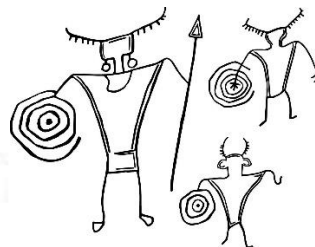


VESTIGES



April 2024
Volume 44
Number 4

Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Diana Acerson

As April flowers begin to color the landscape, we hope you will have the opportunity to get out and visit your favorite rock art sites. Many of you who have gathered as friends since COVID we know are putting together exciting trips out of Utah as well as within the state. It's a great time to invite new URARA members along. If you want to invite more folks to join you, subscribe to the Forum and describe your event, exception: do not disclose site locations on line. We, your URARA board, encourage you to join the Forum if you haven't already.

We have some good news from Carbon County regarding touring in Nine Mile Canyon. Carbon county announced March 21st that they are building three parking lots in the canyon. The sites will be near the Big Buffalo panel, the Owl panel, and the "first sight" that is currently marked with signage just past Argyle Canyon and Nine Mile Ranch. Carbon County calls Nine Mile Canyon its most valuable asset. If you have not had the opportunity to visit Nine Mile Canyon, you need to plan a trip there. The canyon is often described as the "world's longest art gallery" being approximately 40 miles long. Those of you who were able to visit the canyon on a field trip at last year's symposium will know what I am talking about. URARA has helped fund signage for rock imagery sites along

April 2024

the canyon, and has been a consulting party for many years on discussions over use of the canyon, along with the Bureau of Land Management, the Nine Mile Coalition, the County, and others. One of the concerns we have had with the promotion of tourism in the canyon, has been public safety. Visitors trying to see the rock imagery have had very little areas or pull-outs to park in while they view and hike to images. Having places to safely park will help alleviate this problem as well as keep vehicles off what little shoulder there is along the roadway.

To you URARA member Utah Cultural Site Stewards (UCSS), hopefully you turned in your quarterly reports and liability forms for the year, to the UCSS Engagement Specialist Chase Roberts. He also has a cookbook in the works, so we also hope you sent in your favorite recipe. Can't wait to see what he came up with. You can contact Chase at: czroberts@utah.gov

If you are not familiar with the site steward program, it consists of hundreds of dedicated volunteer stewards, 3 full time leadership staff members, several regional coordinators, federal, state, local, and private landowners, and many other strong stakeholder groups to promote cultural resource site stewardship and responsible visitation of cultural sites. UCSS is part of the Utah State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). Stewards assist land managers by monitoring cultural heritage/rock imagery sites and providing them with real time data on the condition of sites. They also play a significant role in helping to provide education to the public and promote appropriate archaeological site visitation. URARA members have supported the program since its beginnings, which included being present at the Utah legislative session that approved the program for the state.

Why should you become a steward?

Visit: <https://ushpo.utah.gov/why-should-i-become-a-utah-cultural-site-steward/>

Diana Acerson 😊

"Even if you are not on a URARA organized field trip, please protect the organization by obeying signs, not trespassing, or taking part in any behavior that is not appropriate or threatens the integrity of URARA.

Field Trip Survey

Tina Tan

Field Trip Survey coming your way!

URARA is sending out a quick short survey (it will take less than 5 mins to complete) about field trips. We know field trips are popular, but we need members to volunteer to lead these trips.

With the survey, we hope to find out what, if any, obstacles there are for our members to lead field trips. With this information, the Board can look into ways to encourage and support the membership to volunteer to lead trips.

We hope you will take 5 mins to complete the survey when we send it out! We appreciate your help!

Beaver Symposium Workshop Teaser

Diana Acerson



Beaver Symposium Workshop Teaser

Symposium Logo design by Lynn Benson

Beaver Utah is the place. October 10th through 14th are the dates.

We try to offer a variety of interesting workshops for members to enjoy and hopefully experience something new and helpful. Here's what we are working on for you:

- After a successful event last year, the drone class is back. See a variety of drones and learn how to use them to get those close-ups photo's you've always wanted – Ryan Moreau
- Protecting rock art is a priority for URARA, so there will be more training and instruction to accomplish that goal – BLM Color Country District archaeologist Debra McCarthy
- Everyone had great fun painting with ochre last year, so by popular demand it's back – Elizebath Hora, Utah State Preservation Office archaeologist
- Photography skills for rock art imagery, the magic that brings your photos to life – Robert Crifasi
- Working with clay, and learning how pots and figurines are made – Tina Tan
- Instruction and updates on the URARA site information app – Troy Scotter
- How to make the paints that created the imagery – Nina Bowen

*Keep checking for updates as we prepare this great event in October. Watch for any changes or additions to the workshops, the number of folks who can sign up, and final details for each workshop, as we get closer.

The Call is out for you Great Volunteers

Sussan McDowell, Volunteer Coordinator

Wow, it looks like our new president, Diana, is hitting the ground running. She would like to have a list of eager volunteers to meet all the needs necessary to keep URARA a vibrant and active organization. Of course, we always need **Field Trip leaders**, so anyone with a good place they want to visit, contact Steve Acerson, field trip coordinator: whiteh20rockart@gmail.com, and he can help you flesh it out and get it listed on the URARA web site.

Next, we'll need someone to be the **Annual Summer Picnic Coordinator. (Really a 3-Day Campout.)** Come up with ideas where to camp, some favorite locations with a lot of rock art and camping for 2-3 days of field trips and a lot of good socializing (don't worry about 2024; it's already nailed down). The sooner we find a coordinator, the sooner we can get those campsites booked, on the calendar, and get advertised to our members. Lots of details, but always a fun annual event.

Then, in October comes the **Beaver Symposium** this year. We all enjoy the Speakers and Field Trips, but it looks like we need about 25 volunteers to actually make it all come together. We all see the registration table, T-shirts, venue preparation, snacks and mic assistants, but there is much more. We need an event photographer, and several auction assistants. We also need a Workshop Monitor at City Hall to run things the Thursday before the main 4-day event. Will you be attending? Help us!!

Looking ahead to **2025, the symposium will be in Kanab**. Pat Sullivan, the symposium chair, and Jeff Frey are helping to coordinate that event. However, we need someone who lives closer who can help check out the local venue and caterers, etc.

Then, comes the annual **Holiday (Christmas) Parties**. I can host Moab's, but we need volunteers to coordinate ones for Salt Lake City and St. George or similar locations. The party can be in a home or public venue with entertainment or not. Let's PARTY!

Hopefully, one or more of these items will spark your interest and commitment. PLEASE help us run these events. You can contact me, Susan McDowell at moabsuz@gmail.com, and I can send you more details.

See those smiles? Volunteer and join the fun.

Margo Mahoney



Oscar Olson



Connie Bridge



Pat Sullivan



We're Better Stewards When We Know Stuff

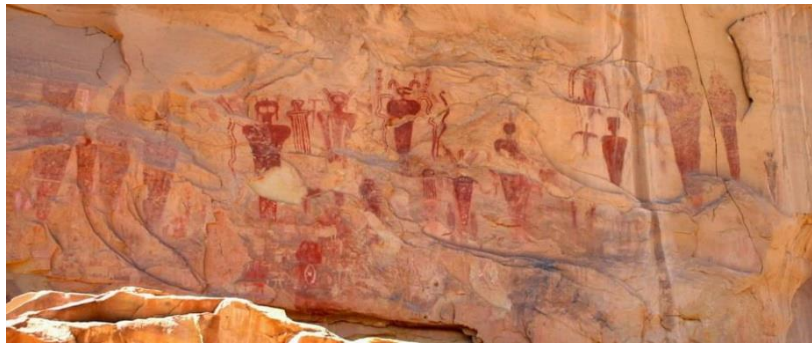
Steve Acerson

Clearly, the 'Classic Vernal Style' rock imagery we harbor in this region is one of the most recognizable and distinctive, anywhere. However, for those of you who follow the study of ancient symbols, the most mysterious and other-worldly examples are, by far, the Barrier Canyon Style (BCS) of pictograph.

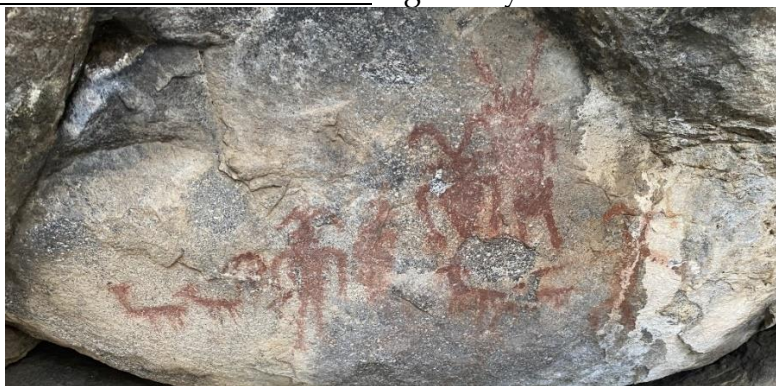
Predominantly, a red pigment was used to create these ghostly apparitions in pictograph form that scream spiritual & metaphysical ceremonies from long ago. Although there is still much debate around dating rock art, these are very old and seem to fall somewhere in the 2,000 BC to 500 AD period. (Still getting used to the BCE/CE monikers). These pictographs act as a transition between Archaic Styles and more recent, interpreted specimens.

Many anthropomorphs are drawn hanging, without arms, feet or legs in some instances, creating 'floating' spirits that are quite different from most other styles. Probably the most popular BCS site is in Horseshoe Canyon, a tributary of the Green River, but it's an excellent hike to supernatural scenes from above in a very remote region. Known as 'The Great Gallery', it has been on countless bucket-lists; the canyon envelopes you with calm.

The largest concentration of BCS images is in central Utah, but there is evidence north to Wyoming, so, while hunting, watch for elements of BCS -



Sego Canyon



South Canyon, Beaver

Outdoor Safety



April K. Gray, MD

Abrasions, Lacerations, and Puncture Wounds

It seems to happen at the most inconvenient times but with simple preparation you can handle it. The most important care of wounds is making sure it is clean of any foreign matter. One of the easiest ways to clear foreign matter is to flush with potable water. This may sting a bit but it reduces risk of infection, scarring and ultimately pain. If there is dirt that is not being flushed out then gentle swabbing with a gauze sponge can be effective. Once a wound is cleaned, then application of Aquaphor to the wound will decrease healing time and scarring. I do not recommend Neosporin because it actually interferes with healing. For bandages I recommend Nexcare Band-aids which come in a variety of sizes and can be left in place until the wound is healed. They are also waterproof.

Puncture wounds are more difficult to treat as it is difficult to remove foreign material. Flush as best as you can then cover and observe for signs of infection. If you see redness, discharge or increased pain then there is probably an infection which will require antibiotics. One more thing, if it has been longer than 10 years you need a tetanus vaccine. Tetanus is caused by the *Clostridium tetani* bacteria. These bacteria are found everywhere including the soil.

Smith Preserve Schedule

Rick Mathews

The Adelbert Doyle Smith Family Archaeological Preserve (SFAP) has tentatively announced its spring 2023 tour schedule:

13 Apr.
20 Apr.
11 May
18 May

All tours are scheduled to begin at 10:00 am.

Located 14.5 miles south of Saratoga Springs on State Route (SR) 68, the SFAP is a great place to see Desert Archaic and Early Fremont imagery. The tours normally last between 1-1.5 hours. Tours are free and limited to 10 people. Tickets are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

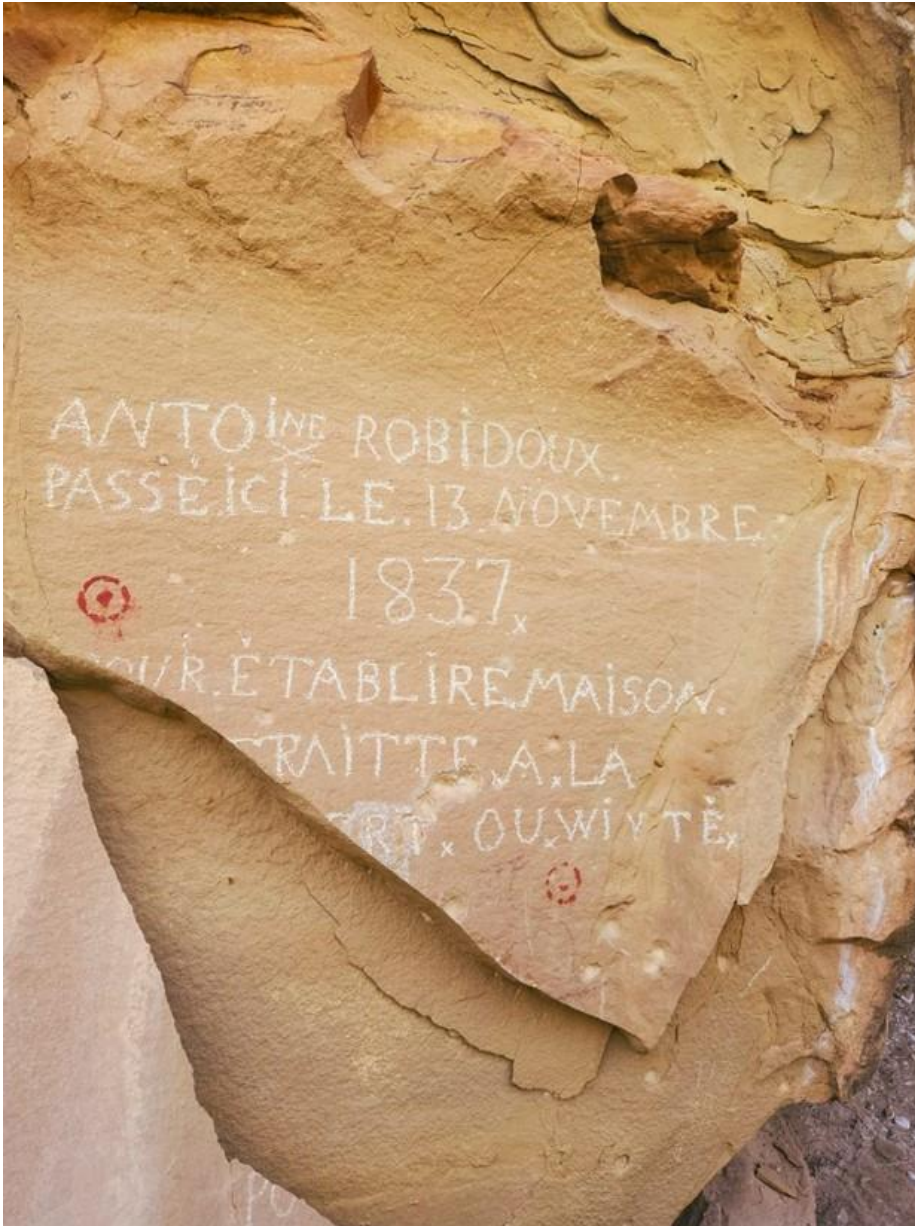
For more information and to sign-up for a tour visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/smith.family.archaeological.preserve>

URARA Summer Picnic Aug 8-11

Steve Acerson

The URARA Summer Picnic will be at the Three Rivers Ranch, Westwater Canyon, Utah, Aug 8-11.



Come join us at a campsite on the ranch property by the Robidoux inscription panel in the corral. Where Hay and East Canyon come together. The Elmgreens have given us permission to camp on their property and visit the sites on their property. There have been plans to improve the road down the canyon to transport crude oil from the Uinta Basin. The plan has the road going through their ranch. We will visit with them about how this would impact them.

Please arrive Thursday to set up camp, there are no services, so bring everything you need. This is a dry camp with no restrooms. Closest town is Fruita, CO. (50 m.), if you want to drive back and forth. We'll decide the next two days of sites to visit in the Bookcliff canyons in the area.

The traditional URARA "potluck" dinner will be Saturday night. The chili will be provided, along with plates, utensils. Plan to bring a dish, appetizer, or a dessert as your contribution. We will contact you once you have registered for the picnic, with your food assignment.

Plan on a fun weekend with lots of rock art and mingling, sharing stories and all things rock art.

Archaeology Club Back in Session

John McHugh

The Blessed Sacrament School “Shovel Bums” Archaeology Club is back in session. Sixteen 3rd through 8th grade students have attended each of the first two Club meetings, which are held in Mr. McHugh’s classroom every Tuesday from 3:10 to 4:40 PM. Beginning on April 12th the Shovel Bums will resume their Friday afternoon stewarding and re-cataloguing of rock art along the western shore of Utah Lake. Students will also steward rock art at Fremont Indian State Park and at various sites in the Vernal area.

Of immediate interest is the “Gnomon Panel” located off of Rainbow Park Road. There, the Shovel Bums have been intermittently working with BLM archaeologist David Christensen to complete the documentation of a panel that is badly eroded and extremely fragile. This extensive panel may have calendrical significance as a centrally drilled hole implies that a stick was inserted so as to cast a shadow that could be used to track seasonal time on a circular petroglyph.



6th Shovel Bum Elizabeth Grai (left) records the “Gnomon Panel” with 7th graders Paul De La Fuente and Helene Mabanza (Sept. 2023).

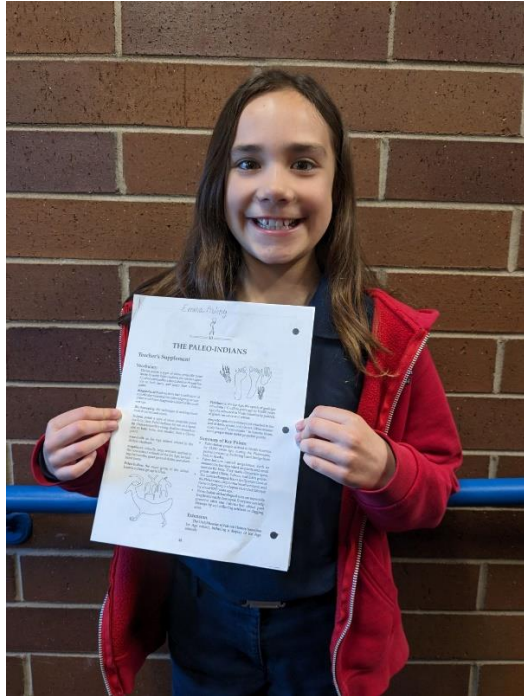
Vernal field trips always end with a treat—a dutch oven dinner provided by Darlene Koerner and Tim Sweeney! Last September the Shovel Bums got to meet several of the URARA members and Native American elders, who had arrived as part of a Crow Canyon's collaboration regarding the interpretation of Indigenous rock art in Uintah Basin.



Middle School-aged Shovel Bums enjoy a delicious dutch oven dinner provided by URARA via the outstanding cooking of Darlene Koerner and Tim Sweeney.

John McHugh, Blessed Sacrament middle school teacher and Shovel Bums' supervisor, has already begun making good use of the \$1500 donation provided by URARA, purchasing "Split Twig" figurine and "Rock Art" sand boards as part of the Club activities. Noteworthy is that the Archaeology Club students are getting younger and younger—for instance Clara Rasmussen and Lexie Wilkins are only in 3rd grade! Yet, no matter what the age, all of the students share a passion for Native American prehistory, heritage, and especially rock art. In addition, the Shovel Bums are quite a diverse bunch, with students heralding from the United States, Congo, Dominican Republic, Chile, Cuba, and Russia. It is not uncommon to hear French and Spanish spoken alongside English during Archaeology Club.

This article would like to spotlight two Shovel Bums for their hard work and dedication. 4th grader Emma Ashby joined Archaeology Club last year. Her passion and enthusiasm partly stems from the fact that she wants to learn more about her Ute heritage. Emma's energy enhances whatever activities the Shovel Bums choose to take part in.



4th grader Emma Ashby holds up her completed Paleoindian packet, which she finished after archaeology club.

6th grader Isabeau Martin has been a Shovel Bum since 5th grade. Laconic and shy, Isabeau is enthralled during classroom lessons and quietly excels on field trips, meticulously filling out the IMACS Rock Art attachment forms with the precision of a professional archaeologist, and sketching panels accurately. She kindly helps fellow Shovel Bums with the quirky aspects of rock art documentation, such as how much erosion or repatination is present on a panel and what its azimuth reading is.



6th grade Shovel Bum, Isabeau Martin, points out an intriguing petroglyph at the Smith Archaeological Preserve.

Kudos to these two, rock-art-stewarding girls and the rest of the Shovel Bums for their dedication and hard work!

Mohave Field Trip Report

Robert Van Orden

I must have been having fun, because it took me 24 hours just to get the body count right. 11 enthusiastic folks followed that crazy California guy for 3 days without any complaints. Our first stop was Inscription Rock at Davis Camp Campground, AZ, which turned out to be several very nice panels. Some of our folks stayed here, hot showers and a laundromat all for a very reasonable price.

Next we visited Keyhole Canyon, NV, a very beautiful and sacred place, with large and small cupules, a painted boulder cave, and numerous petroglyphs. Dennis Devore found a new hunting dog panel! We also noticed several climbing bolts, which I find very concerning!!! The Upper and Lower Hiko Springs sites made for a pleasant walk. We finished the day at Grapevine Canyon.

The second day we visited Indian Well in the Mojave Preserve. The well itself is a geologic wonder. Folks were very satisfied with the images we found. We had lunch at the beautiful Camp Rock Spring site.

Along the way I flagged down the ranger truck, to let them know there were 6 vehicles behind me. The ranger gal jumps out of her truck and has her hand on her gun. My-oh-my! My kind of gal, ready for anything - it must be spring! Next we visited the hollow boulder Womb Rock, and Mary's Cave. We finished the day at the Ring Trail site.

On our last day we visited Black Tank Wash/Aikens Arch and Cow Cove. Folks enjoyed Cow Cove so much that they stopped looking at their watches, we stayed till 6:15.

Oh, ye of little faith - 10 am and folks are already worried that I have forgotten about lunch? LOL! As much as the rock art, we enjoyed the desert. A very rewarding trip for me. New friends! Thank you so much for making this trip a wonderful adventure!



Mohave (continued)



Montezuma Trip Report

Carol Patterson

This month I took 11 people on a wild ride into Montezuma Creek and Cross Canyon on Saturday. Then Montezuma Canyon up to Bradford Village on Sunday. We ducked looming rain clouds and found terrific conditions for photographing panels that are very old.



Montezuma Creek, on the side of the road is this nice panel slightly enhanced.



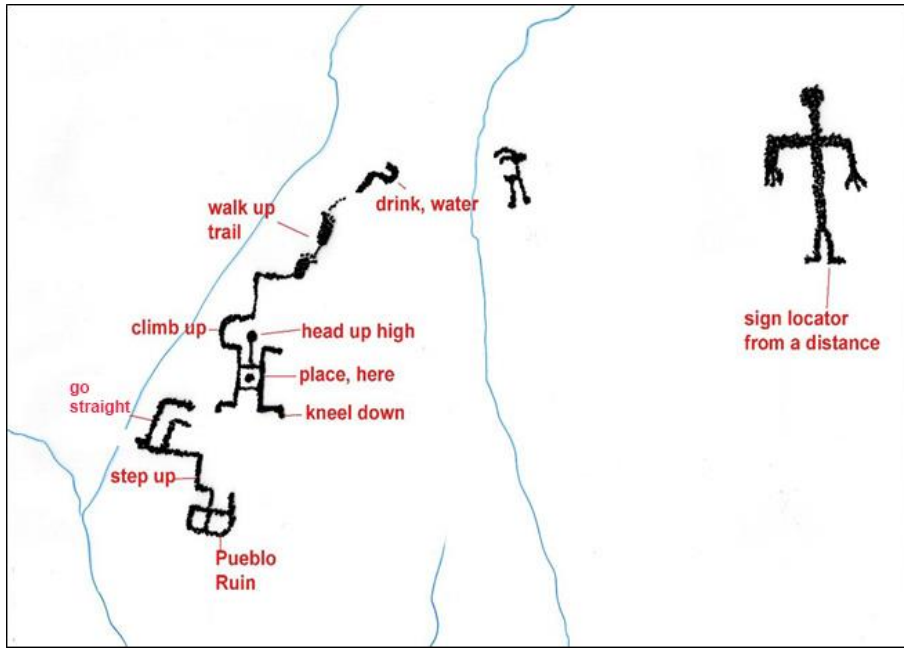
I've been studying this Ute panel for several years. It depicts a story in picture writing, about how to get a drink from a catch basin up the hill. As a test, I took my Cherokee colleague, Melanie McKay-Cody, PhD, (Cherokee Deaf) who is a linguistic and sociocultural anthropologist, and professor of Indigenous Deaf Studies and endangered languages. North American Indian Sign Language Studies is her specialty.



Ute Panel



Melanie demonstrating the different signs used in this panel. She is showing the sign for “walking up the trail” to a place to “get a drink”. Here is a diagram of what it means (possibly).



I showed the group, the Pueblo ruin located described with symbols in the panel. It is located just to the west and shown with an arrow in this photograph.



Two room Pueblo ruin seen from the panel.



Illustration of a four room pueblo and kiva. Example of pottery found at the site.



Google Map shows the location of the Ute panel on the center right, the pueblo ruin is on the lower right and the catchment basin of water is on the upper left.

Other sites included “The fight with the katsinas” shown here: One duck-head (Katsina) is raising his throwing stick (atlatl) and his atlatl darts are sticking in the chest of the other duck-head (Katsina).



The “War of the Katsinas” is a myth associated with the great drought when the Katsinas (Rain Bringers) started fighting and killing each other. Subsequently when the rain stopped coming, the corn wouldn’t grow and famine killed a lot of people.

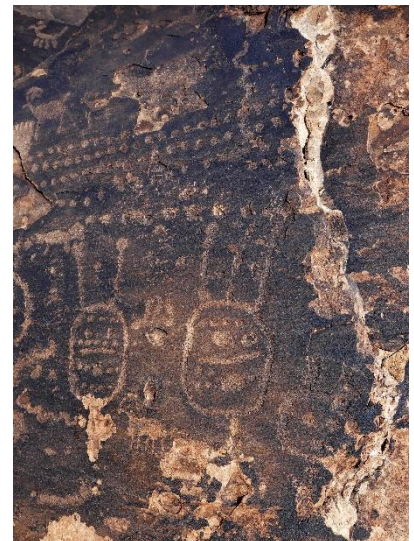
Finally, the Katsinas agreed to leave and never come back, but before they left, they instructed the people how to make masks to impersonate them and conduct rain ceremonies that would call them back to bring rain. The result is what you see at the “Katsina dances” at the Pueblos today.



We had a fun trip up Cross Canyon and Bug Park to look at the K’oBictaiya, rain bringers of the East.

And so the rain drove us out around 2pm on Sunday but it was a long drive back to Bluff, so it all ended up a satisfactory trip.

Carol Patterson



Archaeology Preservation Month

Elizabeth Hora, SHPO



The Utah SHPO hosts a centralized calendar of all the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Months across the state. Getting your event on this calendar before April 1st will help your audience find your event!

These events are linked on the poster, promoted on SHPO social media, and even noticed by traditional news media! If you or your organization have cool technology to share or you want to host a tour or have something else that you think fits in, get involved!

Click to get started

[SIGN UP TO HOST AN EVENT](#)

Calendar and URARA Events

April 20	URARA Field Trip Horseshoe Canyon, Great Gallery
May 16-20	ARARA 2024 Conference, Farmington NM https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info-2024
August 8-11	URARA Summer Picnic, Westwater
October 10-14	URARA Symposium, Beaver

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, Saturday field trips once a month. <http://www.dixierockart.com/>

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

2024 URARA Board and Officers

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

Committee Chairs and Appointees

Archives/Historian	Keith Fessenden
Conservation/Preservation	Kent Williams
Documentation/Research	Darlene Koerner
Education	John McHugh
Field Trips	Steve Acerson
Funding/Grants Manager	Pat Sullivan
Membership Coordinator	Deb Mitchell
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Volunteer Coordinator	Susan McDowell
Website	Troy Scotter

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	Diana Acerson
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