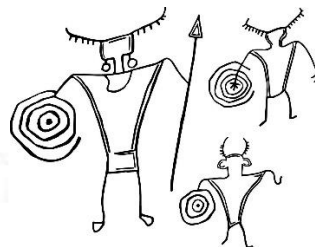


VESTIGES



November 2024
Volume 44

Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

Table of Contents

From the Prez	1	Outdoor Safety	7
And Speaking of Oscar	2	Shovel Bums Work With Vernal BLM... 8	
Documentation Workshop Report.....	3	Book Review	10
Symposium Photographs	4	Rock Imagery in the News	11
Christmas gathering schedule	5	Calendar and URARA Events.....	11
Members' Forum	6	URARA Board and Officers.....	12



From the Prez

Diana Acerson



Here it is November already and another symposium has come and gone. It was a fun experience with great speakers and all our wonderful activities that added to the enjoyment. Even though there were a few hiccups, members as always, stepped up to help out and fill the gaps. Thank you to all. The workshops were a hit and folks seemed well pleased with their field trips experiences.

We presented the Oscars to four well deserving people who have donated so much time and effort to URARA projects, events, and activities over many years, including dealing with the COVID years trying to put on the symposium in Vernal. Keith Fessenden, Dennis DeVore, Kent Williams, and Darlene Koerner received the "Oscars" for hanging in there and achieving success then, and now, and giving all of us great experiences and memories because of what they were able to do and continue to do.

The URARA board had 3 new members voted in to fill vacancies at the annual members meeting. Thank you to Carol Patterson, Jeff Roberts, and Darlene Koerner, for stepping up to meet the need. As terms end, we always need new board members to help continue the operation of this great organization, which has survived now 44 years since it became a 501c3 in 1980. Thank you. Although attendance was down from last year, we still did okay with the auctions, URARA's only fund raiser during the year. And I think the vendors for the most part were pleased with sales.

November 2024

The City of Beaver, though small, opened its arms to us and welcomed URARA with donations to the auctions and the organization. There was a lot of support to be had. The high school was so accommodating and the facility was perfect. The banquet was delicious, and there was an excess of food, so no one left hungry. Left over containers were there for the taking.

All in all, I think I can say it was a successful 2024 symposium. The 2025 symposium will be held in Kanab, Utah. Date yet to be determined, but most likely either the 1st or 2nd weekend of October. So, keep those days clear for next year. We will be deciding the location for the 2026 symposium at our December board meeting coming up, if you have a location you would like to suggest, please let me know before then.

Symposium Critique: I do have a request: If you attended this year, and have any comments, concerns, or suggestions about the symposium, or future symposiums, please let me know, so I can pass them on to the Chairperson for next year: urarapresident@gmail.com. As the holidays approach, may your stresses be non-existent, eat well, and stay safe.

And Speaking of Oscar

Tim Sweeney



Oscar Olson celebrates his 85th birthday in Vernal, UT with some of his friends.

Symposium Documentation Workshop Report

Robert Van Orden

The top brass asked me to be part of the Symposium Documentation Workshop, and to make sure we made some progress. So, I checked in with Debra McCarthy, our BLM coordinator, right at the beginning and let her know I was there to help in any way. Working side-by-side with professional archaeologists is always a great opportunity for URARA! Working side-by-side with the BLM has been a URARA goal for at least the twenty years that I have been involved. Thank you Debra McCarthy, Roy Plank, Emily Swett, Joey LaValley, and Amanda Landon, our BLM teachers, for working with us!

We broke up into three work groups and headed up the hill. I have done a few days documentation work before, on a joint URARA project with the Utah SHPO. So, I let my crew mates handle the camera and the laptop. OK, so despite my promise to make this project happen, I let everyone else do all the work! LOL! In my defense, I did periodically hold up a large umbrella which I had strategically brought along. It was fun seeing my crew mates master all the details of the documentation process.

People always say that archaeology is a people job. At lunch I proposed that we juggle the crew assignments so that folks could rub shoulders with new people. But all the crews had already bonded! So, my umbrella and I bounced from crew to crew trying to make ourselves useful.



The single biggest mistake I made was to not allow for any play time! It sure would have been easy to walk around and see all the rock art with all those flags already in place! The single best thing I did all day was to make sure that Troy Scotter moved from group to group. It was very educational for all our beginning students to see the level of detail and experience Troy brought to this project!

Some of our rock art sites were just simple peckings and scratches, still very much

the real thing. We documented them all. I was very thankful to be a part of this project. I hope we can make side-by-side projects with the BLM a regular part of our Symposiums!

P.S. The photo was not staged!

Symposium Photographs

Diana Acerson



THE SHIRT, with Jan and Rein Van West

Christmas gathering schedule

Susan McDowell



Moab December 6 – Susan McDowell

Join fellow URARA members at the home of Susan McDowell for a Potluck Party to celebrate the season. Ham will be the main course, so bring your favorite side dish or desert. Your choice. BYOB. Come at 5:30 with dinner served at 6:00 pm. Hopefully, entertainment will follow, or we'll make up our own.

The address is 2208 Rio Verde, Moab, UT, but the number is out of sequence, so if you have any trouble finding it call 435-260-8097 for better directions. Please email moabsuz@gmail.com to RSVP, so we have a good count of how many party goers to expect. Colorado people welcome too.

Salt Lake Holiday Party and Potluck Wednesday December 11 - John Deihl

Social Hour 5:00 – 6:00; Pot-Luck Dinner 6:00 – 7:00; Entertainment 7:00 – 8:00

LDS Ward Building, 7511 South 2700 West, West Jordan, UT 84084, Enter the East side doors.

This is a pot-luck dinner. URARA will provide the meat, drinks, plates, napkins and plastic ware. (Donna and I will get those items. Ready.) We hope to get a variety of vegetables, salads, desserts and main dishes. In the past it has worked well for members to follow these guidelines:

Last names starting with A-M please bring an appetizer, salad, veggies or main dish.

Last names starting with N-Z lease bring rolls or dessert.

But if you have a favorite dish you like to make feel free to bring that item.

The entertainment will be a bit of acoustic music performed by Milligan and Diehl. I am in a band and 3 of us in the band would love to sing a few Holiday songs and some good ole' music from the 70s'.

Please RSVP to jddiehlutah@yahoo.com your name and the number of people in your party. This would also be a great time to bring a friend or two and get them interested in Rock Art! Family and friends are welcome.

St George Christmas Party and potluck Friday December 13 - Nina Bowen

At the home of Nina Bowen, 1091 N Ruby Place, Washington, Utah. Ham will be provided; bring your favorite side dish or desert. BYOB. Come at 5:30 with dinner served at 6:00 pm. There may be pictures of rock art to review. Please email ninadbowen@gmail.com to RSVP, so we have a good count of how many party-goers to expect.

Members' Forum

Robert Van Orden

Simon says, "Only you can join the Members Forum!" With most organizations "subscribed" is the default setting. Unfortunately, our Wild Apricot Webserver does not allow this default setting, I checked. So, in order to participate and get notifications from the Members Forum, each member must get on the URARA Website, go to the Members Forum column, and click "Subscribe."

I am trying to spearhead member participation in the Members Forum, so you are going to be hearing a lot about this. Of course, there are some rules. Posting coordinates, directions or maps to sites is NOT allowed. But asking for help finding something, via direct communication, would be acceptable. Just like in any other organization, all communication must be polite and civil. Any problematic posts will be deleted.

I am going to give you a couple examples of things I have done thru the Members Forum recently. Folks with any interest in Texas Rock Art should definitely see my most recent "Hueco Tanks" post. Another thing I did recently was to request information about the Wind Wolves Preserve. For those of you who don't know, the Wind Wolves Preserve protects one of the most amazing painted sites to be found anywhere. What I learned thru the Forum is that this site can only be viewed from a distance; so fine, I will bring my Celestron telescope!

During parts of the year it is impossible to predict the weather 30-45 days in advance for field trips. My hope is that we can check the 10 day weather report and using the Forum invite each other on short notice adventures.

This is only my two cents worth, you can expect clarification and commentary from our overworked and under appreciated board at a future date. My guess is that only ten percent of our members are subscribed to the forum. There are interesting things happening on the Members Forum, so PLEASE subscribe and participate. Currently, we only have a couple posts a month, so your email is not going to get flooded. Blessings!



Troy's Field trip

Marc Silverman

Outdoor Safety



Packing the Backpack



April Gray, M.D.

So, You Are Going on A Field Trip, Part Two

You are ready except for packing your backpack. Begin by emptying your pack out on the floor. There may be some unexpected items.

Ideally your pack has three compartments. The bottom compartment is for the items that you hopefully will not need. These include any medications you might need, a list of medications you take and any medical problems you may have. There should be a small first aid kit, an emergency blanket, a fire starter and matches, also, a WAG bag.

On the bottom of the large compartment you should place your headlamp. From there add a rain jacket and pants. If the wind picks up and you get cold this will keep you warm, and of course if it rains you are protected. In a small stuff bag, add gloves and a hat. On the top, place your lunch, snacks, and extra water bottle. Place your binoculars wherever they fit best.

In the top and smallest compartment add your phone/camera, car keys, knife, a small leatherman, and map. On the outside of your pack, carry one of your water bottles, an emergency whistle, and a GPS or compass. Carry extra batteries for any equipment that requires them and make sure else everything else is fully charged.

Without lunch my pack weighs in at 16 lbs.

Hopefully this information is helpful. If you have questions on this or to suggest topics contact me at peakapril54@gmail.com.

(And don't forget the duct tape. -- ed.)

Shovel Bums Work With Vernal BLM

John McHugh

In early October the Blessed Sacrament Middle School “Shovel Bums” archaeology club took part in archaeological survey and viewed marquee rock art in the Vernal, Utah area. The trip was made possible by a generous donation from URARA, and was part of their academic curriculum. Pupils brought along a 57-page Archaeology–Native American Rock Art packet that they were expected to fill out as a Science-exam grade.

The Shovel Bums’ expedition began on the morning of Oct. 3rd, when students packed their tents and bags into the vehicles of their chaperones-drivers and headed off on the three hour journey from Sandy to Vernal. Around noon they arrived in at the Dinosaurland KOA in Vernal, and set up their tents. By early afternoon they headed for the Steinaker Solstice site, a Fremont-aged summer solstice panel.



Steinaker Solstice site.

From there the Shovel Bums strolled westward for a half-mile to the nearby “Collette” site, which has similar Classic Vernal Style rock art. Students enjoyed the scramble up the cliffs to the site, and were intrigued especially by the “head-hunter” images on those panels.

6th grade Shovel Bum, Karson Gordon, points out some interesting motifs at the “Collette” site.

On Oct. 4th

the Shovel Bums met up with BLM archaeologists Dave Christensen and Jared Rowland. Students were shown how to perform a “transect walk” on a prehistoric site along Rainbow Park Road. After instructing the students on various types of lithic artifact jargon, Christensen and Rowland gave the students pin flags and they were off looking for artifacts. In the end each student found at least two artifacts, which included lithic scatters, stone flakes, bifaces, manos, metates, and rock art.

Later in the afternoon the Shovel Bums traveled a few miles down the route to McKee Springs, to see the world-class Native American rock art there. Many students noted the similarities between the petroglyph motifs and Hopi kachinas.





Upon returning to their campsites the Shovel Bums were treated to a wonderful chili dinner. It turns out that the nearby Crow Canyon Project had leftover dinner fixings, which they donated to the Shovel Bums. The food didn't just magically appear, however, it was transported many miles and heated up over an open fire by URARA's Darlene Koerner and Tim Sweeney! Yum yum.

BLM archaeologist, Dave Christensen, gives Shovel Bums a tutorial on lithics before a transect walk near Vernal, Utah.



On the final day the Shovel Bums went into Dinosaur National Monument, and were especially fascinated with Swelter Shelter. Several students noticed that the petroglyphs at the bottom of the panel had the greatest amount of repatination, and that the glyphs looked lighter as you went up the panel. According to some, this proved that the lower petroglyphs were clearly older (more repatinated) than the higher petroglyphs, and that the highest petroglyphs looked quite young—maybe dating to the Historic Period.

Bums admire petroglyphs at McKee Springs

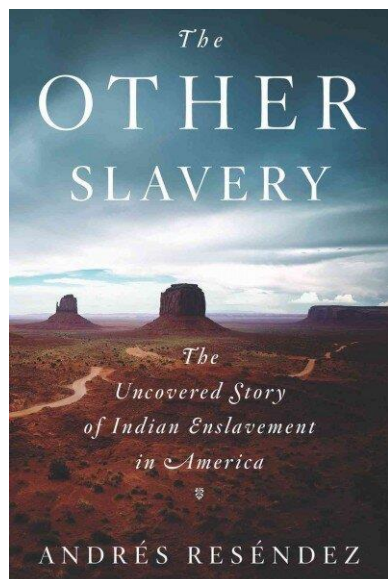


Sadly, in the late afternoon of Oct. 5th the Shovel Bums and their chaperones had to drive back to Blessed Sacrament School. But, although the field trip came to an end, the memories they captured will last throughout their life. 6th grade Shovel Bum Brayden D'Alessandro remarked, "This was the greatest field trip of my entire life." And anyone committed to sharing the wonders of prehistoric Native American rock art to Utah school children would surely agree with him.

Swelter Shelter in Dinosaur National Monument.

Book Review

Diana Acerson



The Other Slavery

The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America

Author: Andres Resendez

Published 2016, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

This book is a work of historical nonfiction that is based on facts, and contains new evidence, including testimonies from priests, merchants, captives, and colonists, testifying to enslavement of Native Americans that has been virtually ignored and minimized.

Andrés Reséndez, is a historian and professor at the University of California at Davis. His writing captured my attention with the clear concise chronology of Native enslavement in the America's from the time of Colombus arriving in the Caribbean to the beginning of the 20th Century. It was easy to see the extensive amount of research he did to shed light on a very dark and little-known part of American history.

Reséndez does an amazing and detailed historical retelling of the enslavement of the peoples of the New World by Spaniards. He also covers Spain's enslavement of Philippinos in addition to mentioning African slavery which existed alongside Native American slavery for decades.

I was crushed by the intertribal slave trade stories. Shocked by the numbers of native populations taken into slavery, reaching into the thousands, and the distances they were sent, to Spain and other parts of Europe. The stories of the traders who built an economy on this horrible practice was unbelievable. Even when it was apparent things got out of hand and laws were created in Spain to stop the slavery, it still went on behind the backs of the law makers, since it was taking place in the Americas. There was subterfuge used to justify slavery, such as claiming holy wars or inventing punitive indentures, and social collusions that made emancipation difficult. By the 1800's you'll read about the behavior of white settlers in northern California, the Mormon Church's effort to protect the natives which indentured them to well-meaning church members, and the battles between tribes, Mexicans, and settlers.

Although this novel can be a difficult read, what you will learn is worth the time. It gives a window into the hearts of the Native people today and why many who have heard the stories of their ancestors, still have animosity towards the "white" populations of America.

Rock Imagery in the News

Archaeologists use AI to find hundreds of geoglyphs in Peru's Nazca Desert Proceedings of the National Academy of Science 24Sep2024

Calendar and URARA Events

November 2	SDRAA Symposium Rock Art 2024 https://sandiegorockart.org/symposium
December 6	URARA Moab Christmas gathering, see p. 5 above
December 11	URARA Salt Lake Christmas gathering and potluck, see p. 5
December 13	URARA St George Holiday gathering, see p. 5
2025	
Feb 21-23	Witte Museum Rock Art Rendezvous, Texas https://www.witemuseum.org/
October TBD	URARA Symposium Kanab
Oct 15-18	GBAC Conference, Reno https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org

URARA symposia and field trips are available to members only. 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. Accessible on-line via ICL. Saturday field trips once a month.

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> > What we do > Public 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

2024 URARA Board and Officers

President	Diana Acerson
Vice President	Pat Sullivan
Treasurer	Carol Duecker
Secretary	Roger Cook
	Kent Williams
	John McHugh
	Rick Matthews
	Keith Fessenden
	Tina Tan

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

URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		Kent Williams
Canyon Country	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker, Carol Duecker
Paria River	Kanab	Jeff Frey
Color Country	Cedar City	(available)
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