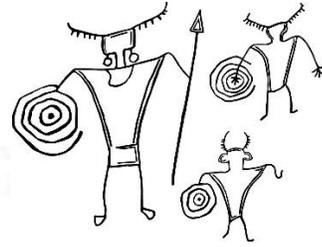


# VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## From the Prez

Steve Acerson

Here's a little recap on what members of URARA have been working on since last month.

I have been talking with the Monticello Field Office for the last week about a Special Recreation Permit for field trips during the Symposium. Silas Sparks is the Recreation permit officer for the MFO; talking with him, he told me the administration staff has given the go ahead to proceed with the process of issuing the permit to us. The archaeologists will review locations, and go through Joe's information, then contact us with questions. After the review Silas told me they'll be able to get the permit to us in time for the Symposium.

This permit will require each person going on field trips to pay a fee each day, (\$6.00 per person); for example: 100 people per day = \$600.00 X 2 days = \$1200.00 costs to URARA. Knowing this I think this cost should be added to the Symposium registration fee. It could just be part of the registration, or a fee paid when you sign up for field trips. This is great news, because in the first contact I was told they did not have the time or staff to do any of these permits, because of their mandated direction of having a completed management plan for the Bears Ears by December, 2018.

Darlene is close to submitting the grant request to help cover costs for presenters for the Symposium. I think the amount is around \$1,500.

The Moab Historical nomination is on the docket for the Washington group tomorrow, so send good thoughts, it would be a great accomplishment for all those involved over the years to have this completed.

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The people following the Shooting Closure at Lake Mountain have heard recently that there might be an announcement of closing the area to shooting. This can't happen soon enough, so much has already been lost.

The Preservation group has been moved into emergency response from a recent letter from the State BLM director announcing that Oil and Gas leasing will now take place in the State Office for the whole State. The new schedule starts in December with 231 parcels amounting to 297,223 acres. URARA has until July 30th to request consulting status and corresponding information to be used in the determination of issuing the leases for sale. So our regional reps have been busy trying to find the lease areas and if there is any concerns in those areas. Kent Williams has been a great help with the map stuff, trying to get something we can actually see where they are. (Thanks Kent)

BLM and others are doing the Nine Mile archaeologist dig at the village site this fall, and are requesting weekend volunteers to help supervise and educate. They have assigned Sept. 21-23 to us. Several people have volunteered, so if you want to get a chance to work with the youth and dig a little dirt, contact me soon so we can confirm that date.

Please be careful if you are out hiking or camping. There seem to be many fires currently causing heart-ache and hard work for firefighters. Just this week the Canyon where we held July field trip had fires that closed I-70. The Dollar Ridge fire has caused URARA to change locations for the August field trip.

If you want to help with the upcoming Symposium in Bluff, please contact Werner Duecker.

Steve

## 2018 Symposium Update

Werner Duecker

### Location

This year, the annual URARA symposium will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> in Bluff, Utah. Most activities will be centered around the Bluff Community Center. The Symposium and Conservation Session will be held on Saturday and Sunday with a banquet dinner and auction scheduled for Saturday evening. We will hold our Melon Social on Friday evening. Field trips will be on Friday and Monday.

### Workshops

This is the second year that URARA will offer workshops. Topics include rock art documentation, use of GPS devices, photography, rock art and more. Space will be limited and offered on a first-come basis.

## **Lodging**

If you haven't yet reserved a room, we suggest making arrangements now. Accommodations within the town of Bluff are limited and popular. Rooms may also be available in Mexican Hat or Blanding, both approximately 25 miles from Bluff.

## **Camping**

Camping is available at the BLM Sand Island Campground just outside of Bluff along the San Juan River. Ben Everitt (rockdoc@xmission.com) has reserved Group Camp Site A at Sand Island, for 4 nights, Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>. The site has a maximum occupancy of 20, with tent sites and parking in the loop drive-thru for 6 or 7 vehicles, with some additional off-site parking nearby. No hook-ups or dump station. The site has a shelter with table, fire ring and grill. It is within walking distance of the rock art panel. It is removed from the riverside trees, and somewhat exposed to the wind. See map below. A donation of \$45 per vehicle for the weekend is suggested to recoup the campground fee. Margo will take your money at the meeting.

## **Registration**

Symposium Registration will open in mid-August. Check the web page. Look for more details coming in the September Vestiges.



## Symposium Vendor Requirements

### Keith Fessenden

Vendors wishing to sell at the upcoming Bluff Symposium will need to register online this year. On the URARA website ([www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org)) look for the symposium section of the events tab. The symposium will be held at the Bluff Community Center. Vendors will set up in the same room as the conference. There is a limit of eight (8) vendors this year due to the available space in the Bluff Community Center. The vendor fee is \$25 and a donated item for the auction. If you have questions please contact Keith Fessenden.



Western Message petroglyph, Filmore, Utah.

Photo by Francois Gohier

## Book Review:

### Francois Gohier

#### STONE DIARY - Solving the Mystery of the Western Message Petroglyphs

Judy F. Hilbish, Lizard Hiss Studio, 2017

The first time I saw a photo of what we now call “Western Message Petroglyphs” was in Volume Two of Kenneth Castleton’s “Petroglyphs and Pictographs of Utah” (Castleton 1987, 64-65). I did not pay much attention to it. Castleton had dutifully included in his book the site located above the town of Fillmore, with the comment that the glyphs were “almost certainly modern”. At the time I was interested in prehistoric petroglyphs, primarily the Fremont.

Meanwhile, over in Nevada, Judy Hilbish was paying attention. As she recalls in the preface of her book, “Over forty years ago (she) received ... from a boyfriend ... a broken piece of a petroglyph”. Several years later she found the original site above her hometown, a panel consisting of several lines of glyphs carved in the rock. Intrigued, she got in touch with people who knew of other sites with similar inscriptions. She was also interested in Egyptian and Maya glyphs and realized that some of the signs she had seen on the cliffs were borrowed from these civilizations. Most of the other signs composing the “messages” were Ojibwa symbols.

Many other researchers have chased the mystery of the more than twenty-seven message sites known in eight western states. I suspect that most of us became aware of this phenomenon through an accidental visit to one of the sites, like the Fillmore site that was included in one of the field trips on the occasion of the URARA symposium in Delta, Utah, in 2016. At that symposium, Judy Hilbish and John and Mavis Greer presented some of the results of their respective research on the subject. On the West Coast, Leigh and Amy Marymor had also worked on the problem and presented their views at an ARARA Conference and on other occasions. The messages were receiving lots of attention, and we were being introduced to the mystery.

In 2017 Judy Hilbish published her book and took it to the URARA symposium in Green River. I confess that, at the time, I did not think I needed to read a 300-page book on this esoteric subject. However, during the following months I visited a few other message sites (Lordsburg, New Mexico; Cedar City, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado) and soon wanted to know more. I purchased Judy’s book and I can only use the proverbial expression: “Once I opened it I could not put it down”. It reads like a detective novel, except that it’s not a novel but a carefully researched historical work. The author takes the reader to every known site (illustrated with photos or drawings); looks at the origin and history of the various symbols that form the messages, and this leads to certain conclusions as to when these messages could have been made. Finally, Judy Hilbish teases the reader by circling around the possible identity of the “carver”.

In conclusion, I recommend this book to rock art aficionados. You will be intrigued by the strange phenomenon it explores; you may, as I did, learn a lot of new things, and you will certainly enjoy the story.

## Dorothea Woodruff, 1928-2018

Long-time URARA member Dorde Woodruff died peacefully in her sleep on July 20. Botanist by training, she was interested in everything botanical, including native American medicinal plants, archaeobotany, and plant depictions in rock art. She edited the URARA newsletter for several years in the 1980's while her husband ran the printing press.

She is survived by her husband Jim Olive, more kids and grandkids than you can count, and her namesake *Sclerocactus Wrightiae*, a rare flower blooming in the desert. A celebration of her life will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday the 4th of August at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 6876 South Highland Drive, Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

See: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/saltlaketribune/obituary.aspx?n=dorothea-woodruff-dorde&pid=189723149>

## Summer Picnic Fremont State Park

### Oscar Olson

Our annual summer picnic (which is usually held in August) was in July this year. We started gathering Wednesday night, July 11, at the Castle Rock Campground at Fremont State Park in sites reserved by Margo Fenton.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday we participated in planned field trips into the surrounding countryside led by Steve Acerson. New member Jeff Roberts from Annabella (near Richfield), local trip leader and historian, led us into some good sites (some on private land).

During the three days, after dividing up, we visited sites from Sigurd on the north to Berkley Hill, Glenwood, and Annabella and to sites south of Joseph, Marysvale, Koosharem and Ottercreek and Grass Valley. Some of our members stayed in Fremont State Park, where we saw some more great sites. It wanted to rain from time to time and sometimes it did, but it did not interrupt our tripping.

There were about 20 who attended including new members Dave Norris, Robert Van Orden and Jeff Roberts. It was good to see Gary Burningham back with us as well, and Ned and Edna Clem, David Sucec, Ed Delay and others. Keith Fessenden came from Denver; Susan McDowell from Moab; Barbara Green and Kent Williams from Salt Lake City; and Lynn and Betty Benson from the Payson area. Nina Bowen did not stay long due to family matters at home in Salt Lake City. Forgive me if I missed anyone. It was great to see everybody. Thanks to Margo Fenton and Steve and Diana Acerson for their organization.

Saturday afternoon as we were coming back from Grass Valley (Koosharem) it started to rain on I-70 near Elsinore (and did it ever cloudburst). I thought for sure our picnic was spoiled. But when we got back to camp it was dry and dusty. The picnic was a success.

Thanks to all who contributed food, drinks and camaraderie.



## Rock Art in the News

**Rock Art: A cultural treasure at risk.** The Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, 62 p. A statement distilled from a decade of seminars, conferences and workshops of the Getty. It deals primarily with African and Australian art, but has global value, and can serve as a springboard for conservation efforts everywhere.

[http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications\\_resources/pdf\\_publications/pdf/rock\\_art\\_cultural\\_treasure.pdf](http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications_resources/pdf_publications/pdf/rock_art_cultural_treasure.pdf)

**Did the BLM give looters a map to cultural artifacts?** Salt Lake Tribune, 22 July 2018

[http://saltlaketribune.ut.newsmemory.com/?token=b02456f982c3db4d378a5eb24965d4a9\\_5b607119\\_c85b785&selDate=20180731](http://saltlaketribune.ut.newsmemory.com/?token=b02456f982c3db4d378a5eb24965d4a9_5b607119_c85b785&selDate=20180731)

## Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips 2018

August 2-5	URARA Central Utah Red Paint Tour, two 2-day sessions
August 6-10	OCTA in Ogden <a href="http://www.octa-trails.org/news/ogden-utah-convention-august-6-10-2018">http://www.octa-trails.org/news/ogden-utah-convention-august-6-10-2018</a>
August 9-12	81 <sup>st</sup> Pecos Conference, Flagstaff <a href="http://www.pecosconference.org">www.pecosconference.org</a>
Sep 13-16	URARA Field Trip, Nine-Mile Canyon, two 2-day sessions
October 4-8	URARA Symposium, Bluff, Utah
Nov 3	San Diego Rock Art Association Symposium
Nov 7-10	Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Salt Lake City, NHMU <a href="https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/">https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/</a>
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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.utahrockart.org).

### 2018 URARA Board and Officers

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Steve Acerson, President	385-985-5402	<a href="mailto:whiteh20rockart@gmail.com">whiteh20rockart@gmail.com</a>
Werner Duecker, Vice President	970-685-9630	<a href="mailto:wdeck.wd@gmail.com">wdeck.wd@gmail.com</a>
Margo Fenton, Treasurer	435-640-2275	<a href="mailto:fourfen@comcast.net">fourfen@comcast.net</a>
Deloy Norton	801-571-0935	<a href="mailto:dlnorton5@hotmail.com">dlnorton5@hotmail.com</a>
Dennis DeVore, Publications Ed.	970-256-7887	<a href="mailto:ddv48@mac.com">ddv48@mac.com</a>
Keith Fessenden, Conservation	303-907-5184	<a href="mailto:khfessenden@gmail.com">khfessenden@gmail.com</a>
Cheryl Ames	303-940-2043	<a href="mailto:cheryl_e_ames@msn.com">cheryl_e_ames@msn.com</a>
David Carey	707-480-6384	<a href="mailto:careynordh@gmail.com">careynordh@gmail.com</a>
Lynn Benson	801-602-5549	<a href="mailto:bettyandlynn@gmail.com">bettyandlynn@gmail.com</a>
Darlene Koerner	435-789-2299	<a href="mailto:timdar@ubtanet.com">timdar@ubtanet.com</a>
Leigh Grench	435-260-9113	<a href="mailto:lggrench@yahoo.com">lggrench@yahoo.com</a>

### URARA Appointees

Archives	Margaret Grochocki	801-282-5850	<a href="mailto:margaret.grochocki@gmail.com">margaret.grochocki@gmail.com</a>
Conservation	Keith Fessenden	303-907-5184	<a href="mailto:khfessenden@gmail.com">khfessenden@gmail.com</a>
Database	Troy Scotter	801-377-6901	<a href="mailto:troyscotter@gmail.com">troyscotter@gmail.com</a>
Education	Gina Hupka	435-772-3383	<a href="mailto:redrockgina@infowest.com">redrockgina@infowest.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>
Symposium chair	WernerDuecker	970-685-9630	<a href="mailto:wdeck.wd@gmail.com">wdeck.wd@gmail.com</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>

### URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Coordinator Lead - All Districts		Keith Fessenden	303-907-5184	<a href="mailto:khfessenden@gmail.com">khfessenden@gmail.com</a>
Canyon Country	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker	435-259-5558	<a href="mailto:2pnbaker@gmail.com">2pnbaker@gmail.com</a>
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker	970-685-9630	<a href="mailto:wdeck.wd@gmail.com">wdeck.wd@gmail.com</a>
		Carol Duecker	970-985-9233	<a href="mailto:dueckercm@gmail.com">dueckercm@gmail.com</a>
Color Country	Cedar City	Gina Hupka	435-772-3383	<a href="mailto:redrockgina@infowest.com">redrockgina@infowest.com</a>
Color Country	St. George	Nina Bowen	801-499-0585	<a href="mailto:ninadbowl@gmail.com">ninadbowl@gmail.com</a>
Color Country	Kanab	Jeff Frey	435-644-8471	<a href="mailto:condor@kanab.net">condor@kanab.net</a>
Color Country	Richfield	Kent Williams	801-674-2710	<a href="mailto:willikb15@gmail.com">willikb15@gmail.com</a>
Green River	Vernal	Tim Sweeney	435-828-3647	<a href="mailto:dryforktim@gmail.com">dryforktim@gmail.com</a>
		Darlene Koerner	435-789-2299	<a href="mailto:timdar@ubtanet.com">timdar@ubtanet.com</a>
Green River	Price	Layne Miller	435-820-4326	<a href="mailto:laynemiller@yahoo.com">laynemiller@yahoo.com</a>
West Desert	Fillmore	DeLoy Norton	801-571-0935	<a href="mailto:dlnorton5@hotmail.com">dlnorton5@hotmail.com</a>
West Desert	Salt Lake	Diana Acerson	435-262-7044	<a href="mailto:dace1950@gmail.com">dace1950@gmail.com</a>