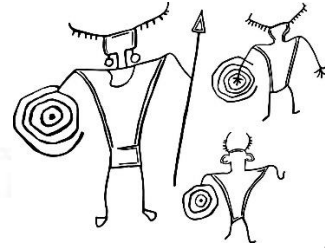


# VESTIGES



May 2023  
Volume 43  
Number 5

Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## From the Prez

Kent Williams

Hello!

As I write this, the forecast for Salt Lake City, where I live, is 87 degrees. What that means, beside instant summer, is all that water in the Wasatch Mountain snowpack, some 160% of normal this year, is going to start crashing down the canyons. There will be flooding in places, and dangerous conditions along stream. The snowpack for the mountains in most of the State this year is also well above normal.

As we get out after a long winter, travelling to see and enjoy rock art, please be careful in canyons and along streams. If a stream ford seems crossable in the morning, it might not be in the afternoon after the heat of the day has melted more snow.

And if you have internet access, tune into URARA's on-line presentation, The Great Cave Murals of Baja California, by Kirk Astroth, Thursday, May 25, 7:00 PM, MDT (abstract on p. 3). Additionally, on-line presentations are available from both the Colorado Rock Art Association and the Bears Ears Education Center. See p. 4 and Calendar on p. 12.

I hope you can get out and enjoy rock art this spring. Please do so safely and responsibly.

Kent

May 2023

## Symposium Call for Papers

Dennis Devore

The symposium committee is seeking speakers for the annual URARA symposium to be held October 5-9, 2023 in Vernal, Utah. Presentation sessions will be on Saturday October 7th and Sunday October 8th. Presenters will receive free symposium registration and an honorarium of \$100 to help defer expenses.

Proposals should have a title and brief abstract of the topic. A wide range of ideas and subjects are acceptable provided they relate to rock art in Utah and the western states.

The deadline for proposals is July 1, 2023. Please email Dennis DeVore, Symposium Coordinator, at [ddv48@mac.com](mailto:ddv48@mac.com), or send to 353 Dakota Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81507.

## Help Wanted – Funds Manager

Werner Duecker

If you love rock art (and you must since you are reading this newsletter) and are looking for ways to contribute to research and protection of rock art, then we have an opportunity for you. We need a person who is willing to help administer URARA's grantmaking process. To support our goals, URARA provides grants to individuals and organizations that reflect our mission of research, documentation, education, and protection of Utah's rock art resources. The Funds Manager's task is to coordinate the grantmaking process from the initial application through completion and recordkeeping. This includes acting as the URARA point of contact for applicants, tracking the status of applications, maintaining project records, and working with applicants to make sure that the projects have been completed and appropriately documented. As a volunteer the rewards won't be financial, but you will likely make new friends and make a significant contribution toward the protection and conservation of rock art.

If interested, please contact:

Kent Williams [willikb15@gmail.com](mailto:willikb15@gmail.com)  
or Werner Duecker [wdwck.wd@gmail.com](mailto:wdwck.wd@gmail.com)

# URARA May On-line Presentation

Kirk Astroth

## The Great Cave Murals of Baja California

Hidden in the sierras of Baja California, in some of the most forbidding terrain, are thousands of brilliantly painted images and deeply etched petroglyphs that have survived for centuries in remote caves and shelters. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993, there are more than 80 caves with layers of pictographs and numerous petroglyphs – many off limits to tourists or just too hard to get to. In March 2022, I was able to participate in a rigorous mule trip into these canyons and arroyos to see a small fraction of these ancient images. Guided by local *vaqueros*, riding mules, and accompanied by 12 burros who carried all our gear, we stayed near ranchos down in three canyons where local *Californios* live in some of the most remote locations. This presentation will highlight portions of this incredible 20+ kilometer trip with a total elevation gain & loss of 10,000 feet, to see amazing pictographs that the Mexican archaeological bureau (INAH) dates to be more than 10,000 year old. In addition, you will learn about some of the ranch families who still live near the caves and how they survive in this challenging environment. Most people will not be able to visit these caves to see these amazing images, so this virtual field trip will give you the opportunity to see pictographs that are larger-than-life and include whales, turtles, manta rays, fish, eagles, deer, bighorns and giant people – more than 7-8 feet tall painted on cave ceilings and walls.

When: 25 May 2023 7:00 PM, MDT

Where: Zoom online presentation

Watch for your email invitation or go to the URARA website to register.



## CRAA May On-line Presentation

### **Benjamin Bellorado Sandals and Sandal Symbolism in Greater Bears Ears and Beyond**

Join Colorado Rock Art Association for the May Webinar presented by Benjamin A. Bellorado, PhD, RPA, Laboratory Director, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

DATE: May 8

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Via Zoom (Link below)

Webinar Synopsis: Studies of dressing practices can tell us a lot about how ancient societies marked territories, signaled group affiliations, and reinforced social structures across long-lived social landscapes. Research into archaeological clothing is infrequent because perishable materials like clothing rarely survive the ravages of time, even in the arid southwest. However, of all the types of garments used by Ancestral Pueblo people, thousands of yucca sandals have preserved, were recovered by archaeologists, and are available for study. In addition, Ancestral Pueblo people in the greater Bears Ears area and larger region commonly depicted sandals in rock art, building murals, stone effigies, and occasionally in pottery designs, which allows us to understand the social context of sandal use. In this presentation, I discuss my recent research that draws upon cross-media and ethnographic studies, field- and museum collections-based investigations, and a variety of chronometric assessments (including dendrochronology and radiocarbon dating) of sandals and their images. Using these methods, I discuss how archaeologists can begin to understand the ways that sandals functioned in Ancestral Pueblo communities in the greater Bears Ears area, particularly during the expansion of the Chaco regional system (AD 1000–1150) and in the post-Chaco era (A.D. 1150–1300). I'll be talking about a few sites in Colorado, though there are only a few with sandal rock art. Most of the imagery is in Utah and New Mexico but some of the actual sandals come from Colorado!

[ZOOM LINK FOR WEBINAR](#)

## Bears Ears Education Center On line Presentations

### **Carol Patterson**

The Bears Ears Education Center is having some interesting zoom lectures, open to the public. I'm giving one on May 20th on the petroglyphs of ritual runners, and Kenny Winch is following up the next weekend with a presentation of the LiDar research that has revealed the dozens of runner roads that link up this region. <https://bears Partnership.org/get-involved/events>

## Dry Fork-Ashley Creek Rescheduled

Darlene Koerner

After having cancelled the Dry Fork-Ashley Creek documentation project in April due to weather, it is now rescheduled for June 8,9,10,11. Training will be Thursday morning by David Christensen from the Vernal Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. Thursday afternoon, Friday and Saturday will be documenting and Sunday a day of field trips. If you're interested please Contact Darlene Koerner at 435-828-2299 or [timdar@ubtanet.com](mailto:timdar@ubtanet.com)

## Brush Creek, Island Park Road Report

Darlene Koerner



After having to move around planned documentation events due to weather, we were finally able to complete the Brush Creek project.

This only added more sites that will need to be recorded in the future, but it was a good event with good weather and a very good BLM archaeologist, Dave Christensen, who had all the patience in the world. Eight people total took part in this project and we are expecting to continue documentation in the area.

The BLM has large areas of unsurveyed land and URARA is trying to help them add to their data base and know more about what is in areas where projects are being proposed. A fracking proposal in the vicinity of Brush Creek prompted the survey and a closer look at the area.

There is another planned documentation project in Ashley Dry Fork in the Uintah Basin June 8,9,10 & 11. If you are interested contact Darlene Koerner at [timdar@ubtanet.com](mailto:timdar@ubtanet.com) or 435-828-2299

# SFAP Trip Report

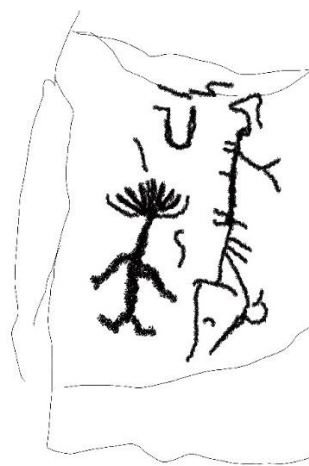
Carol Patterson

The Smith Family Archaeological Preserve was established in 2013 as the result of a generous land donation by the Adelbert Smith Family Trust. The 196-acre preserve protects more than 200 prehistoric petroglyphs and multiple features in an effort to educate and inspire the local community and others through preserving the region’s prehistoric past. Their web site is <https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/smithfamilypreserve/>

The rock art at SFAP was created over thousands of years and during multiple occupations from as long ago as 13,000 BCE. Under a cultural resource management plan established for the SFAP, the Archaeological Conservancy pledges to first protect cultural resources for future generations and second, educate the local community and others about the prehistoric heritage of the region. We met at the Hutchings Museum in Lehi and viewed their collection of Fremont artifacts. We were then taken out to the site, where our guide met us and guided us up the trails.



Many interesting panels are located on the rocky outcrops to the north and to the south in the distance. A distinct petroglyph of a figure with a feathered headdress that is similar to other Fremont ‘flicker feather headdress’ motifs are found in the Uintah Basin.

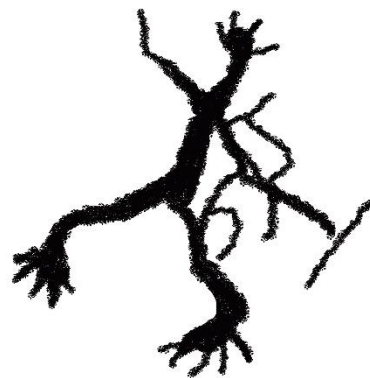




The graphics on many boulders are striking and this one has a variety of circular and wavy lines, and a full-bodied human figure seemingly inverted or ‘going down’ interpreted as death in some contexts.

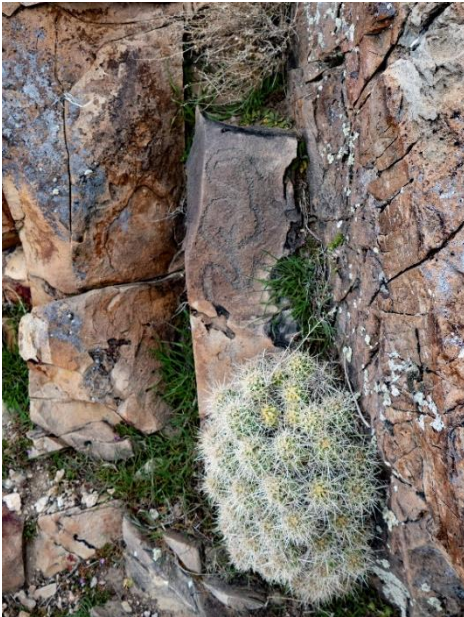
But what I found even more interesting were the clumps of Claret cactus positioned alongside these panels, as if somehow, they are part of the context.

This boulder has a Claret hugging the side of this boulder while the figure with large feet looks as though his feet are vulnerable to the thorns of the cactus sitting there.





This non-figurative panel is subtle and close to the ground. There was no sign of a Claret nearby.



But in a crevas, tucked away is a sweet, very old glyph positioned just out of reach of a Claret cactus (this photo is upright). To me, the image is of a figure with 'plant' like ears, squating, the same way the Clarets seem to squat on the outcrops. It is moving its arms up and around its head the way the beautiful red flower that dazzles us all, will soon burst forth and fill the air with its visual radiance and its sentuious aroma.







In many places, the rock images are subtle, but may convey more information if viewed in three dimensions. The ridge of the rock has been incorporated into the image, showing lines from one side crossing over to the other side. Directly across in the distance is a similar ridge the shape of this rock. One could speculate a series of game animal trails or water courses, or something of importance.



Thank you to Gaye Rudolph for organizing this tour with URARA and our guide, Emily Cebrowski and site steward, Rick Matthews who showed us what a special place this is.

Gaye Rudolph [chrisgaler@digis.net](mailto:chrisgaler@digis.net)

Rick Matthews [rickmathews2005@yahoo.dk](mailto:rickmathews2005@yahoo.dk)

Emily Cebrowski [emily.cebrowski@gmail.com](mailto:emily.cebrowski@gmail.com)  
[a.smith.conservancy@gmail.com](mailto:a.smith.conservancy@gmail.com)

# Shovel Bums Return to Stewardship

John McHugh

After being snowed or rained out for two Fridays in a row, wonderful spring weather has finally allowed the Blessed Sacrament School “Shovel Bums” archaeology club to resume stewardship duties. On April 28<sup>th</sup> twenty-one Shovel Bums from 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade visited two archaeological sites chock full of prehistoric Native American rock art. The students used pin flags to locate the rock art and define the archaeological site.

The first site the Shovel Bums stewarded, near the *Smith Archaeological Preserve*, is extremely close to Utah Lake. And students made some inferences as to how the Ancients People were using the site. Several pupils remembered the two “Net” petroglyphs at the nearby *Smith Archaeological Preserve*, and speculated that it may have been a fishing site. Their supervisor, Mr. John McHugh, noted that one of the petroglyphs may bear a solar alignment with the equinox sunrise and sunset – which could transform into a wonderful science fair project. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Shovel Bum, Nomar Santana, a lover of astronomy, took Mr. McHugh up on his offer and vowed to make this petroglyph his 2023-24 Science Fair project.



The Shovel Bums admire and steward an ancient rock art panel near Utah Lake.

The second stop was near Soldier Pass Road. There, the Shovel Bums found themselves astonished by the vast number of bullet-shell casings and trash objects that were set up as targets in proximity to the vulnerable rock art. The children were shocked to see all of this target shooting going on even though there are signs that read: “No Target Shooting!” Many of the students hoped their presence in florescent vests would remind the target shooters that this area is *off-limits*, which would deter further shooting of the rock art.

The highlight of the second stop was a remarkable, fully repatinated image of what appears to be a “Sunburst and Spiral.” Compass bearings showed that the image faces directly north-south. In class, the Shovel Bums have learned that repatination of a petroglyph is a handy indicator of relative age. Many of the students speculated that this fully repatinated image was so old that the artist may have also been an eyewitness to a mammoth, mastodon, or other megafauna. We wonder.



5<sup>th</sup> Grade Shovel Bum, Will Gherardi, was the first to rediscover and pin flag this fully repatinated “Sunburst-Spiral” petroglyph near Soldier Pass Road.

# Kanab Area Field Trip Report

**Brian Storm**

We had many cancellations but ended up with seven people on Friday's trip to sites on the Kanab Field Office and six people on Saturday's trip to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) sites. I won't speak for anyone else, but I had an enjoyable time and found the small group to my liking. Apologies for the lack of storytelling and showy writing but had to get this written up last minute for newsletter submittal. Additionally, I did not take any photographs on Saturday, mainly because I tend to store outdoorsy things in my mind rather than on technology. Anyways, future field trips will happen.

On Friday, Diana, Steve, Jeff, Margo, Peter, and new BLM district fuels archaeologist Debra McCarthy hiked the 2.5-mile trail to Mansard Alcove; a public use site listed in Kanab's Resource Management Plan. The alcove contains an impressive array of petroglyphs placed the sloped surface of the alcove. No cultural deposits or artifacts recognizable by archaeologists have been found in the alcove. The site appears to be solely devoted to place and the imagery it contains. Originally, suggested dates for the site range during the agricultural period (I've seen 0-1250, as well as more narrow Pueblo II period, 950-1150). I am not sure where these dates came from, but they were likely suggested when most of the site was still buried under blow sand. The site has seen increased visitation since a trail was constructed in 2015/2016; This has resulted in increased erosion exposing roughly 1.5 meters of the panel over the past seven years. Currently, based on repatination there are at least three distinct periods of petroglyphs, suggesting the site is older than previously thought (more on that at a symposium coming soon). In an attempt to curb erosion, vandalism, and walking/sitting on culturally significant surfaces, I placed a register box with some interpretation in summer of 2022. After this visit, we ventured to one other site before calling it a day.

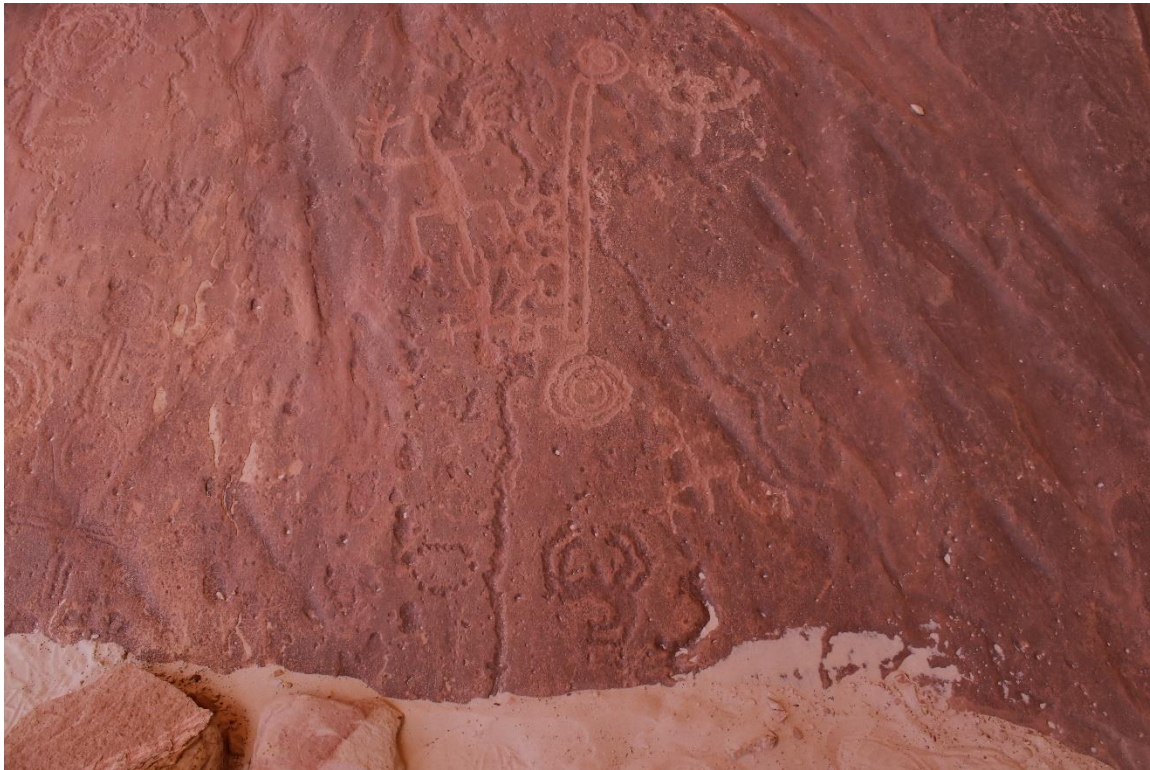
On Saturday, we were joined by BLM Archaeologist Sandra Zarzycka. The group consisted of Emery, Jeff, Margo, and Peter. We headed east out to Catstair Canyon, a site that'll be listed on GSENM as a public use site in their new Resource Management Plan. After spending the morning at Catstair the group traveled to another area on the Monument and visited several additional sites.



Mansard Alcove, photo by Debra McCarthy



Mansard Alcove panel with "slides" and petroglyphs, photo by Debra McCarthy.



Example of Petroglyphs at Mansard Alcove, photo by Brian Storm



Group at Mansard Alcove, photo by Debra McCarthy

## Calendar and URARA Events

May 8	CRAA Webinar, Sandals and sandal symbolism, Bears Ears Registration open
May 13	URARA Field Trip Comb Ridge, Registration open
May 20	BEEC Webinar, Carol Patterson, petroglyphs of ritual runners <a href="https://bearsarspartnership.org/get-involved/events">https://bearsarspartnership.org/get-involved/events</a>
May 25	URARA Webinar, The Great Cave Murals of Baja California <a href="https://urara.wildapricot.org/members">https://urara.wildapricot.org/members</a>
May 27	BEEC Webinar, Kenny Wintch, runner's roads in the "lands between" <a href="https://bearsarspartnership.org/get-involved/events">https://bearsarspartnership.org/get-involved/events</a>
June 8-11	URARA Resheduled Dry Fork Ashley Creek Documentation
June 9	SHPO Preservation Conference, <a href="https://ushpo.utah.gov/conference/">https://ushpo.utah.gov/conference/</a>
July 18	Quarterly Board Meeting 6:00 to 7:00PM Zoom
July TBD	Summer Picnic
October 5-9	URARA Annual Symposium, Price, Utah
October 8	Quarterly Board Meeting and Members Meeting (at Symposium)
October 18-21	GBAC Bend, Oregon, <a href="https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/">https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/</a>
December TBD	Christmas dinner (s)

URARA symposia and field trips are available to members only. Vaccination is strongly encouraged. All members receive an email notification when a field trip opens for registration. Notifications go out between 45 and 14 days before a trip. You can register for a field trip when you get the notification. If a trip is full when you try to register, your name is added to a wait list. You will get another notification if and when someone drops out and you can be added to the trip.

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

Desert 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.

Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) will continue to present occasional webinars on Zoom <https://coloradorockart.org/>

Utah Humanities Public Events, <https://utahhumanities.org/index.php> > Events

# URARA Board and Officers

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

[www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org) . Contact information - [utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com)

## 2023 URARA Board and Officers

President	Kent Williams
Vice President	Diana Acerson
Treasurer	Carol Duecker
Secretary	Roger Cook
	Darlene Koerner
	John McHugh
	Rick Matthews
	Nina Bowen
	Keith Fessenden

## Committee Chairs and Appointees

Tribal Liaison	Carol Patterson
Historian/ Archives	Keith Fessenden
Website	Troy Scotter
Membership Coordinator	Deb Mitchell
Funds Manager	Carol Duecker
Conservation/Preservation	Werner Duecker
Documentation/Research	Darlene Koerner
Education	John McHugh
Field Trips	Steve Acerson
Symposium Chair	Diana Acerson
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Nominations/Governance	Werner Duecker

## URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		Werner Duecker
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	Steve Acerson
West Desert	Salt Lake	Don & Adele Leavitt