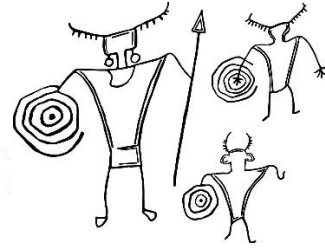


# VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## From the Prez

### Kent Williams

Hello URARA: I have several events of interest happening in October that I'd like to report. The first is a virtual members' meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Normally part of the annual symposium, the members meeting consists of reports on committee activities, a financial report, and a vote for new board members who will begin their term in 2022. Bios for the prospective board members are included in this issue of Vestiges (p. 2). If you haven't attended a membership meeting before, I encourage you to do so. It will give you a better idea of what URARA is doing, and may present opportunities for you to get more involved. Here's the Zoom link to the virtual Members' Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83189445840?pwd=QTljVHBYTVhtK0c3Ti9jM0s0QW85QT09>

Another invitation will be emailed a few days prior to the meeting.

The second item is that we are beginning to offer regular field trips again, after being on hold for the last year and a half due to the COVID pandemic. Due to continuing safety concerns surrounding the pandemic, we **are requiring all URARA field trip participants to be vaccinated for COVID.**

A word on URARA field trips - Like everyone else in URARA that make things happen, field trip leaders are volunteers. Leading a field trip is a lot of responsibility and it takes time and commitment to plan, organize and lead a safe and enjoyable trip. Please follow their lead when participating and enjoying a field trip. If you are unable to secure a slot on a trip, please be patient and respectful with us, and we will do what we can to create more opportunities. - Kent

October 2021

# URARA Board Minutes Sep 30, 2021

## Kent Williams

**In Attendance:** Carol Duecker, Darlene Korner, Wanda Gayle, Werner Duecker, Kent Williams

### **Agenda:**

#### **Members Meeting**

Via Zoom on October 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 – 7:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89135549225?pwd=bDlnK3NnMk1rN2R5MW00ZXFESHdEdz09>

Meeting agenda

- Review activities by committee reports
- Financial Report
- Vote on new board members

Committee reports will also be summarized in the October issue of Vestiges  
Financial report will not be published in Vestiges, but posted on private page on web site.

#### **Field Trips**

The current policy for COVID safety precautions (vaccinations, masking, distancing) was to leave it to the discretion of the field trip leader to manage. During discussion of recent events, it became clear that it will be necessary to make an organizational policy: Covid vaccinations will be required for all participants on URARA sponsored field trips. This was by unanimous vote, but we had only three voting members. Not clear if this is a quorum, but if not, I'm making an executive decision on this one. The policy will be included in the president's article in October Vestiges. If you have any major heartburn on this, please get a hold of me right away, like before 9AM Friday.

Wanda is uncomfortable with providing personal email and other personal information on the field trip application on the URARA web site. It was agreed to look into creating a Gmail account that field trip leader can use.

#### **Board Retreat**

I had conversations with two more consultants for facilitating our board retreat in January. The price quote from one was similar to Kari Anderson's but only offered a 4 hour live session with interviews, analysis and reports off-line. The other has not yet provided a price quote, but also offers only a 4 hour live session. In my opinion, neither were competitive with the proposal as discussed with Kari last week, so I'm going to recommend that we go with Kari, and the executive committee concurred.

The topic of COVID precautions for the retreat also came up. Those of us on the call tonight unanimously think that everyone in attendance at the retreat needs to be vaccinated. We can offer a Zoom link to anyone who is not comfortable with that. While we didn't ask Kari on the call last week what she is comfortable with spending 2 full days indoors with 8-12 people, I will before accepting her offer.

# URARA Board Nominees for 2022

## Werner Duecker

Three members of the current Board are retiring from the Board at the end of this year. Below are three nominees selected by the URARA Nominating Committee to replace them.

A vote to select new Board members will take place during the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting of Members scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to nominate someone to be on the Board, you may nominate them by emailing their name with a short description of why you think they should be on the Board to [utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com) no later than Sunday October 15. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting of Members.

## **Diana Acerson**

Conservation and preservation of rock art images is my passion. I joined URARA in 2011 with my husband Steve, not knowing much about these impressive and unique Utah “works of art”. But since then, I created URARA’s area coordinator program with URARA volunteers, to work with the land managing agencies like the BLM, on the protection of rock art in proposed project areas and engage with them in other areas effecting rock art as well. I remain the coordinator “Lead” at this time. I have been a member of URARA’s Conservation Committee since the beginning of 2013. I am a Site Steward in Utah State History’s new site steward program, and a steward for the Smiths Conservancy at Lake Mountain on the west side of Utah Lake. In the pursuit of protecting rock art from destruction and vandalism, I have worked closely with the BLM, State History, and Communities. Currently, I have organized a program dedicated to the education of communities on why it’s important to protect and not vandalize rock art, with information to be used and distributed to their residents. I have also participated in many documentation projects and have been involved with the BLM on specific issues as a consulting party representing URARA. I have loved getting to know other members on our field trips and hope the day will come soon when we can resume those trips. Sharing ideas and thoughts about the rock imagery has been very educational and I hope it continues.

## **Roger Cook**

I have been a member of URARA since 2019. Although I have only been a member for a few years, I have participated in other archaeological societies most of my adult life and look forward to participating more actively in URARA. I was a member of The Oregon Archaeological Society for the years I lived in Oregon and a member of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society for many of the years I have lived in Albuquerque. My formal education and career were in electrical engineering, but I have pursued my interest in the ancient cultures and rock art over the years, taking me to many, many locations around the Southwest, including too many to count in Utah. From my first visit to the canyons of southeastern Utah, I was smitten by the land, the ancient dwellings and the rock art that they left behind. I recognize the immense cultural treasure that exists in the rock art of Utah and hope that I can do something to help the board further education and preservation.

## Board Nominees (continued)

### **Rick Mathews**

I am new to URARA. I joined in 2020. I was encouraged to throw my hat in the ring, so here I am. I am originally from Roosevelt, UT. I grew up visiting Rock Art sites with my family and attending powwows and other cultural events across Indian Country. When the pandemic hit, attending powwows was no longer an option. I returned to Rock Art and have had many wonderful experiences visiting and re-visiting sites with the added knowledge I've gained in my short time in URARA.

I freely admit I have a lot to learn about Rock Art and the cultures which created it. I am grateful for URARA's work and want to help the organization continue in its mission. Thank you for your consideration.

## **URARA On-line Presentation October 28**

### Werner Duecker

Our October Zoom presentation is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM MDT. Lawrence Loendorf, with Sacred Sites Research, Inc., will present **Recording the Rocky Ridge Site**. This presentation was planned for the now cancelled 2021 URARA Symposium and Larry was kind enough to agree to present it at our monthly Zoom get together.

The Rocky Ridge petroglyph site, near Manila, Utah, contains sixty-five panels of petroglyphs and a single panel with a pictograph. In 2020, Sacred Sites Research, Inc., working with URARA and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, sponsored a project to record the site. In the effort we learned that a group of solid pecked anthropomorphs are found with patterned body anthropomorphs, often in arrangements that include quadrupeds and evidence that suggests they are engaged in hunting activities. There are many unique and fascinating aspects to the site. In the PowerPoint presentation, Loendorf will discuss the techniques used to record the site and present the results of the project.

Lawrence Loendorf has completed archaeological research in the American western intermontane country for the past 60 years. His initial research was in Montana but through his career he has directed and completed archaeological work in all the western states except California and Oregon. For the past forty years his research has focused on recording rock art sites. A decade ago, he formed Sacred Sites Research, Inc, a non-profit company (SSR) that is dedicated to protecting and recording North American rock art sites. In the ten years since its formation, SSR and its personnel have recorded 82 rock art sites, some with more than 70 panels of petroglyphs or pictographs.



Rocky Ridge, Utah

from Loendorf

# Conservation/Preservation Report

Troy Scotter

URARA has field office coordinators who work with archeologists in each of the BLM offices in Utah. Their contributions are legion and mostly unsung. It is my greatest disappointment with the cancellation of symposium that we won't be hearing from these members who could talk about what they are doing to support the BLM field offices. See the summary C&P Area Coordinator reports on p. 8.

At the organization level a big shout out goes to Kent Williams who, while he isn't being president, has modernized the URARA site database. He has cleaned the data entries to remove duplicates and select the best site locations, and moved us from an Excel file to a full-fledged GIS SHAPE file. This database now exists as a layer within the SHPO database allowing any professional archeologist to review our dataset. If you have data you would like to contribute please let us know. SHPO also found some funding to test the database and fully document some of the sites within it. SHPO partnered with Logan Simpson, a large CRM firm and with volunteers from URARA to spend several weeks in the field revisiting sites in the database, verifying the location, and fully documenting them so that they could become part of the full-fledged SHPO database.

URARA also provided detailed comments to the BLM on the San Rafael Swell Travel Management Plan. We have a lot of concerns about this proposal. The public version of our comments can be found [here](#). We also submitted over 20 pages of site specific comments on this Travel Management Plan which are not public. We discussed the Moab version of the Travel Management Plan with Pam and Quent Baker and decided not to comment on that plan.

URARA is currently watching a proposed lease sale that includes the possibility of a parcel just outside of the Old Woman Wash Canyon.

URARA is participating in a project to provide signage and interpretation for the public visiting Nine Mile Canyon. We are really excited about a better visitor experience in the canyon. We have reviewed and commented on two early proposals on this topic.

URARA has continued to work on the URARA Short Form app that could be used by URARA members to document sites with a smart phone or tablet in the field. We are excited about this prospect but haven't seen any progress on it during 2021. Quite frankly, the new SHPO state-wide site stewardship program has moved all the attention and resources away from the URARA app. While the site stewardship program isn't a URARA specific initiative we are thrilled to see it and endorse it. We were hoping to do a site stewardship training at the symposium, but again...alas! If you live anywhere near Utah and are interested in being a site steward click [here](#).

Steve and Diana Acerson continue to meet with town councils in areas with significant rock art sites. They have been talking about the importance of rock art, economic impacts, and the importance of protection.

## Research Committee Report

Darlene Koerner

It has long been known that a large number of panels in the Uintah Basin (Utah and Western Colorado) are aligned for solar interactions and sky observations but very little research has been done to document and record these interactions. Work in the basin was started in 2019 and then came to a halt with Covid. That work is again being picked up with some detailed documentation. The Steinaker gap summer solstice is one that has now been studied in 2019 and again in 2021 with a publication of that work.

The Utah Cultural Astronomy Project (UCAP) plans on reexamining the Steinaker Summer Solstice site for potential alignments during this winter solstice. Other rock art sites with potential solstice and equinox alignments are also being planned for examination, including the "Spiral Shield" petroglyph that Clay Johnson had established as a summer solstice alignment in Dinosaur National Monument in the 1990s, which was reconfirmed by URARA member Tina Tan during the summer solstice of 2021.

Other sites with some pre examinations include: Alahandra Ferry site, Lookout Point, Brush Creek observation site, Freestone Ranch, McConkie Ranch area, McKee Springs, and Ashley Creek. With the large number of known and suspected sites in the basin, years of work are anticipated. This will include much anticipated work from the Shovel Bums.

The UCAP is also reassessing an artifact from Fremont Indian State Park dubbed the "Moonstone," as it appears to display knowledge of the 13-month Puebloan lunar cycle described in ethnography, and a ring of nineteen etchings along the top potentially reveals knowledge of the complex, nineteen-year Metonic cycle of the moon which was known to some Ancestral Puebloan peoples including the inhabitants at Chaco and Chimney Rock.

With activities starting again, there will be additional planning for scheduling for 2022 and long term. Anyone interested in being involved in research is encouraged to contact John McHugh or Darlene Koerner

## FieldTrip Committee Update

Wanda Gayle

We are working on field trips for October and November. URARA will send out a notification when registration opens for each trip. The field trip notifications will include required pandemic precautions, such as masks in close spaces, minimal carpooling, and vaccination.

We want to offer monthly field trips in 2022. Please contact me if you are interested in being a field trip leader.

# Education Committee Report

## Darlene Koerner

Because of covid, all activities were suspended for 2020 and most of the 2021 field season. Focus is currently on getting the Shovel Bums program back up and is currently in the planning stages for fall of 2021 and 2022. The education committee will look at expanding its program in 2022 to include additional opportunities beyond the Shovel Bums program and anyone with an interest in getting involved with the education committee is encouraged to get ahold of John McHugh

The Shovel Bums began meeting again on September 14th after a 18-month hiatus due to Covid. 6th grade Shovel Bums meet on Tuesdays, 7th-8th grade Shovel Bums meet on Wednesday. Focus has been on reconnecting with rudimentary concepts in archaeology, and the concept of ethnographic analogy. The older, vaccinated students will be going on a field trip to see rock art in Vernal October 1st through 3rd.

It is the goal of the Shovel Bums program to: Educate, protect, research and document. Objectives will be formulated to meet these goals through working with the research committee, documenting sites (as has been done in the past with BLM), Site Stewardship training to be scheduled with SHPO, and the main goal of the Shovel Bums program: to educate.

# C&P Area Coordinator Reports

## Diana Acerson

### BLM Moab Field Office – Pan and Quent Baker

The Moab Field Office has had several graffiti vandalism incidents recently. One local initiative to promote awareness of the problem was mounted as a cooperative venture with the Utah Humanities organization and the Moab Museum. They made a short video of an archaeologist visiting several local rock art sites with a representative of the Hopi Nation. There was also a zoom presentation and an exhibit, "Stories on Stone", which will be at the Moab museum until Oct 17.

The National Register nomination for Moab area rock art sites continues to be a priority. This paperwork has been returned to the state BLM and it is our understanding that they are working on forms to be resubmitted. We have offered any support in the office or in the field which would facilitate the process.



## Nine-Mile Canyon - Layne Miller

Getting interpretive and location signs in Nine Mile Canyon has been a push by the BLM since the first plan was introduced in 1996 but until the last year there seems to have been plenty of talk but no action. That changed recently when a Carbon County officials determined they were going to force the issue and US Congressman from Utah John Curtis, got involved.

County officials pushed the idea that they could put site location signs in their road right of way and Curtis obtained approval for the signs from Washington DC BLM office after spending the day in the canyon seeing it's importance and resources.

About a dozen sites were selected and using funding from URARA, signs were erected and rock art etiquette is now being stressed for visitors.

Also, visitors to the canyon can now download a GPS-triggered app which locates and describes several historic and prehistoric sites there. There is no need to have phone service to enjoy the app once it is downloaded from the website [travelstory.com](http://travelstory.com).

Nine Mile has seen a huge increase in visitation since the COVID pandemic began and during my recent visits there are cars parked at each site, meaning they are being used and visitors are learning how to enjoy and act around the rock art sites thanks to URARA.



## BLM West Desert Field Office – Steve Acerson

There's nothing new going on in this FO that URARA is involved with. Ongoing studies and plans are moving forward.

Trails in the Lake and Oquirrh mountains are still being planned; Five Mile Pass recreation expansion is being reviewed; SHPO is proceeding with a ground survey of the Soldier pass area for an upcoming sale.

Expanding home development is threatening more sites around Saratoga and Eagle Mountain.

URARA members helped with a ground survey, and documentation at Unity Pass. This is where a few years ago the site was fenced.

West Mountain is still being trashed and recreational shooting is destroying the images on boulders. Native American kids from the area have become active in getting the public notified about the area. Couple of months ago they did a prayer run from Spanish Fork to West Mountain. There was about 30 individuals that participated. It was a good day.

On a closing note the Smiths Conservancy in the Knolls area, across from Lake Mountain, is starting visitor tours again. You can sign up for them on their Facebook page.

## BLM Cedar City Field Office – Gina Hupka

1. URARA has helped with the documentation of the Painted Hands Site East of Milford.
2. The Beaver Bench Trail System, a collaborative project by BLM and Beaver County is in it's early stages. URARA is supplying rock art site information and assistance to help guide trail routes around rock art.
3. We are monitoring the Pine Valley Water supply project which is proposed to bring water from wells located near the Pine Valley Road between the Wah Wah Mountains and the Indian Peak Range. See: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1503915/510> for the planning documents and maps. If you know of rock art in this area, please send me a note at [utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com)

## BLM Monticello Field Office - Carol and Werner Duecker

During the past year we have worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to review Areas of Potential Impact in the Indian Creek and Cactus Park areas where the BLM is managing oil and gas leasing. We have also coordinated with Friends of Cedar Mesa and Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants on a rock art documentation project, and coordinated with FCM on other projects regarding rock art. We are continuing to monitor leasing and other activities conducted by the Monticello Field Office.

## Calendar and URARA Events

Oct 1-4	CANCELLED URARA Symposium, Vernal, Utah
Oct 8-10	CAS Annual Meeting, Montrose, CO <a href="http://www.chipetachaptercas.org">www.chipetachaptercas.org</a>
Oct 10	SDRAA Virtual Meeting: La Rumorosa Style Rock Art in Context <a href="https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings">https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings</a>
Oct 12-13	URARA Field Trip Butler Wash <a href="mailto:wgayle@sisna.com">wgayle@sisna.com</a> .
Oct 13-16	Great Basin Anthropological Conference Las Vegas <a href="https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org">https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org</a>
Oct 21	URARA Annual business meeting and election on-line, 6:00 MDT
Oct 28	URARA on-line presentation, 7:00 PM MDT, Larry Loendorf,
Oct 28-31	OSTA Conference Las Vegas <a href="https://oldspanishtrail.org">https://oldspanishtrail.org</a>
Nov 6	SDRAA Rock Art 2021 Virtual Symposium 10:00 AM PDT <a href="http://www.sdraa.org">www.sdraa.org</a>
<b>2022</b> June 10-13	ARARA Conference, Great Falls, Montana <a href="https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conf-Call-For-Papers-2022">https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conf-Call-For-Papers-2022</a> .

URARA field trips are available to members only. Vaccinations required. For information or sign-up, go to <https://urara.wildapricot.org/events>, or contact Wanda Gayle at [wgayle@sisna.com](mailto:wgayle@sisna.com). Registration will open approximately 45 days prior to the start of the field trip. At that time you may register until the set number of participants is filled; then your name will be added to the waiting list.

Dixie Archaeological Society (DAS), St George, meets on the second Wednesday of the month, Saturday field trips once a month. <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. <https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>  
Now on-line.

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) is hosting on-line events. URARA members can access for free. Registration at: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Lectures>

Utah Public Archaeology Network (UPAN). Calendar of events and monthly newsletter.  
<https://history.utah.gov/antiquities/upan>

Utah Humanities Public Events

[https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/component/com\\_calendar/Itemid,184/component\\_com\\_calendar/id,2203/view,event/](https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/component/com_calendar/Itemid,184/component_com_calendar/id,2203/view,event/)

# URARA Board and Officers

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324. [www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org).

## 2021 URARA Board and Officers

Kent Williams, President  
 Connie Bridge, Vice President  
 Carol Duecker, Treasurer  
 Nina Bowen, Secretary  
 Troy Scotter, Website Manager  
 Leigh Grench  
 Darlene Koerner  
 Wanda Gayle  
 John McHugh

## Committee Chairs and Appointees

Tribal Liaison	Carol Patterson
Historian/ Archives	Keith Fessenden
Website/ Membership	Troy Scotter
Conservation/ Preservation	Troy Scotter
Documentation	Leigh Grench
Education	John McHugh
Research	Darlene Koerner
Field Trips	Wanda Gayle
Symposium Chair	Connie Bridge
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Board Nominations	Werner Duecker

## URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		Diana Acerson
Canyon Country	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker Carol Duecker
Paria River	Kanab	Jeff Frey
Color Country	Cedar City	Gina Hupka
Color Country	St. George	Nina Bowen
Color Country	Richfield	Jeff Roberts
Green River	Vernal	Tim Sweeney Darlene Koerner
Green River	Price	Layne Miller
West Desert	Fillmore	Paula Quay
West Desert	Salt Lake	Steve Acerson

URARA Contact information - [utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com)