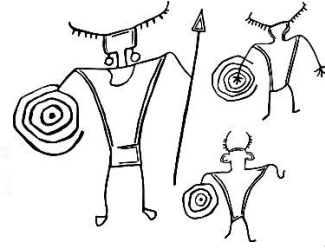


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Kent Williams

Hello,

Since our annual Symposiums are important to many of you, I would like to share the results of the survey we conducted recently to see if we met your expectations, and find out where we need to make any adjustments in the future.

In general terms almost 95% of those who responded were either satisfied or very satisfied with the Symposium overall, 89% were satisfied or very satisfied with the speakers, 90% were satisfied or very satisfied with the field trips, and 97% were satisfied or very satisfied with the venue. While that's very good news, there's more in the details. We received a lot of individual comments on some of the questions that reflected the general satisfaction of the event, but also contained constructive feedback. That feedback was anonymous as were all the responses, but very helpful. It's too much to address point by point here, but you all are welcome to view the result on the URARA web site at this location:

<https://urara.wildapricot.org/Conf-Survey-2023/>

And a round of applause to Diana Acerson and her team for a superbly organized event!

Kent

November 2023

2023 Symposium Review

Troy Scotter

Well, symposium has come and gone. And, once again, it was a great success. USU Eastern was a wonderful host. Our large meeting room worked well and we had a variety of classrooms that served us for workshops, auction items, and meeting spaces. It didn't rain, the weather was perfect, and the field trips were a delight.

Five workshops got us started for those who chose to arrive a day early. Once the symposium proper started, we had a variety of presentations that filled two days of our time and



both entertained and educated us. Layne Miller, who was our official representative from the City of Price was looking dapper during his welcome. Jerry Spangler and Kevin Jones were our keynote speakers and provided a nice perspective from the view point of professional archeologists. We had BLM archeologists, a SHPO archeologist, a couple of BLM law enforcement officers (to tame some of the unruly minions in the crowd), and a ton of members who presented on a wide variety of topics. Would you like to know how to differentiate between a wolf and a dog in rock art? You had to be there to learn the secret of the tail.

There were lots of vendors and if you couldn't find what you needed from them the auction room was filled with a broad array of items.

To fill out our time after the banquet we enjoyed awards and an auction. A large number of people were recognized during the awards ceremony. The awards have become known as the "Oscars" since Oscar Olson is our Master of Ceremonies. Ironically, Oscar himself won an "Oscar" a result which perhaps requires some investigation from those BLM law enforcement officers. But it was a wonderful gesture to a member who has given so much to URARA.



We also enjoyed two days of field trips. Over those two days members had the opportunity to visit 220 rock art sites spread throughout the San Rafael Swell. It's a massive amount of work to organize that large an endeavor and we appreciate the many field trip leaders, organizers, and the people who got approval for us to visit the sites.

Thank you to all of you who came and enjoyed the symposium. It was a pleasure to see you. We look forward to getting together next year in Beaver, UT, the home of cheese curds, the best water in the world, and the Acersons.



Bob Crifasi

Rochester Creek

Thank you all for a Successful Symposium

Diana Acerson

We all made it happen together and as the Chair for the symposium this year, I pay tribute to all of you for the help you were willing to give in every way that you were able. It could not have happened without you doing all that you did. Thank you for working together to solve problems and for communicating issues we needed to take care of.

So hats off to all of you! Especially:

- Dennis DeVore - Recruiting the presenters, putting the presentations together, abstracts, agenda, and picking up the watermelon for the social, putting together the tribute to Jan Gorski and Paula Reynosa during lunch breaks, and helping with Plan B if there was a government shutdown
- Layne Miller - Getting us such a nice venue (for the right price!) with great people to work with who provided a wonderful banquet, snacks, and lunches. Getting the venue for the field trip orientation Thursday night, and for taking care of the publicity for the event
- Troy Scotter - Making sure the presentations went off without a hitch at the venue and was able to adapt to the microphone issue. And for being such a good sport about the website problems that crept up now and then. Getting all the information out to members, and correcting and updating information where needed.
- Connie Bridge - Managing the audience microphone and helped where needed with a big smile
- Keith Fessenden - Managing everything to do with the operations of the auctions and vendors from set up and drop off, to loading up. and creating and managing the free drawing during the presentation days
- Pat Sullivan - Dedicating all her time to helping Keith with collecting and marking the auction items, tracking bids and auction purchases
- Deb and John Mitchell - Assisting with the auctions and wherever needed
- Tina Tan and Bob Crifasi - Assisting with the silent auction and where needed
- Carol Duecker - Working with me on how to keep track of banquet orders and dealing with the registration money issues, working with Troy to untangle the website registration issues. Handling all the monies at the venue, the auctions, and sales, and of course taking care of the bills
- Betty and Lynn Benson - Designing, ordering, picking up, and distributing the T-Shirts at the venue
- Robert Van Orden - Organizing and managing the watermelon social, and assisting wherever needed
- Christina Meyers - Assisting Robert with the watermelon social and helping anywhere needed

- Don & Adele Leavitt- Helping Robert with the watermelon social
- Tim Riley - Giving us permission to use the museum parking lot for the watermelon social and field trip group gatherings. Also for his well attended museum tour and really interesting presentation after the social.
- Ben Everitt - for getting all the announcements in Vestiges that we needed when we needed them, and for his input on questions I had
- Steve Acerson - For putting all the field trips together and getting the permissions needed from the BLM and landowners, and entertaining everyone as auctioneer during the live auction
- Kent Williams - Assisting Steve with putting the field trips together, welcoming the group, helping with the live auction, and more importantly approving needed expenditures where necessary - (kind of like the father of the bride whose job is to "shut-up, pay the bills, and look important! :-))
- Werner Ducker - Putting the Conservation Program together, helping with Plan B in case of government shutdown
- Bill Hirt - Putting together the awards for the "Oscars"
- Oscar Olson - Photography during the event and presenting the Oscars
- Wanda Gale - Backup for Oscar doing photography for the event, and helping where needed
- DeLoy Norton - Managing the free refillable water bottles and helping at the registration area where needed
- Darlene Koerner - Getting the "Oscar" for Oscar made, being my backup in case I had to bail for Nevada
- Margo Mahoney - Making all the name tags and keeping track of who got what banquets and lunches, and for assisting Carol with the auction payment collections
- Elaine Holmes - Helped wherever needed at the registration area, and greeted folks, passing out information
- Ann McConnell - Helped wherever needed in the registration area, greeted folks and passed out information
- Diana: Worked with the venue staff on the catering and set up of needed items for the event, lined up the great help that you all were, organized the workshops, managed information out to all of you, set dates and times, managed existing inventory and information for the registration desk (shirts, cups, handouts, etc.), took care of final details, and hopefully helped you when you needed it. I can't remember it all, but let's say I had a 4 page "To Do" list.

It does take a village. A great team of about 30 people made it happen.

Thank you! Thank you!

On to Beaver, UT October 10 - 14, 2024..... :-)

Field Trip Descriptions and Abilities

Steve Acerson

The URARA symposium just completed has dramatically increased my appreciation for the amount of work Joe Brame has done in previous years preparing and organizing field trips for these events.

Working with managing agency's to get approval. Getting members to volunteer to lead the field trips. Preparing maps so everyone can get to the sites and enjoy the images. Going to the area to determine route conditions, and then contacting County Road crews to see if conditions can be addressed. Looking at weather reports and predictions for weeks prior to the event for possible conditions that would change. Doing pre-trips with FT leaders to familiarize them with their trips. All of these are time consuming but achievable.

The most difficult part of this part of Symposium is?

WRITING DISCRPTIONS OF A FIELD TRIPS FOR A MEMBERSHIP OF DIVERSE ABILITIES.

Knowledge and information shared for past field trips has, or should have, included:

- Members should be prepared for all types of terrain.
- Rock art sites are not easy to get to. (Sometimes difficult/scary)
- Distances are always farther than you thought. (Especially if Steve says it's only a little ways)
- Rocks and obstacles can move when you don't expect them to.
- What is the definition of flat, talus slope, creek bed, elevation gain, (always steeper), time to walk a mile, (how far is a mile exactly), just to mention a few.
- Then the BIG one..... How to judge participants' abilities.

Symposium field trips were planned so there was a variety of locations that all members who wanted to see sites could select places that match their abilities. If there were questions about locations, members contacted me or the field trip leaders and hopefully got the answers that helped them make decisions about attending. I'll admit some of the site descriptions might have been borrowed from past visits, but I wrote them trying to consider all members.

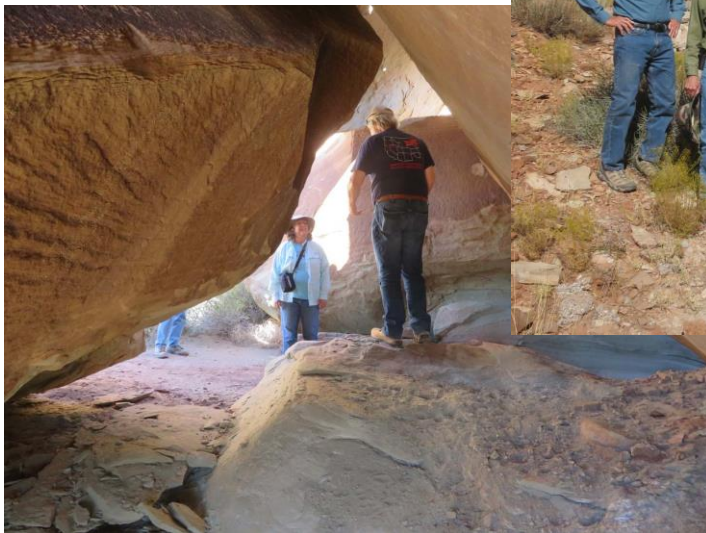
I have tried to write accurate descriptions, hoping members would compare their abilities with the landscape, and decide if they could keep up with the group and avoid injury. It is important to reduce the risk of not completing a trip due to injury or an individual overestimation of ability. In a world of rocks, brush, and rattlesnakes, it is also important to keep the group together.

Reading the comments from the Symposium survey has led me to evaluate the process of describing field trips. There is opportunity for more discussion on the topic. And remember, this is an all-volunteer organization. Our leaders are not trained drill sergeants, but they do have experience leading trips into rugged country, and many have first aid training.

Descriptions and Abilities (continued -)

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO SERIUOSLY DETERMINE THEIR CURRENT ABILITIES, NOT WHAT THEY USE TO BE ABLE TO DO, BUT WHAT THEIR CURRENT PHYSICAL CONDITION IS AND WHAT EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON THE OTHER MEMBERS ON THE FIELD TRIP.

Our love and passion for rock art should never endanger others or ourselves. We all want to be in this picture....Enjoying friends and images of those who walked before us!



Field Trip M 12 on the rocks - Leavitt

URARA Holiday Gatherings

St George - Friday December 8 - Nina Bowen

December 8 will be the date for the Southern Utah contingent of URARA to gather and celebrate the season with a potluck dinner. Nina Bowen will host the party at her home; 1091 North Ruby Place Washington, from 6:00 until you go home. BYOB and bring your favorite potluck dish to share.

Salt Lake - Monday December 4 - T Okubo

Salt Lake Holiday Party

MON. DEC. 4, 2023
SOCIAL HOUR 5-6 PM
POT-LIUCK DINNER TO FOLLOW

SANDY BICENTENNIAL PAVILION
530 EAST 8680 SOUTH
SANDY, UTAH

Please rsvp by email to Tami @ tjukubosun.av@gmail.com or
cell 801-485-8540 (food assignments will be given)

Greetings ISLAND

Salt Lake Holiday Party

2024 Symposium in Beaver

Diana Acerson

Hey Early birds! If you haven't had enough of Symposium - this is for you.

When you are making your plans for next year, mark the dates - October 10-14, Beaver, Utah - URARA's 2024 Symposium. Yes, a small town in south central Utah along interstate 15, with a big welcoming heart, and most important - lots of rock art in the area. Including the amazing Parowan Gap and Fremont State Park. You'll also be able to visit other surprising petroglyphs and pictographs when you sign up for the many field trips that will be available.



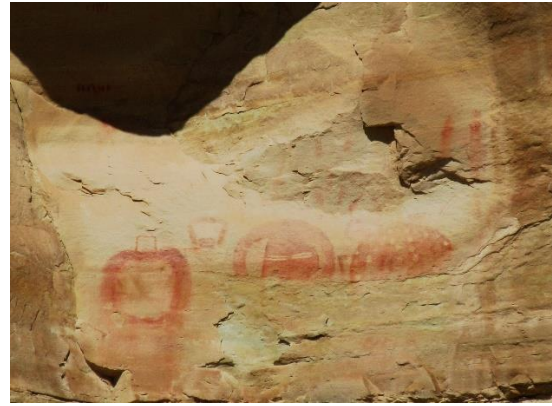
Don't miss this event next year. We will be updating beginning in January with travel information so you can book your stay well in advance. Stay tuned and prepare for a wonderful symposium in Beaver, Utah.

Symposium and Banquet

Wanda Gayle, Diana Acerson, Ben Everitt



Sid&Charlie



(From R) Steve Waller, Francois Gohier, Lynn Benson and Betty Benson contemplate the meaning of a rock art panel in "the notch" near Broken-Hearted Man. Photo: Wanda Gayle

Shovel Bums Close Out Field Season

John McHugh

On October 6th the Blessed Sacrament School archaeology club, the Shovel Bums, concluded their field season with a trip to the Smith Archaeological Preserve, located south of Saratoga Springs. The field trip included a whole new batch of rock art stewards, many in 3rd and 4th grade.

The Shovel Bums hiked around at the Smith Preserve, touring the rock art with the supervisor, John McHugh, serving as a guide. Mr. McHugh reminded the students that the Shovel Bums were responsible for re-cataloging fifty-seven of the petroglyphs at the Preserve 2018-2020, and that previous Shovel Bum spokespersons (Emma Manross and Daniela Medellin) presented *Stewarding Rock Art at the Smith Archaeological Preserve: a Middle Schoolers Perspective*, at the 2019 URARA Symposium.



6th grade Shovel Bum, Isabeau Martin, points out an intriguing petroglyph at the south knoll of the Smith Archaeological Preserve.

One of the most exciting experiences of the day is when 4th grader Zach Julian rediscovered a petroglyph that does not appear to be on the earlier surveys done by URARA's Steve Manning circa 2010, and later by Elizabeth Horan and SHPO. Probably the most intriguing panel was the petroglyph that looked like a "fish net," an image that suggested to many of the Shovel Bums that this site was utilized as a temporarily fishing spot along Utah Lake, which is only yards away.

The field trip was a wonderful climax to a successful 2023 season of stewardship, and the Shovel Bums look forward to preserving, protecting, enjoying, and learning about rock art in future encounters during the Spring 2024 field season!

Rock Imagery in the News

Malaysian Cave Drawings Reflect Colonial-Era Conflicts, Smithsonian Magazine, 30 August 2023

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/these-malaysian-rock-drawings-depict-a-violent-history-180982814>

Animal tracks and human footprints in prehistoric hunter-gatherer rock art of the Doro! nawas mountains (Namibia), analysed by present-day indigenous tracking experts Plos One 13 Sep 2023

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0289560>

Archaeologists Discover More Than 100 Ancient Drawings in a Spanish Cave Smithsonian 14 Sep 2023

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-discover-more-than-100-ancient-drawings-in-spanish-cave-180982898/>

Stone Age Engravings of Animal Tracks Reveal New Details in Namibia Smithsonian Magazine 19 Sep 2023

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/stone-age-engravings-of-animal-tracks-reveal-new-details-in-namibia-180982913/>

Drought Exposes Ancient Rock Carvings in Brazil Smithsonian Magazine 27 October 2023

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/severe-drought-in-the-amazon-reveals-ancient-face-carvings-180983143/>



Calendar and URARA Events

November 4	San Diego Rock Art Virtual Symposium https://www.sandiegorockart.org/symposium.html
December 4	URARA Holiday Gathering Salt Lake, Sandy Bicentennial Pavilion
December 8	URARA Holiday Gathering St George

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/>
Meetings will resume in September

San Diego Rock Art Association (SDRAA) meets on line until further notice.
<https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>

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



Auction action



Ben Everitt

URARA Board and Officers

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

www.utahrockart.org . Contact information - 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	Ann Norman
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