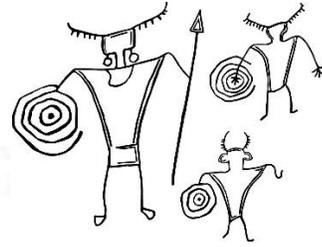


VESTIGES



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From the Prez: Annual Board Retreat

Steve Acerson

This year the URARA Board will meet in Mesquite, Nevada, on January 25/26, Thursday/Friday starting at 9:00 am. The location is 890 Kitty Hawk 1424, Mesquite. Every member is welcome to attend or contact a Board member to present ideas for consideration. The 2018 Symposium will lead the discussion. Also on the agenda are monthly field trips, documentation, preservation, and the issue of our involvement with government management agencies and other groups with like commitments to rockart. New Board members will take office at this time, and duties will be assigned.

Our membership continues to increase. Being a volunteer organization, the Board needs to find ways for all members to help URARA met its charter goals.

Washington County PO Box to Close

Lois Mansfield

Since going digital, URARA no longer needs the Washington County post office box for membership and payment-related communications. From now on, please send all surface mail to the Salt Lake address, PO Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.

January 2018

Introducing New Board Members

Lynn Benson

I married my high school sweetheart, Betty; have 4 children and 16 grandchildren. Past interests were desert motorcycle racing, ski bum, and mountaineering. Now petroglyphs are my passion. I have a small farm, garden, animals and fruit, and my book and map collection.

Darlene Koerner

My education includes an undergraduate degree in botany and anthropology. Graduate school at the University of Wisconsin was in geomorphology and settlement analysis. The settlement analysis focused on total phosphate analysis from soil where no surface remains were visible. The phosphate analysis maps out the settlement showing animal use areas, homes etc.

I started working for the Wasatch National Forest in soils and transferred to Vernal to a soils position in Watershed on the Ashley National Forest. My initial job involved landscape analysis based of geomorphic features. I had the opportunity to work with Byron Loosle on numerous projects dating archeological sites and tying physical and cultural features together. During this time we started looking at geomorphic features to determine where sites would most likely be, including unexpected locations in talus in high mountain area.

In 2000 I moved into a program management position and worked with budget to integrate as much as possible with archeology while Byron was on the forest. During this time, I did numerous excavations with Byron, recorded sites, and joined URARA. I worked with Tom Freestone in the formation of the Uintah Basin Archeology club, and joined URARA about this time.

In recent years my husband and I have been involved again in the one love we always had: getting out on the land with our dogs and enjoying the art we see everywhere. I can thank Diane Orr for constantly encouraging me to stay involved. Along with URARA, we are also members of the Grand Junction Archeology Club

Leigh Grench

Leigh Grench first became interested in rock art while monitoring archaeological sites in the Kentucky woods as a backcountry ranger for the US Forest Service in 2002. There she met and enjoyed the friendship of Dr. Fred Coy an avid rock art enthusiast of Kentucky's past and author of Kentucky's premier book on rock art - "Rock Art of Kentucky" - of course. Although not as diverse as Utah's imagery, the adventures to remote places to find rock art is what really got her interested. Working on an anthropology graduate degree from the University of Kentucky while working full time with the Forest Service she became interested in the relationship between rock art and bed-stone mortars, although ultimately, she wrote her thesis on the use of geo-textiles in dry rock shelters for protective purposes against damage from recreational users, specifically climbers. From Kentucky she moved over to the BLM in Wyoming in 2006 and there met Mike Beis and was honored to work with him on a documentation project in the beautiful Tensleep Nature

Conservancy Property. While in Wyoming, she was lucky to meet Mavis and John Greer, also well-known rock art documenters. From there it was not much of a decision to jump at a chance to move to Moab as a BLM archaeologist in 2008. Where, she was soon befriended by Pam and Quent Baker and became fully immersed in the rock art world here. For Leigh, rock art is not only a fascinating subject, it is an excuse to get out and enjoy vast landscapes with intimate parts but most importantly, it is a link to lasting friendships.

RockArt in the News

38,000-year-old pointillism rock art found in France Science News 24 Feb 2017

https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2017/02/24/38000-year-old-pointillism-rock-art-found-in-France/2881487962314/?st_rec=2151512663060

Ancient Rock Carvings Depicting Masked People Discovered in Egypt Live Sci 24 Mar 2017

<https://www.livescience.com/58394-ancient-egyptian-rock-carvings-discovered.html>

Scientists map ancient rock art in Venezuela UPI Science News 7 December 2017

https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2017/12/07/Scientists-map-ancient-rock-art-in-Venezuela/2151512663060/?spt=slh&or=4

How the Sun Illuminates Spanish Missions On the Winter Solstice Smithsonian 21 Dec 2017

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-sun-illuminates-spanish-missions-on-winter-solstice-180967619/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20171221-daily-responsive&spMailingID=32354124&spUserID=NzQwNDU0OTIyMTES1&spJobID=1182711901&spReportId=MTE4MjcxMTkwMQS2 (Did the Spanish fathers have help from their Indian converts in correctly orienting each building at each particular latitude?)

Bears Ears

Trump dramatically shrinks two national monuments in Utah LATimes 4 December 2017

<http://bit.ly/2ARBb3r>

Bluff will burn dancing bears in effigy in nod to monument controversy SLTribune 20 Dec 2017

<http://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2017/12/20/in-nod-to-monument-controversy-utah-town-of-bluff-will-burn-dancing-bears-in-effigy-to-observe-winter-solstice/>

Jonathan Bailey photographs from the former Bears Ears National Monument Archaeology

Southwest <https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/exhibit/online-exhibits/bears-ears-vulnerable-places/>

More rock art papers and talks on ARARAOnLine December 2017

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BxkmrNPDxGUoVVM3dWdLREtBVnM>

URARA Old-timer Walter Layton

Walt Layton

You are aware that when being introduced to a new book or TV series or introduced to a new individual the first few lines or the first few action shots or the first few minutes of verbal communication sets what is called a “hook.” From there you decide whether you want to read the book, view the new TV series or look forward to a future conversation with your new acquaintance. My introduction to the URARA community began when I was teaching in the classroom of our public schools in the mid-1980s. In my “pigeon-hole” at school I read a flier inviting me to a class taught at the Museum of Natural History on the University of Utah campus for a period of several Saturdays. It noted that we would be taught a variety of activities and information of the pre-historic people of the State of Utah. Thus the “hook.” The organizer and instructor was Jeanie Moe. During these exciting hours of instruction Jeanie brought a whole new life to the individuals about whom she talked. I asked her if there was some organization from which I could be taught more information. And so my URARA journey began.

Because I had joined my students on many field trips and learned as much or more than they did the URARA field trips would become the thread leading me to where I am now. My activity in URARA covers only a couple of decades which make me a neophyte when compared to several of the members, Over the years I have had several opportunities to acquire printed copies of the organization’s Utah Rock Art symposium volumes. Those who have dared to enter the world of technology can now access these volumes on our website. However, I still enjoy sitting back and rereading a hard copy of these publications. In Volume VI (1986), Nina Bowen writes, “Each year that URARA exists, the membership grows and diversifies. It is exciting to have this new influx of energy and knowledge added to our group.” Knowing Nina’s enthusiasm and dedication today, those same words are alive in our organization. In Volume XIII (1993), Jesse Warner writes, “URARA remains a voice for the amateur who will listen to any well researched evidence. Join us and experience the comradeship. Our motto is that we all know something, no one knows everything, so let’s get together and share what we know.”

So, I encourage you to peruse back volumes of posted symposium issues. In addition to a wealth of knowledge you’ll identify individuals who have been around for a few years.

The most vivid epiphany in my membership with this association is when I realized that just when I started to think I knew something I met Steve Manning. Please look up Volume XXIII. Figure 135 tells me I don’t have a clue.

Then there is our latest gathering, our annual Christmas Party. When entering the building I noticed Jesse Warner and Gary Burningham sitting by the warm fireplace chatting. As I approached them I wasn’t surprised to hear them discussing sites and locations. The more I listened the more I realized I was still a neophyte. They were verbalizing in detail how to get there, what to see and what time of the year would be best to visit. It was then that I realized that some members have been home-schooled in rock art and that URARA had been and still is the instructor

So, I am aware that I am a welcomed member of a unique family. A family with a variety of interests but with one common goal – the conservation and preservation of families who lived many years ago. Families much like our own. Pre-history tells us they were living under challenging conditions and growing too old too soon. But they have left a legacy. URARA is assisting them in retelling their story.

St George Field Trip Report

Steve Acerson

The 9th of December found about 25 members meeting in the Washington Walmart parking lot excited to visit sites in the sun and warmth of southern Utah. Nina Bowen and Jim King had scouted the area and decided to take the two groups to the Santa Clara river drainage area, and Pierce Fort wash. Once the sun came up and the temperatures began to rise, and the drive added the time to warm up and made the hiking comfortable. Both areas had a variety of rock art and historical features, the view- scapes in this part of Utah are breathtaking. White and red sandstones carved by wind and erosion, with lava flows winding over and around the terrain. The trails were in drainages with short side hill climbs.

Pam and Jim King hosted a chili/cornbread dinner at their home for everyone with family videos of their adventures. This was a great time to visit and the food was delicious. Sunday the groups switched areas and stayed as long as they could before the drive home.





Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips 2018

January 4-7	16 th Biennial Southwest Symposium, Denver, http://southwestsymposium2018.dmns.org/
January 25-26	URARA Board Retreat, Mesquite, Nevada
January 27-28	URARA Field trip, Mesquite, Nevada
2018 June 1-4	ARARA Symposium Grand Junction, Colorado

URARA field trips are available to members only. For info or sign-up, please go to <https://urara.wildapricot.org/events>, or contact Oscar Olson at 801-485-0862. Registration will open approximately (45) days prior to the start of the field trip. At that time you will be able to register until the set number of participants is filled; then your name will be added to the waiting list.

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

Dixie Archaeological Society (DAS) meets on the second Wednesday of the month; see: <http://www.dixierockart.com/>

San Diego Rock Art Association (SDRAA) meets at the Kumeyaay Center in Poway every other month, sometimes on the first Sunday, sometimes not; see: <http://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>

URARA Board and Contacts

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

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