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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Werner Duecker

By the time you read this issue of Vestiges Kent Williams will be the new President of URARA. I am looking forward to working with him and the new Board in the coming year in my new role as Past-President. I am grateful to everyone for the help you have all given me over the past two years.

The annual January Board meeting will be a little different this year due to COVID precautions. Rather than our usual two-day in-person meeting, we will be using a combination of email discussions and shorter Zoom meetings to work through all the issues that are normally covered during this meeting. It will therefore be spread out over several weeks. Members are welcomed to participate in all Board meetings, but given the challenges this year, it would be best, if you have any topics you would like considered, to send them to me or any other Board member prior to January 16th and we will get them on the agenda. If you wish to attend a Zoom meeting, email me and I will send a link. Contact information for the new Board members can be found at the end of this issue.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president for the past two years. I hope to see you on a field trip in the near future.

When Stewardship Leads to the Thrill of Discovery

John McHugh

Back in the Spring of 2014, URARA member Steve Manning and his wife Elna, surveyed and cataloged the 194 acres of donated land that would later become the Adelbert Doyle Smith Archaeological Preserve located on the western shore of Utah Lake. This was no easy task as the Mannings remarked that, "The weather became a serious obstacle in our inventory. Storm fronts came through every few days. Winds blew up to 80 miles an hour (which tore up some of our pin flags). The winds were followed by rain and/or snow."

Despite perils with the weather, their survey was extremely successful – photographing and documenting the presence of 234 petroglyph panels on the North and South Knolls of the Preserve. In their report to *The Archaeological Conservancy*, Steve and Elna attributed most of the panels to the Fremont Culture, circa 200-1200 AD, some to the Shoshoni and Ute Indians, but noted that the full repatination on a few glyphs suggested an Archaic date. Noteworthy is that Steve argued for a Paleoindian date (circa 13,000 BP) for at least one of the petroglyphs, which he had presented at the 2013 URARA Symposium.

A subject of dire concern in their letter to *The Archaeological Conservancy* emphasized the vulnerability of the rock art. Many of the panels are small and portable—easy to chisel-off and carry away. Indeed, the Mannings found much evidence for exactly this kind of defacement; where trespassers had pecked out small motifs with metal tools and hammers. In other instances bullet shells evince that illegal hunting or shooting was occurring at the site of this future Archaeological Preserve, endangering the rock art.

In an effort towards stewardship, preservation, and conservation of the Preserve, the Blessed Sacrament School's Archaeology Club, "The Shovel Bums," were contacted by URARA's Nina Bowen and Darlene Koerner, retired BLM ranger, Randy Griffin, and BLM archaeologist Mike Sheehan, and SHPO archaeologist Elizabeth Hora. They were then provided the opportunity to resurvey the site and update the IMACS forms that had been completed by the Mannings in 2014, a task that began in September 2018 and continued throughout 2019 (and will resume once COVID restrictions are removed), all under the supervision of Griffin and Hora.

On April 5th, 2019, PLPCO archaeologist Kris Carambalas joined The Shovel Bums during a cataloguing venture. While most of the club members completed IMACS forms at various panels, Carambalas led three of the Middle School-aged Shovel Bums on a transect-walking swath in an effort to locate some panels that would be catalogued during the following week's fieldwork. And Chantelle Sakalauskas, Connor Knight, and Peyten Bowers obediently pin-flagged the panels that came into view as directed by Carambalas.

Once completed, the four beckoned to The Shovel Bum's supervisor, teacher-archaeologist John McHugh, who then began to correlate the students' pin-flagged rock art panels with the ones that had been catalogued by the Mannings five years earlier. As McHugh went through the checklist of inventoried panels on his laptop, one panel stood out: there was no IMACS form or photograph for

what appeared to be a perfectly preserved and totally repatianted "Deer" motif; possibly the only glyph that had eluded Steve and Elna's observation back in 2014.

The three Shovel Bums were elated with pride upon realizing that they had discovered a previously unknown petroglyph. While dialoging with PLPCOs Carambalas, Peyten (then a 6th grader), remarked, "Maybe you should just permit me. I could probably be a great asset to you by finding more undiscovered rock art." Carambalas chuckled, then broke the news to Peyten that being permitted archaeologist involves a Bachelor's and post-Bachelor's degree in one of the disciplines of anthropology, and extensive experience in the field; but that she should contact him right after college.

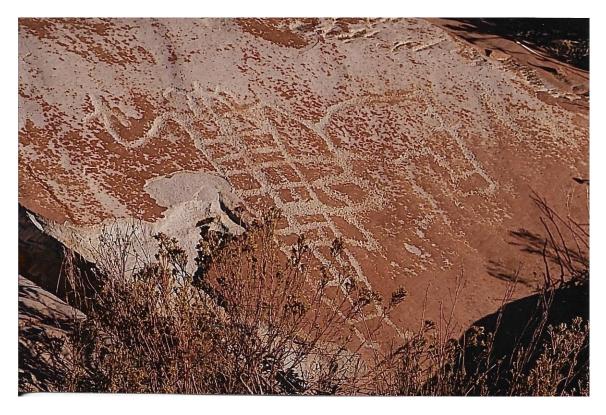
And it wouldn't be a surprise if one or Shovel Bums grows up to do just that.



Then 6th graders Chantelle Sakalauskas, Connor Knight, and Peyten Bowers straddle an undocumented "Deer" petroglyph at the Smith Archaeological Preserve in April, 2019.



StansburyIsland, Tooele County, Utah, November 2020, Oscar Olson



Scott Spring, Tooele County, Utah, November 2020, Oscar Olson

Calendar and URARA Events

January 16-17	URARA board meeting, Zoom
2021 Jun 11-14	ARARA Symposium Great Falls Montana
2021 July TBA	URARA Field Trip Dinwoody, Wyoming
2021 Aug 5-9	Pecos Conference, Mancos Colorado https://www.pecosconference.org
2021 Oct 13-16	Great Basin Anthropological Conference Las Vegas https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org

URARA field trips are available to members only. For information or sign-up, please go to https://urara.wildapricot.org/events, or contact Cheryl Ames at https://urara.wildapricot.org/events, or contact Cheryl Ames at cheryl_e_ames@msn.com, 303-940-2043. Registration will open approximately 45 days prior to the start of the field trip. At that time you may register until the set number of participants is filled; then your name will be added to the waiting list.

<u>Southern Nevada Rock Art Association</u> (SNRAA), Las Vegas, meets on the 4th Monday of the month. http://snraa.org/snraa.org/EVENTS.html

<u>Dixie Archaeological Society</u> (DAS), St George, meets on the second Wednesday of the month, Saturday field trips once a month. http://www.dixierockart.com/

<u>Colorado Archaeological Association, Grand Junction Chapter</u> meets on the second Monday of the month. https://www.meetup.com/CAS-GJ/

<u>San Diego Rock Art Association</u> (SDRAA) meets at the Kumeyaay Center in Poway every other month, sometimes on the first Sunday, sometimes not. https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings

<u>Utah Public Archaeology Network</u> (UPAN). Calendar of events and monthly newsletter. https://history.utah.gov/antiquities/upan

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

Don't forget to check the URARA FORUM and the URARA FACEBOOK PAGE once in while.

URARA Board and Contacts

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

2020 URARA Board and Officers

Email

Kent Williams, President
Connie Bridge, Vice President
Carol Duecker, Treasurer
Nina Bowen, Secretary
Troy Scotter, Website Manager
Leigh Grench
Darlene Koerner
Geoff Hardies
Wanda Gayle
John McHugh

utahrockartresearchassoc@gmail.com
5bridges@xmission.com
uraratreasurer@gmail.com
ninadbowen@gmail.com
troyscotter@gmail.com
lggrench@yahoo.com
timdar@ubtanet.com
ghardies2@msn.com
wgayle@sisna.com
jjmchugh72164@comcast.net

Committee Chairs and Appointees

Tribal Liaison Carol Patterson urraca2fly@gmail.com Historian/Archives Keith Fessenden khfessenden@gmail.com Website/Membership Troy Scotter troyscotter@gmail.com troyscotter@gmail.com Conservation Troy Scotter Documentation Leigh Grench lggrench@yahoo.com Nina Bowen ninadbowen@gmail.com Education timdar@ubtanet.com Darlene Koerner Research cheryl_e_ames@msn.com Field Trips Cheryl Ames Symposium Chair Connie Bridge 5bridges@xmission.com Dennis DeVore ddv48@mac.com **Publications Editor** Ben Everitt rockdoc@xmission.com **Vestiges Editor Board Nominations** Steve Acerson whiteh20rockart@gmail.com

URARA Conservation Coordinators

BLM District	Field Office	Coordinator	<u>Email</u>
Coordinator Lead	1	Kent Williams	willikb15@gmail.com
Canyon Counry	Moab	Pam & Quent Baker	2pnqbaker@gmail.com
Canyon Country	Monticello	Werner Duecker	wdeck.wd@gmail.com
		Carol Duecker	dueckercm@gmail.com
Color Country	Cedar City	Gina Hupka	redrockgina@infowest.com
Color Country	St. George	Nina Bowen	ninadbowen@gmail.com
Color Country	Kanab	Jeff Frey	condor@kanab.net
Color Country	Richfield	Jeff Roberts	jeffroberts@cut.net
Green River	Vernal	Tim Sweeney	dryforktim@gmail.com
		Darlene Koerner	timdar@ubtanet.com
Green River	Price	Layne Miller	laynemiller@yahoo.com
West Desert	Fillmore	Paula Quay	paulaquay@ymail.com
West Desert	Salt Lake	Steve Acerson	whiteh20rockart@gmail.com