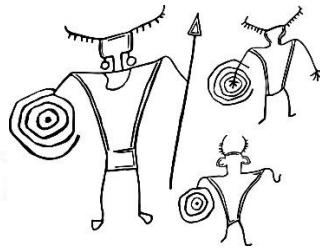


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Steve Aceron

Spring is just a few weeks away. Winter has been warm and most of us have been taking advantage with being out hiking. The last two weeks we've been blessed in our desert to have received heavy snows to help our always dry climate.

URARA's field trips have seen increased participation. We've even added extra days to the scheduled trips to accommodate more people. The trips open 45 days in advance, and an email is sent out when I open it for registration. (**Remember to LOGIN in**)

Werner and Carol Duecker led our first documentation project this year at a site near Moab. Leigh Grench brought the BLM expertise for a successful day. A BIG thanks, as this is an important part of rockart sites being recognized and protected.

Members have been busy the last couple of months working to protect sites around the State. Check out URARA's Facebook page for related articles.

At our Board meeting in January one of our discussions was centered on how members could get involved in the protection of rock art regardless of where they live. The Board decided to encourage members to inform and educate others to the significance and our connection to the roots of humanity that rock art can provide. Studies show that when communities protect their heritage, they become stronger, unified, and willing to work together on issues and events that their towns are proud of. If communities only have gas stations and motels, visitor stays are short ones. If these same towns have historic and cultural (rock art) sites close by, visitors tend to enjoy and experience that community's heritage, and remain several days enjoying the area and learn about its cultural history.

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To this end I would encourage each member to find out when their towns have celebrations/events. Contact the organizers to ask for a table or booth so you can share your passion of rock art (outdoor museums), and help URARA in the need to preserve and protect this cultural resource. Contact senior centers, schools, clubs, youth groups, and present URARA's mission – to visit, educate, and protect rock art. As members we need to become active on a personal/local level. Share our message of respecting and protecting rock art with everyone we come in contact with. Managing agencies and developers are more likely to listen to their community neighbors than an agency or organization. When communities get involved, things will begin to happen. The passion for rock art affects people when they actually visit locations with you who appreciate rock art and are willing to share with them your knowledge, thoughts and feelings about what they have in their back yards. Who wants to go to look through museum glass when you can go for a walk and enjoy the beautiful outdoors?

If we don't get this help from those who appreciate rock art, our posterity may only get to see it in museums.

If you need some suggestions on participating in your local events, or other help, please contact me. I'm glad to share what I can.

Thanks for all of your support. Enjoy the path, Steve

A Few Items from Conservation & Preservation

Diana Acerson

1. A little good news. The BLM and SITLA (State Institutional Trust Lands) have begun to implement immediate protections for the rock art they both have that are located at Lake Mountain, Utah County, while we wait for the implementation of the closure to target shooting in the area. The approval for the closure still sits in Washington, D.C., as it has for over a year now and most likely will remain there indefinitely. Recently after visiting the site and seeing the destruction that continues to happen, we have had multiple meetings with the BLM and others, have contacted legislators, tried to get the media involved, and taken the media and government staff to the sites to get them behind pushing Washington for implementation of the closure.

As a result, some protections at the sites are being put in place as of this newsletter, and there is more awareness of the need for the closure. With the increase in target shooting at Lake Mountain, including semi-automatic weapons and exploding targets, we as URARA members need to make our voices heard if we want the remaining unique ancient rock art there saved and protected. Please write Mia Love's office, the governors office, and whomever else you want to. And if you are a sports shooter, please contact your organizations, friends, and family, and support education for protection of rock art sites. Utah County has started construction of the shooting range to take some of the load off Lake Mountain. This is not about denying anyone the right to shoot. It's about protecting rock art.

2. Petroglyphs identified on 4 boulders within the Saratoga Springs City limits are threatened by residential development in the area. URARA met with Edge Homes the last week of February and

agreed to assist them in a plan for protective measures for the boulders. They appeared to be impressed by the petroglyphs and excited to help do whatever is possible for them to do to protect it. We offered to assist them with ideas to integrate the petroglyphs in the some kind of trail system, green space or other avenue of protection within their community plan, with the goal of keeping them in their existing locations.

3. URARA is working with Utah County, the BLM, and Kilgore Companies, to identify and mitigate the protection of boulders containing large amounts of petroglyphs within a BLM permitted extension of the current pit excavation area. This pit located on West Mountain also has an asphalt plant. Local residents are working to limit these kinds of land uses on West Mountain, and have now taken particular interest in the petroglyphs. URARA members were able to locate at least 70 boulders with petroglyphs that had not been identified in surveys of the land on West Mountain previously by archaeologists. We assisted both Kilgore and the BLM in locating the sites, about 9 being within the permitted future extension of the pit. At this time, no excavation within the BLM extension area can take place until the rock art mitigation process is completed. The hope is again to preserve the petroglyphs in place.

4. We have asked to be included as a "consulting party" on the preparation of the Resource Management Plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and federal lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the boundaries and associated Environmental Impact Statement, Utah, located within the area administered by the Kanab field office of the Bureau of Land Management. Our major concern is the direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources within the proposed RMP areas, specifically petroglyphs and pictographs.

5. "Respect and Protect" Stakeholders meeting in February announced they will be distributing a blog centered around target shooting and cultural resources; Archaeology month is coming up on May; Tread Lightly wants to administer education events that our members or URARA request. Reminder that the vandalism/destruction of cultural resources **Report Hot Line is: 800-722-3998**. Please promote Respect and Protect at any events you participate in.

6. URARA participated in a consulting party process for the Price Field Office of the BLM in February. The BLM was seeking input on their statistical model that predicts where cultural sites will be found in preparation for their travel planning process. Roads in high probability areas will require on-the-ground surveys. URARA was unhappy with several aspects of the process and submitted comments regarding our concerns. If you are interested in the details refer to the C&P page on the website at: <https://urara.wildapricot.org/Conservation-&-Preservation>

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Diana Acerson, Conservation & Preservation

Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA)

www.utahrockart.org

435-262-7044

URARA Offers Rock Art Research Scholarship

Kent Williams

The Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) is pleased to announce a \$500 scholarship, and two \$100 scholarships to students who demonstrate and present ideas, concepts and knowledge that contributes to the preservation, appreciation and understanding of Native American rock art in Utah.

Submissions should be in the form of a paper, not less than 2,000 words. Applicants may refer to presentations from [past URARA symposiums](#) as examples of the range of topics and content, which include:

- Prehistoric Archaeology
- Preservation of Rock Art panels and sites
- Symbolism in Rock Art

Three submissions will be selected, and submitters invited to present, at the annual URARA symposium that will be held in Bluff, Utah October 4-8, 2018. The winning submission will be selected from the three presentations and awarded at the symposium. Runners-up will be awarded \$100 each. Registration fees for the symposium will be waived.

Guidelines for applying:

- Student Qualifications
 - Must be in good standing at sophomore level and above
 - Letter of reference from academic advisor or instructor
- Submissions
 - Not less than 2,000 words in PDF format
 - Email submissions and letter of reference to: urarascholarship@xmission.com by June 15, 2018
 - Finalists will be notified by 8/1/2018
- Presentations at symposium (three finalists)
 - 10 minutes in length
 - Summarizes paper
 - Microsoft PowerPoint format
 - Presentations by finalists will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2018.

Blue Buffalo Documentation February 16

Photos by Pam Baker



Moab Field Trip February 17-18

Photos by Dennis DeVore



RockArt in the News

As Utah County develops, what is being done to protect ancient petroglyphs? Salt Lake Tribune, Feb 23, 2018

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2018/02/23/as-utah-county-develops-what-is-being-done-to-protect-ancient-petroglyphs>

Ancient Cave Paintings Clinch the Case for Neandertal Symbolism Scientific American February 23, 2018

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/ancient-cave-paintings-clinch-the-case-for-neandertal-symbolism1/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-review&utm_content=link&utm_term=2018-02-28_featured-this-week

Did Cave Acoustics Play a Role in the Development of Language? Smithsonian February 26, 2018

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/did-cave-acoustics-play-role-art-and-language-180968252/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20180221-daily-responsive&spMailingID=33240318&spUserID=NzQwNDU0OTIyMTES1&spJobID=1223296049&spReportId=MTIyMzI5NjA0OQS2

Rock art bibliographic database now hosted by the Museum of Northern Arizona

https://musnaz.org/search_rock_art_studies_db/

When Scientists “Discover” What Indigenous People Have Known For Centuries Smithsonian

https://theconversation.com/its-taken-thousands-of-years-but-western-science-is-finally-catching-up-to-traditional-knowledge-90291?xid=PS_smithsonian

(Article discusses alternate “ways of knowing” which differ from the western “scientific method”; how those schooled in western science sometimes have trouble with indigenous traditional knowledge; and how the science of archaeology can verify indigenous cultural history.)

Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips 2018

March 15-18	URARA Field Trip Kanab, UT, two 2-day sessions
April 12-15	URARA Field Trip Dinetah Bloomfield, NM, two 2-day sessions
May 17-20	URARA Field Trip Vernal, UT, two 2-day sessions
June 1-4	ARARA Symposium Grand Junction, Colorado https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info
June 14-17	URARA Field Trip Milford, two 2-day sessions
July 12-15	URARA Summer Picnic, Fremont State Park
August 2-5	URARA Central Utah Red Paint Tour, two 2-day sessions
August 6-10	OCTA in Ogden http://www.octa-trails.org/news/ogden-utah-convention-august-6-10-2018
Sep 13-16	URARA Field Trip, Nine-Mile Canyon, two 2-day sessions
October 4-8	URARA Symposium, Bluff, Utah
Nov 6	San Diego Rock Art Association Symposium
Nov 7-10	Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Salt Lake City, MNHU https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/
Nov 10-11	URARA Field Trip, San Rafael Swell
December 8-9	URARA Field Trip, Utah Lake area

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. <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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