aided in getting all of the equipment to the site by loading the items on one of their patrol rafts and rowing down to the site. Our group hiked down Butler Wash, trimming out Russian Olives and Tamarisk as we descended down the old pioneer trail to the confluence of the wash and the San Juan River. We unloaded camping gear, water, camera and electronic equipment, and a variety of freeze-dried food. The camp area was set up under a large cottonwood tree that was in full fall color. We ate lunch and afterward headed over to the panel areas to be documented. We spent the rest of the day trimming out a path in front of the symbols of the past left by the hands of those who enjoyed the same vistas we would look at for the next week. Basketmaker, Glen Canyon Linear, Navajo styles to name a few. Some of these panels were approximately 50' above ground level.

The next day we got an early start with the transit and telescoping pole set up, camera in place, and recorders with pencils ready. With our duties defined, we began photographing the images. Dave Manley had done the research on what technology would help to accomplish the feat in front of us. WIFI was the answer. The camera and tablet connected together allowed Dave to view, move the camera's focus, and take the pictures. It was amazing to elevate the camera and see the images directly at eye level.

The weather was perfect for this time of year, warm during the day (70-80), night time (30-40). Full moon, coyote songs through the night, burros braying during the day and night, and a real plus - not having wind blowing the camera around while it was positioned in the air.

The project was estimated to take a week, but everything worked better than anticipated and we completed the photographic work in three days. Now Anne and Janet will enjoy hours of work drawing the images on paper to continue the documentation process.

The time and the project brought this group of folks together in a world of wonderment created by those who had left the images. The environment of natural scenes and events of the cycle of living and visual landscapes massaged our senses and made it hard to lift our packs and return to the path leading us to our homes.

If you have the time I encourage you to volunteer for a documentation project. The extended time at a panel and the surrounding locations bring more fulfillment than a quick visit on a field trip. The documentation also puts this information on the books of managing agencies, and helps protect it from possible damaging land use activities.







Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips 2016

December 5 Monday	URARA Annual Christmas party potluck at the indoor Bicentennial Pavilion, 530 East 8680 South, Sandy, Utah.
December 10-11	Field trip, Moab
2017	
January 28-29	URARA Annual board retreat, Kanab
June 1-5	ARARA annual conference, Redmond, Oregon http://www.arara.org/conference.html
Oct. 13-15	CAS Annual Meeting (tentative date)

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

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA) meets on the 4th Monday of the month; See <http://snraa.org/snraa.org/EVENTS.html>

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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