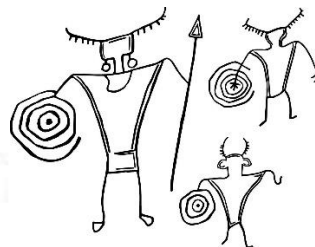


VESTIGES



December 2023
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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Kent Williams

I'm very pleased to announce the election of our new President and Vice President. Diana Acerson has graciously accepted the Board's nomination as President and Pat Sullivan has accepted the nomination for Vice President. We are very fortunate to have both Diana and Pat in these positions.

Diana has contributed countless selfless hours to support URARA's mission. As past Vice President, she most recently headed up this year's Symposium in Price. In no particular order in terms of impact, Diane and her husband Steve have initiated and continue to manage an anti-vandalism campaign, forged lasting relationships with our friends at Federal and State agencies who are responsible for protecting rock art, and started the network of URARA coordinators who work with BLM Field Offices on local conservation efforts. The list goes on and will continue to go on with Diana taking a direct leadership role.

Pat Sullivan also has contributed a great deal to URARA. She has been a fixture at Symposiums helping wherever needed, so she's a natural for running next year's symposium in Beaver. I think she single handedly funds URARA's operations through the auction of her amazing quilts. Hopefully she will continue to do that in addition to her new responsibilities. Pat had a career in a county recorders office in Nevada, so she will bring a sense of order to her new position. Not that we didn't have that in the past, but just good to know it will continue.

Just for your awareness, URARA officers consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer form the URARA Executive Committee, and are nominated and elected to their positions by the URARA Board of Directors for 1-year terms, up to term limits. This year's election was held at a virtual Board Meeting on November 14th. Carol Duecker, and Roger Cook, URARA Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, were also nominated and elected for another 1-year term. Carol and Roger have been doing great work in their positions, and together with Diana and Pat, URARA will be in good hands.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and Solstice season. You all should have received an email invite to your local holiday gathering. Kent

URARA Board Meeting Minutes Q4

Roger Cook

October 8, 2023, Price Symposium,
Kent Williams, President, conducting
Board members attending:

Diana Acerson- Vice President, Carol Duecker - Treasurer, Roger Cook - Secretary, Darlene Koerner, Keith Fessenden, Nina Bowen, Rick Matthews, John McHugh, Werner Duecker - past President (non-voting board member)

A quorum of 5 or more board members was present.

Committee Chairs and Appointees attending:
Steve Acerson, Field Trips

Action Items Review and Update - Roger Cook

The open action items were reviewed. An updated Action Item Tracker will be distributed to the board members.

Fiscal Report - Carol Duecker

The primary topic of discussion was in regard to updating URARA's financial policies to make it clearer what our policies are, especially in regards to grants and reimbursement and to make sure we didn't have any legal exposure. The intent is to go through the entire policy and make sure we don't have any exposure from a legal perspective to how we are doing business. Carol had sent out three proposals for us to consider before the meeting.

Proposal 1: The EC has identified the need to update URARA's financial policies. A number of areas requiring clarification, including reimbursement policies, funding policies, and conflict of interest policies. Policies identified as needing immediate attention are conflict of interest and grantmaking, both of which expose URARA to legal risk.

The EC is asking the board to approve the preparation of an updated financial policy. We propose that preparing an updated financial policy draft will be organized by the URARA Treasurer and address, at least initially, the topics listed in the attached draft outline.

Vote to accept Proposal 1: Approved by the Board

Minutes Q4 (Continued--)

Proposal 2 (contingent on approval of proposal 1): [Note that the language was modified slightly in the board meeting to the following]

Based on discussions with a URARA member and a pro-bono discussion with attorney Brent Andrewson of Holland and Hart, the EC recommends that all of a to-be-prepared draft financial policy be reviewed by an attorney.

Vote to approve a legal review (attorney review) of draft URARA financial policies following board approval of the new draft financial policy.

Approved by the Board.

Proposal 3:

The EC is asking the board to approve renewing URARA's membership in the Utah Nonprofits Association. The Utah Nonprofits Association provides information and assistance to nonprofit organizations. URARA has had a membership that is now lapsed.

Vote to approve renewing URARA membership in the Utah Nonprofits Alliance.

Approved by the Board.

Action Item: Carol Duecker will take the lead on rewriting the URARA Financial Policies and send those to the board for feedback. Ideally this will be completed before the face-to-face board meeting in January so we can have a fuller discussion on any topics needing discussion at that time.

Other Items

Grant, Conservation and Field Trip Updates were tabled as they were moved to the membership meeting.

Diana updated us on the status of the Christmas Party Coordinators. Tami Okubo will be the coordinator for the Salt Lake City area. Nina Bowen will be the coordinator for St. George.

Kent and Werner informed the Board that Tina Tan and Pat Sullivan would be the two nominees for open board positions at the upcoming Member's Meeting. Darlene Koerner and Diana Acerson will be going off the Board at the end of the year: Darlene due to being a board member for 6 year and being term limited; Diana for personal reasons.

URARA Board Meeting Minutes Q4 1/2

Roger Cook

Nov 14, 2023

Kent Williams, President, conducting Board members attending:

Diana Acerson – Vice President, Carol Duecker – Treasurer, Roger Cook – Secretary, Keith Fessenden, Nina Bowen, Rick Matthews, John McHugh, Pat Sullivan (2024 board member), Tina Tan (2024 board member), Werner Duecker – past President (non-voting board member)

Board members not in attendance: Darlene Koerner

A quorum of 5 or more board members were present.

Committee Chairs and Appointees attending:

Steve Acerson, Field Trips; Troy Scotter - webmaster

AGENDA ITEMS

Election of new Officers

- After quite a bit of discussion, the following slate was put forward for the 2024 URARA officers
 - Diana Acerson – President
 - Pat Sullivan – Vice President
 - Carol Duecker – Treasurer
 - Roger Cook – Secretary
- **A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of officers as listed above.**
 - The motion passed

January face-to-face Board Meeting Planning

Several items were suggested as possible topics for the upcoming face-to-face board meeting. Following is a partial list of the suggested topics:

- Deep dive into Financial Policy rewrite
- Update on Moab nomination
- Financial report on 2023 Symposium
- Update on grants
- Status of solicitation permit
- Planning for 2024 Symposium in Beaver

Action Item: All board members are requested to send topics for the face-to-face board meeting to Diana.

Minutes Q4 1/2 (Continued --)

Open Items

- **A motion was made and seconded to nominate Kent Williams as the new chair of the Conservation Committee.**
 - The motion was approved
- Pat Sullivan has agreed to be the new Grants Manager
- Kent will resend the dates and location for the January face-to-face meeting
 - Dates: January 20-21
 - Location: 451 Williams Way, Moab, Utah
- Planning for URARA Christmas parties in SLC, St. George & Moab are in full swing
- Tina Tan has agreed to assist Steve Acerson in regard to the Field Trip Committee this coming year
 - Kent said he would lead a field trip to Horseshoe Canyon
 - John said he would try to offer a trip on the summer solstice
 - Troy suggest a special field trip to Beaver for site recording and training on the URARA site information collection app.
- 2024 Symposium dates are Oct 10-14 in Beaver, UT
- Need for an attorney to file for a non-profit solicitation permit
 - Carol has discovered that we are not in compliance with a Utah law in regards to needing a solicitation permit from the state and is taking the appropriate steps to get us into compliance.
 - She found an attorney who works with Utah non-profits through the Utah Non-Profit Assn. that we are a member of.
 - Carol, Kent and Diana met with the attorney, Aaron Garrett recently and the proposal is for Mr. Garrett to file the permit request on our behalf and deal with any potential fines we might get from the state (not very likely but possible).
 - **A motion was made and seconded to approve the cost (~\$200) for Aaron Garret to file the solicitation permit for URARA.**
 - The motion was approved
 - **Action item:** Carol will draft a cover letter to Aaron Garrett's engagement agreement detailing the scope of services that URARA is requesting. This draft cover letter will be sent to Kent, Diana, Rick and Keith for input/approval before it is sent.
 - **A motion was made and seconded to allow the Executive Committee to approve up to 4 additional hours of lawyer time as needed for future needs.**
 - The motion was approved

URARA Annual Membership Meeting

Roger Cook

October 8, 2023 In-person meeting at the Price Symposium

Kent Williams, President, called the meeting to order.

Kent, representing the Nominating Committee, put forward 2 nominees for the open board positions (these are all 2-year terms):

- Tina Tan (new)
- Pat Sullivan (new)

The floor was open for nominations from among the membership but there were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Tina and Pat as new board members. This motion passed by a vote from the members.

Werner Duecker announced that Darlene Koerner and Diana Acerson would be going off the Board at the end of this year.

Carol Duecker, URARA Treasurer, presented a summary of the 2022 year-end financials and also an update through Q2 2023. Several grants have been given out over the past year in support of our mission statement and Carol highlighted the amounts for these grants.

Grant Updates:

- Moab District Nominations for the National Register of Historic Places - Steve Acerson
 - Steve gave a brief overview of the project. URARA has been involved in this for a number of years and the current focus is to help the BLM get this project completed. The original proposal for a single large district has now been subdivided into 3 districts by the BLM. Two of these have been moving forward with full support by the BLM. The third district needed some extra funding and that is where we are helping out. There are a couple of administrative items that are currently slowing this down, particularly some boundary realignments relative to private property but Steve is confident it will move forward.
- Utah Cultural Astronomy Project - John McHugh
 - John gave an update of what this project has accomplished over the past several years in both the research phase and the educational phase. The research is all focused on archeoastronomy. Two videos have been completed and one research paper published. The grant also support some transportation costs for school age students who are doing rock art stewardship in the Salt Lake City area.
 -

- Northern Uinta Basin Fremont Rock Art Recording – Diane Koerner
 - The details on the progress of this grant were presented at the symposium by Elizabeth Hora. She covered this in good detail so no further update needed.

Field Trips Update - Steve Acerson

Steve mentioned his philosophy on being the Field Trip Coordinator. He wants to have field trips in as many areas as possible, led by locals who know those areas well and are willing to lead a URARA field trip. Anyone interested is to work with Steve on scheduling a trip. He puts out announcements for sign-up with as much advanced warning as possible but cannot always adhere to the guideline of 45 days. This seems to be working okay.

Welcome New Board Members

Pat Sullivan

I have lived in the Verde Valley, Arizona for the past 60 years.

Worked for the Sedona Fire Department 12 years as the Personnel Manager. Worked for the City of Sedona for 11 years, 2 years as the deputy clerk and 9 years as the clerk working with the city council and mayor. Retired with 33 years of government service with various organizations including Federal and State governments.

Tina Tan

- Retired in 2016 from University of Colorado at Boulder where I was a Professional Paper Pusher (PPP: aka Director for International Students and Scholars) doing visa work for the University bringing in international students, researchers and professors.
- Became interested in rock art and ruins back in the 1980s when we stumbled on them out hiking, backpacking, and on river trips
- Became interested in learning more about the people who created the rock art and ruins. We have mostly visited sites in the Western US but also in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru.
- Found URARA when trying to do research on trips we were going out on, and joined in 2016
- Have been spending more time looking for rock art, as well as starting to lead field trips and helping out with the symposium.
- When not looking for rock art, I am out skiing, hiking, biking, river rafting. And making pottery and selling it on the side.

Site Information Collection App

Troy Scotter

A new page has been added to the website with information about the Site Information Collection App. <https://urara.wildapricot.org/Site-Information-Collection-App/> The page is member only. It provides information on what we are doing, a goal for the year, and a forum for those who are using the app who might have questions/comments.

Site Information Collection App

What is the app?

The site information collection app is a small program that can be put on your mobile phone or tablet and can be used to document rock art or archeology sites that you visit. Most sites can be documented in five to ten minutes. The information you enter will be sent to URARA's conservation and preservation database and used to respond to government activities.

The app asks a series of questions such as location, description of the site, other archeological elements that may be associated with the site, vandalism, and threats to the site. We also have you take a bunch of pictures. Once you are finished the app will automatically send the information back to URARA.

We rolled out the app to sixteen members at a workshop at the last symposium. We did a half day of training and then did a short field trip to let people get used to using the app.

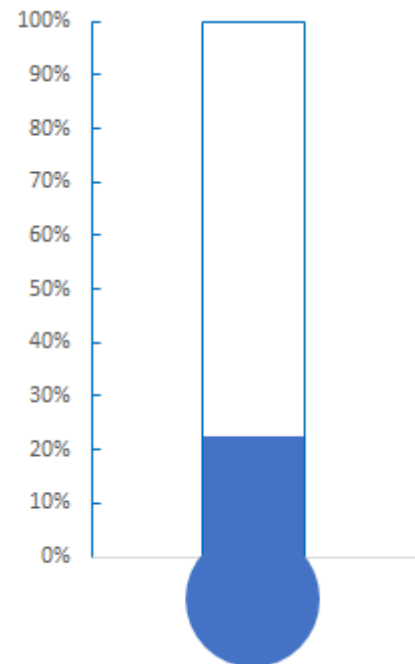
Who gets to see the data?

Within URARA only two people have access to the raw data: Kent Williams and Troy Scotter. As we respond to specific government initiatives a larger group of people might have visual access to the data. For example, last year we responded to the Travel Management Plan for the San Rafael Swell. A larger group reviewed the proposed roads in comparison to our site information. This was done visually and no specific site location information was provided to the broader group.

We share our data with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) which maintains the overall database of sites for the whole state of Utah. This means that professional archeologists have access to our data. We want this to happen. For example, archeologists can review our site data if a forest fire occurs and they need to send crews out to battle the fire but want to protect archeology sites. We also want land management agencies, such as the BLM, to be aware of sites so that they can make better land use decisions.

Our Goal

Before the next symposium we would like to collect one site per member of URARA. We had 466 members at the time of the goal and have documented 105 sites.



We don't use the site data for field trips. We also don't use the data for research purposes. We recognize that there are inherent conflicts of interest in sharing data with some members and not to others. Rather than getting involved in those decisions we understand that government entities have processes to allow access to data to qualified researchers. We direct member research requests to appropriate government agencies who have a broad set of data available to them which includes our data set.

Why don't we share our site information with the membership? Our current site dataset is extensive. URARA asked the membership to share their data with the organization back in 2014 for use in conservation and preservation. Over the years a small number of members contributed to that effort with an understanding that their data would not be made public. In the past, the best method of protecting archeological sites from damage was secrecy. This practice was enshrined in law under such policies as the Antiquities Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. We acknowledge that secrecy as a protective measure is a thing of the past. The advent of digital photography, GPS, and the internet has destroyed secrecy. Sharing our site information with almost 500 members would only contribute to the death of secrecy. Someone talks to a trusted friend who talks to a trusted friend who... While secrecy may be dying as a protective policy we want to honor the trust given to use by the members who shared their data and we would rather be on protection side of the debate than the disclosure side. The death of secrecy is one of the reasons why we have engaged the membership, through the Site Information Collection App, to gather better data about sites so that we, and relevant government agencies, can make more informed land use decisions.

Call for members willing to lead field trips

Steve Acerson

Thank you to those of you who volunteered to lead a field trip this past year. Without your willingness, we would not have had the great opportunities to enjoy rock art, make friends, take photos, and enjoy the wonderful environments we experienced in 2023. Thank you.

It is that time of year to arrange and schedule field trips for the next year. So if you have a plan to visit a favorite site, or a new one, consider taking a few URARA members along.

Let me know your ideas: Location, Date(s), Time, and information/picture. Then I can contact the managing agencies and get permission to visit and maybe include an activity to help monitor the site while we are there.

You have the freedom to design the field trip to specific activities if you want. Photography, Drawing, Cultural Study, Landscape/Site Painting, Documentation/Survey (updates/new), the list could be your own out of many possibilities.

Without your help, that part of URARA that you joined to experience, will not happen.

Steven Acerson, Field Trip lead, 385-985-5402, whiteh20rockart@gmail.com

Special Honoree – Barbara Saxon

Diana Acerson

URARA would like to honor with a Special Recognition Award, long time URARA member and volunteer Barbara Saxon. Barbara has been faithful producing and sending out hard copies of our newsletter Vestiges for over 20 years. Even though we have gone to the internet and emails for most of the “sending” now days, she still has made sure those members who cannot or do not have access to email, get the newsletter each month. Now residing in Colorado, she is still a wonderful volunteer willing to help wherever she can.

She has been a big part of past symposiums organizing food and snacks to keep everyone happy during presentation breaks, and has helped Barbara Green for many years put on the Salt Lake Christmas parties, making the many phone calls to members for food assignments, taking care of decorations, eating utensils and supplies, making name tags, storing supplies, and much more.

She is a big part of the “village” that makes URARA the wonderful organization it is.



Although we could not present your award in person at the symposium in Price since you were not able to attend, we are sending it by mail, with the same sincerity and much deserved thanks.

THANK YOU BARBARA!



From Barbara

I received your framed message of appreciation thanking me for my years of volunteer work in our rock art group. I want to thank you all for the thought; sorry I was not at this year's symposium to receive it. I now live in Denver and I feel somewhat disconnected from URARA and its Utah activities, but I know almost 1/3 of the members live in Colorado (one time I counted them).

I've been a member for a very long time, joined a year or so after Jesse Warner and a few others came up with the idea. At the beginning there was a notice on a bulletin board in the U Medical Center where I worked, it caught my interest and I called. It is amazing how it has grown, really by word of mouth.

Thanks again for the gift, it's on a shelf in my bookcase.

Barbara Saxon



Price Symposium Presentations Now On Line

Dennis DeVore

The presentations from the Price symposium in October are now available on the URARA website. This year we have permission to upload from eleven speakers (out of nineteen total). Their work will now be preserved for future research. The files are in PDF format and do not require a password to access.

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 Moab
December 8	URARA Holiday Gathering St George
2024	
January 20-21	URARA Board Meeting, Moab

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

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