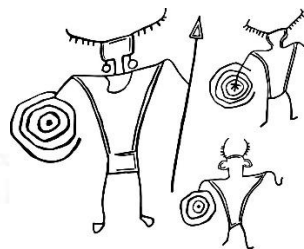


VESTIGES



August 2025
Volume 45
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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Rick Mathews

Here we are and it's August.

URARA has some great things planned.

This month we have the Summer Picnic up by Flaming Gorge and the Symposium registration will be opening before you know it. Thank you to Darlene, Pat and others who have worked so hard to make these events happen. Their efforts allow our members to enjoy themselves and enjoy the events. I grew up in the Uintah Basin. Our family camped in and around Flaming Gorge a lot. It's a beautiful area with plenty to see and do. Check your email for more information on camping, field trips and other activities.

Last month I talked about the Nebo School District Prayer Run out to the Rock Imagery on West Mountain. On 10 July a wildfire started and burned a little over 52 acres. Luckily, it was quickly contained and out within two days. It did burn through an area with Rock Imagery. I am happy to report there does not appear to be any significant damage to the images. The Utah Wildfire Information website says the cause is undetermined.



August 2025

Prez (continued)

While we're on the topic, here are 10 Tips from the U.S. Department of the Interior to Prevent Wildfires:

1. Check weather and drought conditions.
 2. Build your campfire in an open location and far from flammables.
 3. Douse your campfire until it's cold.
 4. Keep vehicles off dry grass.
 5. Regularly maintain your equipment and vehicle.
 6. Practice vehicle safety.
 7. Check your tires, bearings and axles on your trailer.
 8. Keep sparks away from dry vegetation.
 9. Check conditions and regulations before you use fireworks or consider safe alternatives.
 10. Cautiously burn debris and never when it's windy or restricted.
- (<https://www.doi.gov/blog/10-tips-prevent-wildfires>)

Please be safe out there, for yourself and others.

URARA Summer Picnic Flaming Gorge

Darlene Koerner

2025 URARA summer picnic: Greendale Group Site 1/Ashley National Forest

Schedule:

Aug 14: You can check into the group campsite any time after noon. No activities planned for this day.

August 15 & 16: Field trips pending weather conditions and make your own fun. We have been informed there are rattlesnakes at many of the rock art sites so long pants and good boots are recommended. Pot luck dinner the evening of Aug 16. For the potluck dinner last names from A-M please bring a side dish: N-Z a dessert.

August 17: Check out of campground and spontaneous activities.

The group camp site can support 40 people and has vault toilets and drinking water. To get to the campground from Vernal take Highway 191 north for about 40 miles. Stay on 191 headed to Rock Springs. Our group site is on the east side of the highway and about 1 ½ miles after turning toward Rock Spings. There are picnic tables and fire rings. In keeping with our summer picnic tradition, we camp high (this campground is close to 7000 feet in elevation) so our nights are cool but hike in warmer, lower elevations. We are the first group campsite on the south side of the highway

Picnic (continued)

For those preferring to rent a cabin, you can contact [Rocky Ridge](#) in Manila, [Red Canyon Lodge](#), on Greens Lake (6 miles from campsite) or [Flaming Gorge Resort](#) (adjacent to the campground). There are many camp sites in the area so if you prefer another site check the web for other locations. If you are planning on making reservations do so at your earliest opportunity.

The group campsite is within traveling distance of the beautiful and historic Browns Park and Jarvies Ranch which is operated by the BLM. There is a nice hiking trail from Red Canyon Overlook to Greendale Group Camp site. There are boat rentals at local marinas if anyone wants to take a trip on the reservoir. A patio boat will seat about 10 people from Lucerne Marina and if you go through the canyons you will never forget the beauty of the area. Both Red Canyon Lodge and Flaming Gorge have outdoor dining.

Red Canyon Lodge has Paddle boat rentals for kids, horseback riding, and the scenic Red Canyon Overlook with trails overlooking the canyon. If you are interested in a trip down the Green River below the Dam you can book a raft or rent one from Flaming Gorge Lodge.

There are also multiple rock art sites in the area including Lucerne, Henry's Fork, and Rocky Ridge (\$10 fee) in Manila. There are pictographs at Antelope, and multiple images at Minnies Gap along with other sites to the north. We have received permission to visit Diamond Peak Ranch which is an hour drive to Browns . We will plan a trip into Vermillion Canyon in Colorado with a permit from the state and, with a restricted number of people. This is a very rugged hike with numerous water crossing and slick rocks. It's a very steep rock hike into the canyon and good shoes and walking stick are recommended . It is one mile down into the canyon and to the narrow steep section where rock art begins and another ½ mile in that canyon so 3 miles round trip. People should be in excellent condition for this trip. Much of the hike will be in full sunlight so dress appropriately and bring lots of water. This trip will be listed for registration prior to the field trip.

Field trips will be spontaneous depending on field trip leaders and temperatures. Vermillion and Diamond Peak will be on Friday leaving at 8:30 with additional opportunities depending on leaders. Those areas closer in Manila and Dutch John will be more spontaneous.

Greendale Plateau has a unique position when it comes to climate and following a fire in the area in the 1970's, multiple Fremont sites were discovered. The micro-climate at Greendale allowed for the growing of corn which was stored in many structures in the drainages into Flaming Gorge along the Green River.

If you are not planning on staying at the group site, please make your reservations early. Contact Darlene Koerner with any questions timdar@ubtanet.com

Symposium Update

Pat Sullivan

Kanab Symposium, October 9th - 13th, 2025, Kanab Convention Center, 20 N 100 E Kanab

The Symposium is fast approaching and will be here before we know it. To give you an update on what we are planning, the following information is still somewhat tentative. The convention center is located at 20 N 100 E. The Jacob Hamblin Park is located at 566 N 100 E.

- Registration will open on August 25th and close September 24th.
 - Information on symposium speakers is now posted on:
<https://urara.wildapricot.org/Symposium-2025-Speaker-Agenda/>
<https://urara.wildapricot.org/Symposium-2025-Speaker-Abstracts>
 - If you haven't made motel or camping reservations, I highly recommend that you do so as soon as possible. October is a busy time in Kanab, and we are sharing the convention center with a church group who will be holding their annual conclave at the convention center at the same time we will be there. The list of motels and camping grounds was listed in the March Vestiges.
 - Because there will be a church group at the convention center at the same time we will be there, parking will be limited. There is construction going on at the center as well, so construction vehicles are taking up parking spaces too. It is unknown whether construction will be finished by October 10th, they hope so. Parking is permitted along the street if you don't block someone's driveway. If you get a motel close to the convention center, think about walking, otherwise, see if you can carpool with someone.
 - Most of the events will take place at the Kanab Convention Center in Kanab.
 - The field trip leader meet and greet will be held on Thursday, October 9th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the top Pavilion at the Jacob Hamblin Park. The other events at this location are the Watermelon Social on Friday, October 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The field trips will leave from the park parking lot at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, October 10th and Monday, October 13th.
 - The workshops will be held at the Convention Center on October 9th starting at 8:30 a.m. There will be signage to guide you to your workshop.
1. **Carol Patterson** will hold a two-hour workshop that combines hands-on drawing techniques and computer graphics to trace professional photographs of petroglyph panels. **There is a \$5.00 fee for taking this workshop to pay for supplies that you will be given and can keep.** This workshop will be held in the **Inchworm Classroom at the Convention Center.**

Symposium (continued)

2. **Dave Manley** will hold a half-day basic rock art photography workshop to help capture rock art in its setting. His aim is to guide people to find their own way of seeing through the lens. This workshop will be held in the **Buckskin Classroom at the Convention Center**
3. **Robert Mark** will hold a half-day +/- workshop on Photogrammetry in general and Photogrammetric drone mapping in particular. If you are interested in taking this class, it would help him if you would let him know about your interests and experiences with drones, photogrammetry and GIS. He can send out some software and other links in advance. **Only contact him if you will be taking his class.** His e-mail is rkmark@mac.com. This workshop will be held in the **Cascade Classroom at the Convention Center.**
4. **Troy Scotter and Kent Williams** will introduce a small app that records site information and replaces the old one fashioned after the BLM model. It only requires some basic information and can be completed in less than five minutes. Half of the workshop will be held in a classroom setting and the other half will take place In the field.
 - There will be 12 different field trips held on Friday the 10th and Monday the 13th at 8:00 a.m. Field trips will leave from the Jacob Hamblin Park. There will be field trips for every level of hiking. The field trip descriptions will be posted when registration opens.
 - The educational talks will take place at the Kanab Convention on Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th starting at 8:00 a.m. The speaker abstracts will be posted when registration opens. Be sure to print them out. There will also be some at the registration desk should you forget to print one.
 - The Banquet will be held in the Convention Center starting at 6:00 p.m. The location is still being worked out. I'm hoping it will be held in the gym. The Oscar Awards, Live Auction, and entertainment will follow the banquet.
 - If you have any questions regarding the Symposium, please contact me at 4rockart@gmail.com.

Pat Sullivan,
VP, Symposium Chair

Field Trip News

Tina Tan

I hope everyone is having a good summer. Just a few reminders this time:

- All Field Trips will open for registration 2-3 weeks out from the time of the FT.
- All members are limited to 3 FTs/calendar year, to enable as many of our members to participate. (not counting the Summer Picnic or Symposium).

Our Fall Field trips will include the following:

Sept 20-21: Field Trip to the San Rafael Swell, Trip Leader: Troy Scotter. The specifics of the FT sites to be determined.

Sept 27-29: Field Trip to the Santa Fe, NM area, Trip Leaders: Bob Crifasi and Tina Tan

Sept 27 visit Mesa Prieta, a private non profit land trust dedicated to the protection of over 100,000 Puebloan petroglyphs. Privately owned and operated, participants are required to pay a \$55 fee per person to attend. Once you sign up for the trip, you are expected to pay the fee even if you cancel the registration, as a docent will be on hand to lead the tour.

Sept 28: White Rock Canyon. Itinerary may change if it is too hot, in which case we will visit the Tsankawi Ruins.

Sept 29: trip to properties close to Mesa Prieta owned by the Archeological Conservancy, a non profit. The tour is free, but they are happy to accept donations to support their mission of acquiring and protecting archeological sites.

Nov 9: Field trip to the Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site, Trip leaders: Bob Crifasi and Tina Tan.

And don't forget the annual URARA picnic August 15-17 at Flaming Gorge.

If you have ideas for additional fall field trips you'd like to lead, I'd love to hear from you. Contact me at tinatan07@gmail.com

Book Review

Troy Scotter

Barrier Canyon Style: Thousands Of Years Of Painting On Rock

Text: Phil R. Geib; Photographs: Goodloe Suttler

The University of Utah Press <https://uofupress.com/books/barrier-canyon-style/>

220 pages with 122 color illustrations

Book (continued)

For those of us with an interest in Barrier Canyon Style (BCS) rock art this is a wonderful addition to the printed work available to the public. The Barrier Canyon Style of rock art is an Archaic period style of painted rock art primarily focusing on anthropomorphic (humanlike) figures in central Utah (from the San Rafael Swell in the north to the Blue/Abajo Mountains in the south; east of the Wasatch Mountains and west of the Utah border with outliers outside of those general areas.

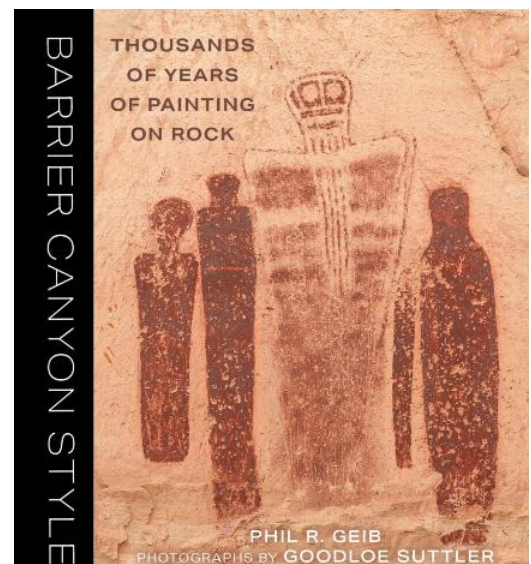
The photos are beautiful. Goodloe Suttler, who died before the book was published, describes his photographic process as using a high-resolution camera and lenses along with DStretch and color correction to return to the original colors. His images do not disappoint. There is rarely a page in the book without an accompanying color photo. For rock art lovers it is a feast for the eyes.

The book is a discussion of the style and the lifestyle of the people who may have made the images rather than an exhaustive site index. It includes many of the sites I know along with a few that are new to me. More exploring to be done!

I really appreciate the inclusion of Phil Geib (a professional archeologist) in the writing of the book. There is an old joke that: "archeologists don't look up and rock art people don't look down." Unfortunately, I've seen several examples of both sides of that aphorism. Fortunately, Phil Geib seems to have mastered both looking up and down. He provides the insight of someone who has spent his life studying archeology along with access to the archeological reports on the people who lived in that time and in the BCS area. Many avocational enthusiasts won't have access to that information outside of this book. He also interprets much of what he sees in the photos. I was surprised by many details that I had missed at the sites. I learned a lot from his thoughts although I don't always agree with his interpretations. But I approve of his willingness to bring that skill set to the book. If I had written that part of the book, I wouldn't have agreed with myself on interpretations. Cognitive dissonance is a terrifying thing.

There are 24 pages of notes and references. My bank account is already a bit smaller due to buying some follow-up references.

I highly recommend this book for anyone with an interest in this style of rock art. It isn't cheap, but with over 100 color illustrations I wouldn't expect it to be. Hardback: \$110; Paperback \$50.



Outdoor Safety



Low Sodium (Hyponatremia)

April Gray, M.D.

You have high blood pressure and your doctor has told you to watch your salt intake or you are just trying to be healthy so you avoid salt. You have brought plenty of water so you are not worried about dehydration. Your snacks are healthy and have no added salt. As you are hiking you begin to push the water as you do not want to get dehydrated. You now have a mild headache. The leader calls for a rest stop. You decide to lie down for a moment and suddenly the headache is much worse. You sit up and promptly vomit a copious amount.

Someone checks the patient's pulse and it is not elevated. People note that her personality seems to be changing. She may be getting sleepy and withdrawn or agitated and anxious. So, what is the problem? If it was dehydration she would not be vomiting large amounts. A headache from dehydration would improve with lying down, but her brain is swelling. She has not been eating but instead pushing water.

Field treatment with mild hyponatremia is simple. First rest the person in a cool shady place. Hold the fluids and have them nibble on salty snacks. "Sit it out until you pee it out". If seizures occur or an altered level of consciousness call for a helicopter evacuation immediately.

Hyponatremia is easily preventable but can be fatal. Drink only enough water or sport drink to satisfy your thirst. Eat salty carbohydrates that you like .



Monument Valley Field
Trip
Robert Van Orden

Monument Valley Field Trip report

Robert Van Orden

Fourteen adventurers heroically rolled with the waves without complaints. The scenery, the light, and the clouds were visionary to the point that the rock art became secondary. Sacrilege, but true, lol. Our young Navaho guide shared numerous cultural insights. As always, it was authentically windy and dusty for an hour. Special thanks to Tina Tan, our field trip coordinator, for all her hours! Thank you to all the folks on this trip for making this such a wonderful day!



Solstice Alignment at the Table Rock

John McHugh and Franz Villate

Confirming Summer Solstice Alignment at the “Table Rock” Petroglyph

Since 2006 Nina Bowen and other field researchers at URARA have observed that the summer solstice sunrise aligns with specific lines on “Table Rock,” a petroglyph located near the western shore of Utah Lake, less than a mile from the Smith Archaeological Preserve (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Table Rock. Note that the two white “blobs” appearing at the top of the Concentric Circle and on the upper left portion of the boulder are the result spall from bullet impact.

However, the slightly askew angle of Nina’s proffered photograph leaves the claim equivocal in the mind of a skeptic (i.e., someone like David Susec). During the past summer URARA members John McHugh, Franz Villate, and ARARA member Jonathan Barnes (professor of astronomy at Salt Lake Community College) set out to falsify Nina’s hypothesis.

On 16 June 2025 – four days before the summer solstice – author J. McHugh photographed the sunrise, proving that it aligns with the “Line and Dot” motif on the western side of the Table Rock petroglyph (Figure 2). Astronomer J. Barnes confirmed that although the photograph was not taken on the solstice, the sun moves less than $\frac{1}{5}$ of its width ($< 0.1^\circ$) between the 16 June sunrise date (Figure 2) and the 20 June summer solstice date; a distance imperceptible to the naked eye.



Figure 2: Sunrise at the Table Rock petroglyph, Utah Lake, 16 June 2025. The “Line-and-Dot” motif pecked into the western side of the glyph aligns with the summer solstice sunrise.

On the second day of the four-day solar standstill (21 June 2025) author F. Villate assessed whether there was a sunset alignment with the Table Rock petroglyph. He found that the “Line and Dot” motif on the east side of the Concentric Circle pointed directly towards the summer solstice sunset (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Photograph of the summer solstice sunset at Table Rock, 21 June 2025. The “Line and Dot” glyph on the eastern side of the panel aligns with the solstice sunset. (F. Villate)

Since the adjacent “Line and Dot” icon is aligned with the summer solstice sunrise (Figure 2), it seems unlikely that the sunset alignment in Figure 3 is coincidental. Indeed, the ancient artist appears to have intentionally pecked the “Line and Dot” petroglyphs into the rock to mark the summer solstice sunrise and its complementary sunset (Figure 3).

Add to this the Ancestral Puebloan ethnography on solar iconography, in which the “Three Concentric Circle” motif is said to be the prehistoric depiction of the Sun-god.

The summer solstice sunrise and sunset alignments are shown in Fig. 4.

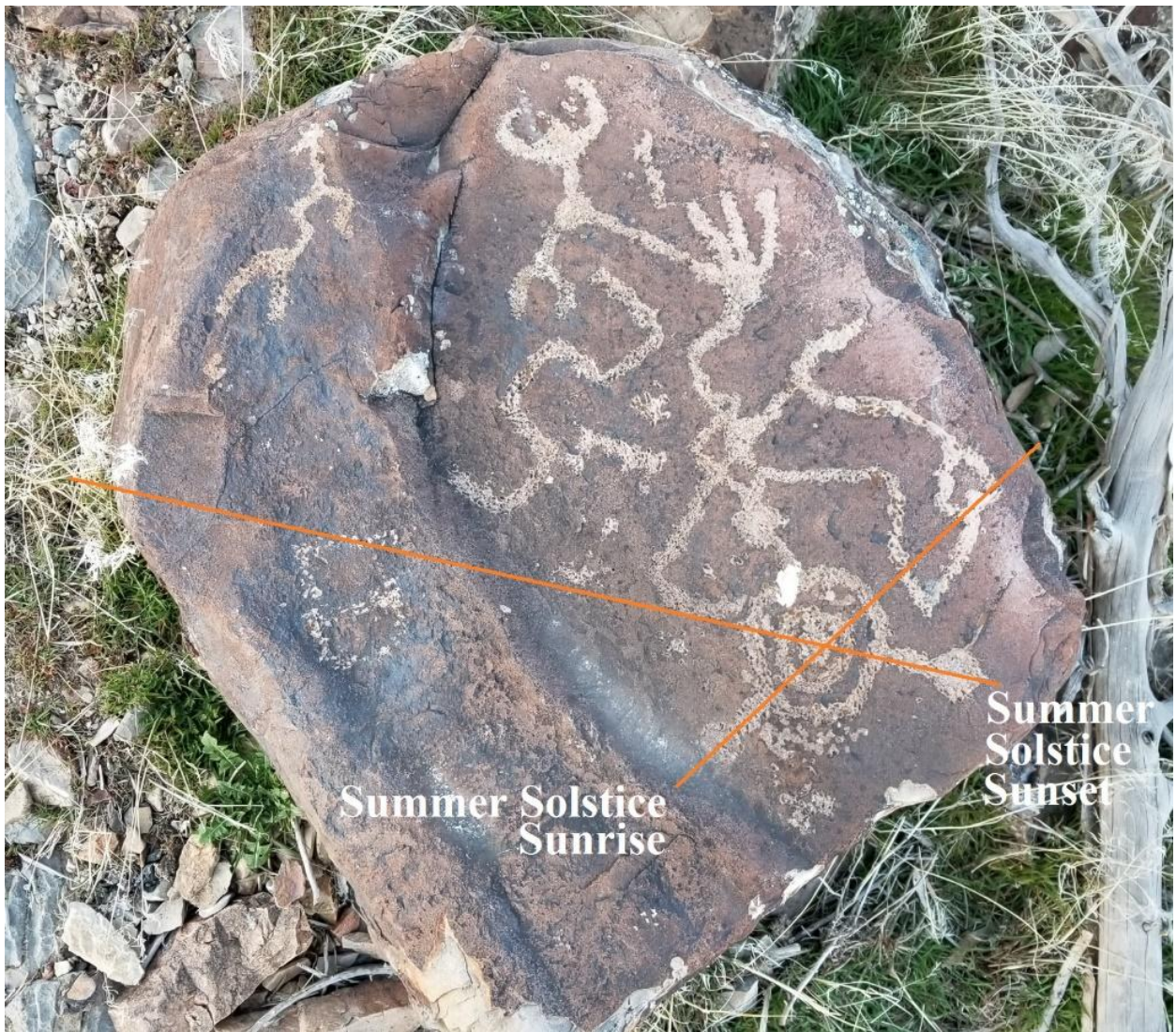


Figure 4: The summer solstice sunrise and sunset alignments at Table Rock. Note that they pass through a Three Concentric Circle glyph, which is said to be the prehistoric depiction of the Sun-god in Puebloan ethnography. (J. McHugh)

Furthermore, night sky and compass observations verify that the upper “Line” motif points 3° or 4° west of Polaris, the Pole Star (Figure 5). Remarkably, this is where Polaris would have been during the 16th century (in 1547 Polaris spun in a tiny, 3.13° circle around the Northern Celestial Pole). The fact that two other glyphs *on the same panel* match up with the summer solstice sunrise and sunset imply that the North Pole Star’s alignment with its position four to five centuries earlier was a deliberate act; one that betrays a prehistoric Native American’s intent to orient himself with the ever-important and sacred Celestial North Pole Star and the date that he did so.

Calendar, URARA Events and Trips

August 7-10	Pecos Conference, Blue Mt Scout Camp, Blanding https://www.pecosconference.org/
August 15-17	URARA Summer Picnic, Flaming Gorge https://urara.wildapricot.org/event-5587694
Sep 20-21:	URARA Field Trip to the San Rafael Swell, Leader: Troy Scotter.
Sep 27-29	URARA Field Trip to the Santa Fe, NM area, Trip Leaders: Bob Crifasi and Tina Tan
October 9-13	URARA Symposium Kanab
Oct 15-18	GBAC Conference, Reno https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org
November 9	URARA Field Trip Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado (Bob Crifasi/Tina Tan)
Nov 12-13	URARA Field Trip Gold Butte, Nevada (Deb and John Mitchell)

URARA symposia and field trips (FT) are available to members only. All members receive an email notification when a field trip opens for registration. Email notifications go out 3-4 weeks 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/>

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center Weekly Webinars, Thursday, 4:00 Mountain Time

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office has occasional events and tours.
See <https://ushpo.utah.gov/the-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

2025 URARA Board and Officers

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Secretary	Roger Cook
	John McHugh
	Darlene Koerner
	Tina Tan
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Field Trip Coordinator	Tina Tan
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Nominations/Governance	Diana Acerson

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