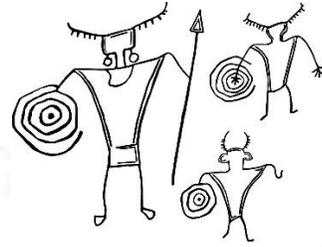


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Kent Williams

Hello URARA,

I'd like to share with you some current activities we are involved with regarding the conservation and protection of rock art.

The URARA board of directors recently voted to approve a grant to Grand County to help complete the nomination of several areas with numerous rock art panels around Moab to the National Register of Historic Places. Designation into the National Register will help protect rock art by *"promoting responsible heritage tourism, increasing education and awareness in historic preservation issues, and potentially bringing additional funding opportunities for resource conservation, public outreach, and restoration efforts"*, according to the Grand County Historical Commission.

The grant is in partnership with the Grand County Historical Preservation Commission and will be awarded through the Utah State Historical Preservation Office, who will provide matching funds. The Moab nomination has been years in the works, with thousands of hours of volunteer work from URARA members and others, and staff time from BLM and the National Park Service. Hopefully our grant will help push it past the finish line.

The other activity relates to a proposal to expand the Wells Draw Road through Gate Canyon, a tributary to Nine Mile Canyon. Proposed by Duchesne county, the road would be expanded to accommodate an increase in oil tanker truck traffic to meet the demand for oil and gas from fields in the Uintah Basin. The increase in traffic, up to a tanker truck every 5 minutes on average, would

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continue through Nine Mile Canyon where it would join a rail transfer facility in Wellington. That volume of traffic would likely lead to road expansion in Nine Mile Canyon and threaten the many rock art panels located along the road. It would also make it very hard, and dangerous, to visit and appreciate the rock art in Nine Mile Canyon. Here's a [Story Map](#) URARA put together to highlight the situation.

Very recently, the Utah Legislature withdrew funding for the expansion. No reason was given for the withdrawal, but the opposition from several groups including the Nine Mile Coalition, URARA and members of the public were likely a factor. While the proposal may be dead for the time being, it shows that we constantly need to pay attention to activities that may threaten rock art and to speak out when necessary.

Kent

URARA 2022 Financial Report Available

Carol Duecker

URARA's 2022 Financial Summary is now available on the website for review. You will find it by logging into your URARA account and choosing the "Governance" link under the "Members" Tab.

URARA continues to be in a solid financial position. Our membership - currently at nearly 470 members - has remained steady over the last 3 years in spite of our lack of field trips and postponed symposium. As membership dues cover all of our operational expenses, this has helped our financial position to remain strong.

2022 Highlights:

- We received several generous donations, including donations from the legacy of Gary Burningham, and on behalf of a member-proposed project.
- URARA grants and funding supported acoustic research at sites along the San Juan River, our anti-vandalism project, and the Utah Cultural Astronomy project.
- We successfully held our annual symposium after a 2-year hiatus. The live and silent auctions raised \$4,269 which will be used to support future research and conservation/preservation projects.

In the year ahead, URARA will continue to support work aligned with our mission. We have plans to support a research study in the Uinta basin, our anti-vandalism project, and we will continue to support the Utah Cultural Astronomy project with the remainder of an ongoing grant. We will also continue to look for ways to support research and conservation and preservation projects as opportunities arise.

Thanks to our members for your continued support of URARA!

Fillmore/Beaver Field Trip

Steven Acerson, Field Trip Coordinator

It was a brave group of members that showed up for this field trip. For the two weeks of scouting road conditions before the start, everything looked good. BUT three days prior to the start warm temperatures thawed the snow and the top couple of inches of the road. This turned everything into a sliding mud condition. This is the event that puts ruts into the gravel roads we all cuss when it dries out.

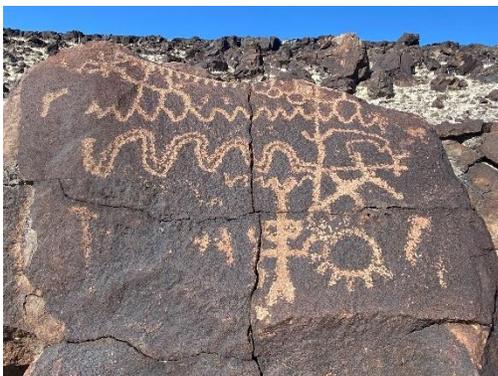
Being the rockart addict that I am there had to be a solution to save the trip. So driving the roads quickly informed me that some of the places were just not going to happen. So now places that had paved roads came into play. Parowan gap which most members have been to many times. Black Rocks north of Milford, still gravel roads and walking through mud to get to hillsides where the images are located. Beaver ridge across the street from our home in Beaver.

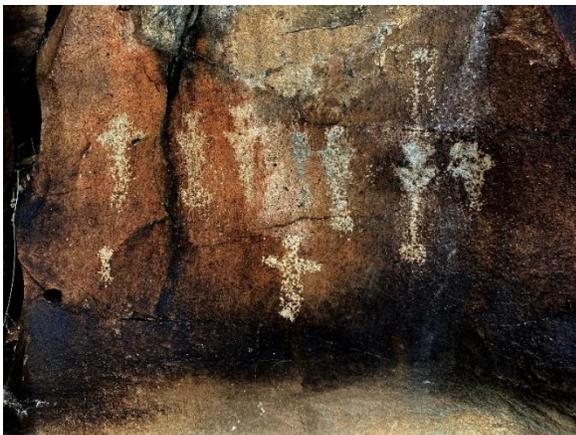
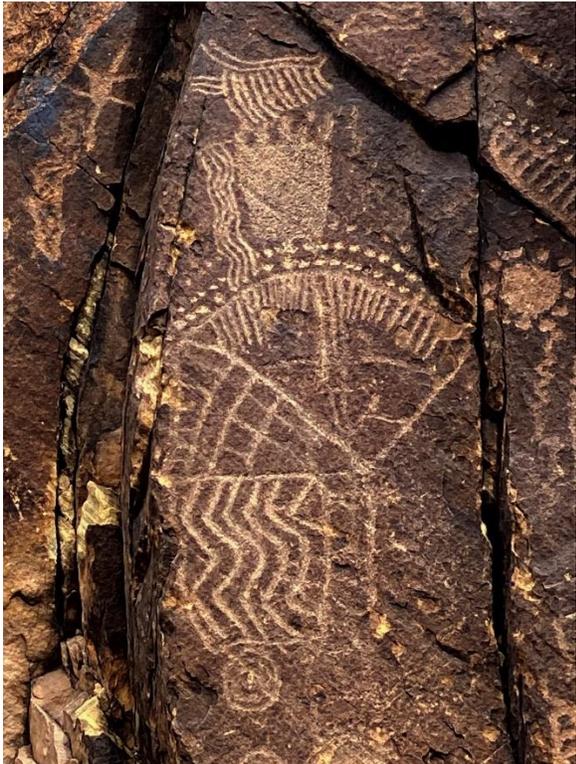
The next decision was made to start the field trip at 7:00 o'clock in the morning hoping to drive on frozen ground to sites close to the road. Antelope Springs and possibly Black Ridge south of Parowan Gap. With members eagerly wanting to break cabin fever we started out for two days of adventures. (Those who have been with me before, always know that I have been on many adventures, and eventually survive.)

Both days were filled with images and visiting with members, and not getting stuck in the mud. Saturday night we gathered at our home for pizza and salad and a little discussion about rock art. Who would have guessed that topic? Sunday was filled with a cold breeze, a little walk on frozen ground that thawed out a bit before we got back to the cars.

Oh yes Sunday was the Super Bowl.... Don't worry I recorded the game and threatened everyone not to tell me anything about it. What a good game!!!

Well, keep a look out to the URARA web page and your email for upcoming Field Trips, and a big thanks for the faithful who attend and those volunteers who lead field trips. If you want to share your favorite places, contact me and we'll set a trip for you.





Shovel Bum Takes 2nd Place with Atlatl Science Fair Experiment

John McHugh

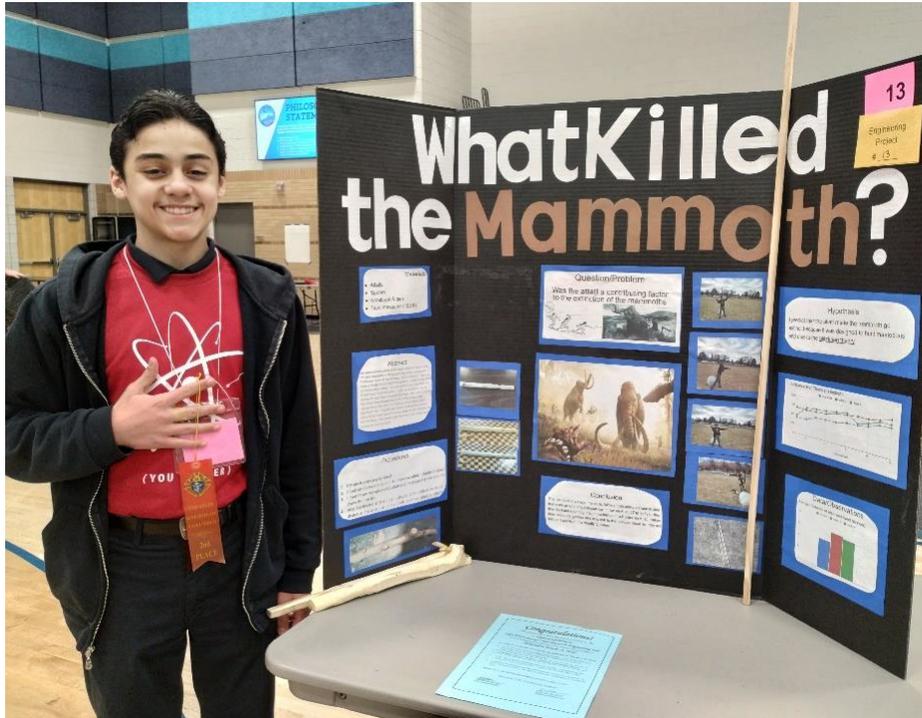
Cyrano Martin has been part of the Blessed Sacrament School “Shovel Bums” archaeology club for a full year. During that time he has learned much about Native American culture, and especially its expression through prehistoric rock art. Like his fellow Shovel Bums, Cyrano strongly advocates for the stewardship, conservation, and protection of Native American rock art. The 6th grader has become so enamored with Native American culture that he wanted to do a science fair project on some aspect of First Peoples’ lifeways.

During archaeology club meetings Cyrano became fascinated with the Paleoindian use of the atlatl (spear-thrower) as a hunting weapon in the Southwest, and became especially intrigued by the archaeological theory that the invention of the atlatl increased hunting success so much that it played a major role in driving megafauna (mammoths, mastodons, camels, etc.) into extinction. Working with his teacher, he formulated a testable hypothesis: *Did the atlatl play a role in causing the mammoths extinction?*

With his father, Cyrano went about hand-carving his own atlatls and wooden spears, and measured the distance of thrown spears with and without the atlatl. He found that he threw spears 27% to 34% farther using the atlatl, and theorized that the ability to stand in proximity to a mammoth and throw many spears with greater force without fear of injury or death would lead to a greater number of mammoth kills.



Cyrano pitched his project entitled, *What Killed the Mammoth?*, at the Salt Lake City Archdiocese Science and Engineering Science Fair in early February. And his experiment won him 2nd Place in the 6th Grade Engineering category! He has now qualified for the Utah Science and Engineering Fair scheduled for early March.



Cyrano Martin posing with his 2nd place Award badge in the 6th Grade Engineering category. Maybe Cyrano's research will someday expose unequivocal proof whether the atlatl did, or did not, put the final nail in the coffin of the mammoth and other megafauna at the start of the Holocene epoch.

Paula K. Reynosa 1938 – 2023

Steve Acerson

With sadness I have learned that my dragonfly lady has passed. She was always wandering around like a dragonfly. May her wings carry her on new paths. We all loved her smile.

Paula K. Reynosa, 84, of 25033 Cascade Dr. Pine Cove / Idyllwild CA., passed away on Jan. 3, 2023 at 3:55 am in Banning, CA

[Paula Reynosa Obituary - Newhall, CA \(dignitymemorial.com\)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/paula-reynosa)

Attention Early birds and Planners

Diana Acerson



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Price Symposium Oct 5th-9th! For you who like to Book in Advance, here are the links that we hope will make booking your stay for the Price symposium easier.

<https://www.carbonutah.com/explore-the-corridor/stay/lodging-index/>

<https://www.carbonutah.com/explore-the-corridor/stay/dining-index/>

Still looking for volunteers who would like to help with a workshop, or lead a field trip. Do you have a talent or knowledge you would like to share? Let me know. Don't be shy.

There will be more information on the symposium to come, so stay tuned for regular updates.

Thanks all!

Diana 😊 dace1950@gmail.com

Stone Desert

Nina Bowen

Craig Childs re-released his book *Stone Desert* in 2022. The original was a great book about geology. This new version includes about 150 pages from his field notes when exploring the Canyonlands and Moab areas in the winter of 1993-94. His drawings of pictographs are probably the only glimpse we will ever get since he was so far in the back country we would probably never be able to find them from his notes. His descriptions and drawings of flora and fauna are also a delight. This diary gives the reader a real glimpse of what it was like to be young and brave in the mid '90s. If you already have *Stone Desert*, you may want to buy the new version!



Maybe should have just stayed in bed today – Photo by Steve Acerson

Calendar and URARA Events

2023	
March 3-4	URARA Field Trip, Ritual Running Routes Bluff, UT
March 4-5	URARA Field Trip, Rocky and Bacon Hills, Porterville, CA
March 10-13	ARARA Annual Conference, Tucson, American Rock Art Research Association - Conference Info 2023 (wildapricot.org)
April 14	URARA Field Trip, Mansard and Catstair Sites, Kanab Area
April 16	Quarterly Board Meeting 6:00 to 7:00PM Zoom
June 9	SHPO Preservation Conference, https://ushpo.utah.gov/conference/
July 18	Quarterly Board Meeting 6:00 to 7:00PM Zoom
July TBD	Summer Picnic
October 5-9	URARA Annual Symposium, Price, Utah
October 8	Quarterly Board Meeting and Members Meeting (at Symposium)
October 18-21	GBAC Bend, Oregon, https://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/
December TBD	Christmas dinner (s)

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.

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

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

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>

Utah Humanities Public Events

https://utahhumanities.org/index.php/component/com_calendar/Itemid,184/component_com_calendar/id,2203/view,event/

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/Membership	Troy Scotter
Funds Manager	Carol Duecker
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