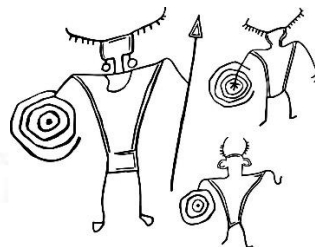


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Diana Acerson

A quick update on the 2024 Symposium in Beaver, Utah, October 10-14th. Things are moving along as we get closer. Keynote Speakers have been lined up and a call for papers has been issued. If you looked last month, we outlined our proposed workshops, which will take place on Thursday the 10th of October. We do need a few volunteers to help prior to, and during the event on the 12th and 13th at the venue. Please contact Susan McDowell moabsuz@gmail.com to get more information. Again, many hands make light work, so don't be shy. We so appreciate the volunteers who help URARA with what we need whenever they can. Susan is our go-to person who will match what you would like to do with what we need.

ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH - All month long archaeologists, preservationists, museum professionals, educators, and historians are putting on events all across the state of Utah. Check out the [full Event Calendar](#) to find something near you! May is a perfect time for visits to rock art locations, or any other of Utah's historic and scenic places. Please be safe in all your travels.

FRANK KANIG - We are sad to lose Frank Kanig, long-time URARA member and avid preservationist.

<https://walkermemorials.com/obituary/frank-ludlow-kanig/>

BOARD MEETING - Our quarterly Board meeting took place April 18th and as a reminder, minutes can be found on the URARA website under the “Members” tab, then “Governance”.

FORUM - At this time URARA has 471 members and 51 Forum subscribers. If you are not subscribed to the Forum, there is a lot of great information and interactions you are missing. After you subscribe to the Forum on the website, you will receive an email whenever a member has posted something. You just click on the email and it will link you directly to the Forum conversation that has been posted. If you are Forum shy, it’s a lot easier than you think. Also, keep watching for ZOOM presentations which are due to begin again soon. If you would like to give one of our monthly presentations, contact Rick Mathews, rickmathews2005@yahoo.dk

FIELD TRIPS - This is a plea to members signing up for our monthly field trips. Please do not sign up if you cannot commit to being there. We understand last minute emergencies, but don’t sign up if you are not sure you will really be able to attend. Cancellations within a week before the trip make it hard to backfill the spots with members on the “wait list”. By the time we notify them there is a vacancy, they have other plans and the field trip leader ends up with only 4 or 5 people on a 12-member trip. This is frustrating for the field trip leader as well as not fair to those who could have been pulled from the wait list and added to the trip. We are trying diligently to accommodate members desire to attend field trips as best we can, and we really do not want to discourage those who might be willing to lead a trip for us. As you know we are having trouble finding members to lead field trips. So please, if you sign up for a trip, plan to be there, or let us know well in advance if you have changed your mind, so we can give someone else the opportunity to fill your spot on the trip.

PRIVACY POLICY - URARA has adopted a Privacy Policy which you can view in the “About Us” area of the website. Please take time to review this policy.

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. Thank you.

Symposium Call for Papers

Dennis DeVore, Speaker Coordinator

The symposium committee is seeking speakers for the 2024 URARA symposium to be held October 11-14 in Beaver, Utah. The presentations will be on Saturday October 12th and Sunday October 13th. Speakers will receive free symposium registration and an expense reimbursement allowance.

Proposals should have a title and brief abstract of the topic. A wide range of ideas and subjects are acceptable provided they relate to rock art in Utah and the western states.

The deadline for proposals is July 1, 2024. Please email Dennis DeVore at ddv48@mac.com or send to 353 Dakota Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81507.

How to Visit Rock Imagery Sites Like an Archaeologist

Elizabeth Hora,

In Utah, rock imagery sites boldly announce their presence with splashes of color and confident parades of familiar icons: bighorn sheep, bird tracks and ghostly human figures. Rock imagery conveys loud and urgent messages across millennia, and annually draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to hear what these sites have to say. As an archaeologist, I'm often expected to know "what does this mean?" But it's a conversation overheard by people like me (a Westerner, of European-American descent) and only faintly understood. There are words I can understand ("a spiral to the left of the warrior, and mother-and-child pairs of deer streaming by to the right"), but I can't parse the idiom.

These snippets of conversation overheard and trapped in amber weren't intended for me. The ancient authors from thousands of years ago certainly knew their imagery would last into the future, but they were communicating a message to their own contemporaries and their own descendants. (Read: "[Ancient Pictographs, Petroglyphs and Timeless Mysteries](#)")



Contemporary Native American people who can trace their ancestry back to Utah's canyons, valleys, mountains and deserts will tell you as much: These were messages left for them by their ancestors, and they can hear the meaning just fine (Read: "[Following the Markings of Native](#)

[American History](#)"). Through traditional knowledge, Native Americans are able to read into the rock and understand when a zigzagging line represents a snake, the meander of a stream, or the travels of a family across time and space. What's more, Native Americans are under no obligation to be translators for a voyeuristic audience such as myself. They are the intended recipients of these missives, and it is the role of the rest of us to politely listen to their conversation because, after all, we are visitors in their ancestral home. (Learn about travel recommendations to respect and appreciate Native Nations and view the "[Bears Ears Area Starter Kit](#)" for an introduction to some of the lands and sites steeped in Native culture and tradition.) For those of us without the traditional knowledge to decode the meaning, it's enough to be able to appreciate the creativity and beauty of these ancient writers and artists. (Read: "[Art Keeps the Native American Culture Alive](#)")

Even though I may not be privy to the innermost meanings of these rock imagery sites, visiting them with respect is my passion and expertise. These tips will help you wring every last drop of experience out of sites, while showing the respect and deference they deserve. "Rock imagery conveys loud and urgent messages across millennia, and annually draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to hear what these sites have to say."

Approach rock imagery sites as you would other sacred spaces.

Visitors should approach these sites as they would other religious spaces. These places will move some toward quiet contemplation and introspection while other visitors may not feel the same spiritual resonance. You can expect to have different experiences, but you should always strive to be respectful.

Take a proverbial step back and look at your surroundings.

While you have been looking at the rock imagery, it has been looking right back at you and past you. What does it see? What does it hear? How might this place change across the seasons and millennia? Bring your binoculars to scan nearby canyon walls for more rock imagery, granaries or even cliff dwellings in some portions of the state. (Read: "The 46 Miles of Nine Mile Canyon")

Bring a guidebook to Utah rock imagery.

People have thrived in Utah for 13,000 years and left behind an incredible array of archaeological sites. Bringing a guidebook can help you narrow down when in time you are looking, and help you understand the different cultures and peoples who left their mark on this space. Oftentimes, rock imagery sites were added on over the course of many hundreds of years. You may be looking at a chorus of voices speaking in slightly different tongues. Bringing a guidebook can help you narrow down when in time you are looking, and help you understand the different cultures and peoples who left their mark on the spaces you visit. (Read: "The Petroglyphs of Comb Ridge")

Even though it's not as old, it's still important.

Oftentimes, there are more "modern" inscriptions on rock, and this might feel like vandalism. Dates from the 1800s or even 1900s might give you pause, but these are also important for archaeologists. You and I have the privilege to send a text or make a phone call to tell loved ones we made it to a destination safely. One hundred years ago, making a mark on a canyon wall told passersby that others had been here before or who had claimed the land. (Read: "A Rural Community Leading the Way in Stewardship and Preservation")

Utah's Governor Asks You to Pledge to Protect the Past

Through traditional knowledge, Native Americans are able to read into the rock and understand when a zigzagging line represents a snake, the meander of a stream, or the travels of a family across time and space.

Be aware of where you are walking. Stay on trails and help pets and children to do the same. The sand below these rock imagery panels may be archaeologically rich in layer upon layer of prehistoric surfaces, campfires and paint palettes. Walking across these places may disturb them by removing or compacting sediments that have been carefully piled over for hundreds of years. Using rubber tips on your hiking poles can be a great way to make sure you don't scuff sandstone on the ground.

You may want to get close to rock imagery, but be careful not to touch it directly. These rocks are home to living communities of lichen, bacteria, and other small plants and animals. Your exotic dirt and oils could cause an imbalance that may loosen the images from the rock and cause permanent damage. **(Read: “Soil Sleuth: Protecting Utah’s Living Landscapes”)**

Find creative ways to interact with the site.

A lot of people feel an urge to connect with the past by writing or scratching over rock imagery – please refrain from doing that! Some sites will have a trail register where you can record your experiences (we do keep these, I promise!). Bring a notebook or sketch paper to draw, paint and write your own reflections while at the site. Bring a camera and take your time setting-up shots that communicate your feelings and impressions. But under no circumstances is it ethical or legal to leave your own mark on or around these sites. **(Read: “A Photographer’s Guide to Mindful Travel”)**

Eating, drinking and camping should all be done at a distance from these sites.

It’s a sign of respect to give these sites your attention while you are there, so I don’t recommend consuming anything while on site other than sips from your water bottle. Also, I can personally attest to how frustrating it is to find modern corn and sunflower seeds in excavations! Humans living their lives are how these sites are made and how they are modified, so be mindful of what traces you leave behind.

Pack it in, pack it out – but nothing more!

Please bring all your trash back with you for disposal, and, of course, if you find trash that isn’t yours, I encourage you to help keep these places clean. (And thank you!) But please leave things that are not clearly modern trash – even things such as old tin cans and glass bottles can help archaeologists understand how people throughout history used these spaces. And, of course, removing artifacts from sites – be they ancient or as young as 50 years old – is a legal and moral offense. **(Read: “Responsible Travel in Utah”)**

There are untold thousands of rock imagery sites across Utah, and hundreds of thousands of archaeological sites of every stripe. I want visitors to feel empowered to make the right visitation choices on all of these sites, because it is important to connect with the people who came before us. You can learn more about Utah’s archaeology and how to protect it at history.utah.gov/upan. And whether you are planning your first trip to Utah or you are a local, our “Stop Archaeological Vandalism” pledge offers essential tools so that visitors can recognize an archaeological site and to keep it safe.

These incredible places have been here for thousands of years hosting visitors, creating memories for travelers and helping so many of us find a deep human connection. By visiting, you become a part of that tradition, and by visiting with respect, you help us all as we protect the past.

If you’re motivated to help, Pledge to Stop Archaeological Vandalism and please share with others.

Belated Symposium Field Trip Report

Robert VanOrden, Creative Trip Leader

Some stories just must be told! Story number one. Along my chosen route to the Ascending Sheep panel, there are two hills before the final stretch. After the first hill someone let me know that we had lost one person. My response was, "No big deal. We almost always lose one person". They can't fire me, for losing just one person, can they? After hill number two, folks let me know that we had lost a second person. My response was, "Oh, no! This is bad, this is very bad". Losing two people in one day reflects poorly on me! LOL!

Story number two. I felt bad because one person just could not do the long walks to our sites. So, I decided to pirate someone else's field trip and took my group to Quitchupah, a nice drive up site. When we arrived, Howard and Wanda were there with their group. Busted! Caught me red-hand pirating a field trip. Then I found out that Howard and Wanda's group were also pirating the same field trip. LOL! I admit, I took great pleasure in confessing to Troy that I had pirated his field trip.

Story number three. On the Monday FT when we arrived at Quitchupah (some of us might deserve our bad reputations), there were three cement trucks parked in the road. Forty minute delays in each direction! So, I took the group to the painted Rochester site. Then we went to Molen Reef. Yes, another pirate maneuver! We had so much fun at Molen Reef that we didn't get back to Price until 7:40 pm, and no one complained. Steve would be proud!!! Now, if only someone enjoyed hearing my stories, as much as I enjoy telling them... Blessings!

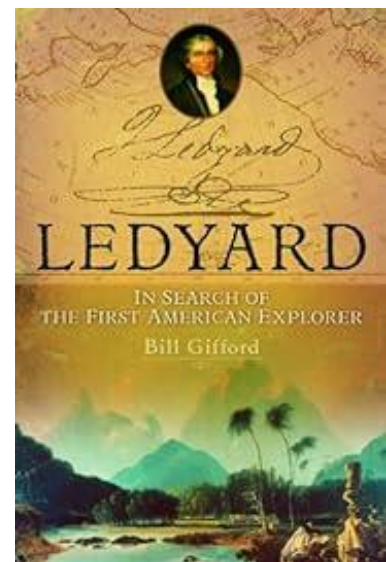
Book Review: Ledyard

Lynn Benson

"Ledyard, In search of the first American explorer" by Bill Gifford

This book isn't about rock art but because all of the members of URARA are American explorers, I thought this book might fit in our agenda.

John Ledyard was celebrated as the first great explorer born in America. He participated in the greatest expeditions of his day. He was a veteran on Captain Cook's final voyage. He helped pioneer the fur trade on the west coast of America. Later with his friend, Thomas Jefferson, they planned a grand exploration across North America. This was before Lewis and Clark. Because he was in Europe at that time, he decided to travel across Russia then journey across America. As a youth, he befriended the Indians on the East Coast, with this experience, he thought he could befriend the tribes as he traveled from west to east. However, during the trip through Russia, he was arrested as a spy and deported back to Europe, instead with a new sponsor, he decided to venture through Egypt and explore North Africa, seeking the source of the Nile. Sadly, he died in Egypt from an exotic disease in 1789.



Dinwoody, Wyoming

Robert VanOrden

I am imagining that many folks have not visited the Dinwoody Rock Art because they don't know the area. So, I am going to share my local Wyoming knowledge. To talk about a style at all we need a type site, which for the Dinwoody Style is Dinwoody Lake. This spot on tribal land can be visited by purchasing a tribal fishing permit available at nine or more local retailers in the Wind River area. You drive to the end of Dinwoody Road to the lake. Some of the petroglyphs are fenced in. On the unfenced side is an image I call my "Morning Angel". There are bathrooms on the road in. Sometimes rocks wash down onto the road, but I have always been able to get there in a small pickup truck. I think the light is best for photos just after sunrise. This is a great spot to visit as a group, to minimize traffic on the road. Local knowledge: this is probably not an appropriate place to camp or do any cross country hiking due to tribal sensitivities.

The other easy to visit Dinwoody site is Trail Lake. There are over 100 sites scattered along the Trail Lake Road, including a few for the mountain goats. There is one "Lightning God" image on private land visible from the road. A very powerful image! To visit the Ring Lake Ranch sites you either rent a cabin or take a tour from the Dubois Museum. The museum tour of Ring Lake Ranch also includes some of the main Trail Lake sites. The Dubois Museum tour would be great as a URARA group. There is free camping and a pit toilet at Ring Lake Campground.

The other easy Dinwoody site to visit is Legend Rock SP which has bathrooms and picnic tables nowadays. It was rather different 30 years ago. The other half of the Legend Rock site is on private land that URARA can easily visit as a group. The petroglyphs are up a short non-trail on a fully treacherous talus slope.



Dinwoody (continued)

There are several other rock art sites in Wyoming. Castle Gardens SP is a Plains Style site in a beautiful spot. The road is well gravelled all the way to the site. For photos, I think the light is best in the late afternoon. There were no bathrooms when I was there. Medicine Lodge Archeological Site is a small site with mostly Plains Style petroglyphs in an alcove. There is a nice wooded camping area at this site. White Mountain is another WY public access site. There is a well gravelled road all the way there, but no bathrooms that I remember.

Another must see WY attraction is the Bighorn Medicine Wheel. As well as the main site, there are several smaller "prayer wheels". I recommend a sunset here in June when the Forget-me-nots are in bloom! There are several campgrounds nearby. Granite Falls Hot Springs has a hot swimming pool! There were 29 spp. of flowers in the parking lot in June when I was there. Oh, I suppose there is that other park in Wyoming with the buffaloes and all those geysers, lol. Safe travels!

Outdoor Safety



April K. Gray, MD



Water and Electrolytes

When you are hiking and distracted it is easy to forget to drink water.

The first warning you may get is that you are tired. You may be mildly nauseated. You may be thirsty and lightheaded. Your urine may be dark and strong smelling if you have urinated. If you pull the skin up on the back of your hand it may stay up. This is called tenting. Your tongue may be dry.

If you are taking certain types of medication, you may not have normal thirst and thus be more susceptible to dehydration. Drink plenty of water to make sure you don't get dehydrated. But don't drink too much.

You are now feeling nauseated, are vomiting, and have a headache. You feel fatigued, and weak and are having muscle spasms. What is the problem? You have hyponatremia. This means that the sodium level in your blood is too low. Ideally you would go to an emergency room. But the prevention and quick fix is to eat something with high salt content, if you are not vomiting.

I recommend using an electrolyte sport hydration drink mix. There are a number on the market. The one I use is called Skratch Sport Hydration mix. It has a small amount of sugar from real fruit juice. This helps with absorption of the water. It is available at most outdoor stores and Amazon.

Shovel Bums in Classroom and Field

John McHugh

The “Shovel Bums” at Blessed Sacrament School Archaeology Club are taking part in classes on the rudiments of archaeology and rock art during Club meetings on Tuesdays. On Fridays the Shovel Bums go out and steward the documented prehistoric Native American Rock Art sites in the Lake Mountain region of Utah Lake. While scouring the area the Shovel Bums have come across at least two panels that do not appear to be on any archaeological site form.



The Shovel Bums take a break from stewardship high atop the slope of Lake Mountain.

Shovel Bums Clara Rasmussen (3rd grade), Helene Mabanza (7th grade), Story Bergfalk (6th grade), Aidan Miller (8th grade), and Ace Mabanza (6th grade) search for rock art panels at Lake Mountain.



During the recent Club meetings the Shovel Bums have been focused on prehistoric Native American lifeways and its archaeological chronology, spanning from Paleoindian through Historic times. The students have been especially fascinated with the Archaic Period, when a hunter-gatherer lifestyle compelled Indigenous Americans to move to their food source; which, in essence, is like living out ones entire life on a perpetual camping trip.

Equally intriguing has been the idea that the petroglyphs and pictographs they observe are a kind of “Picture Writing,” encoded with stories that explain various aspects of Native American mythology, history, and ritual practices. If one were part of the artist’s culture the message would be easily interpreted and understood. Mr. McHugh, their supervisor, has introduced students to several of the ubiquitous Native American rock art symbols, and then challenged the Shovel Bums to make a story using these images on rock art scratch boards. Many remarkable and very exciting stories emerged!



8th grade Shovel Bum Aidan Miller displays his story of a great Fremont Indian hunt scene while 7th grader, Chris Sasa, scratches in iconography needed to tell his “picture story.”

In this month’s “Shovel Bums Spotlight” is 7th grader, Nomar Santana. Nomar is a brilliant, kind, and patient young man – and a diligent steward and researcher of American Indian rock art. He has been a Shovel Bum since the spring of 2022, and was a participant in the Vernal field experience back in the autumn of 2023, taking part in the discovery and documentation of rock art panels under the supervision of BLM archaeologist, David Christensen.

Congratulations to Nomar! Even more exciting is that his 4th grade brother, Dariel, has joined Archaeology Club too.



Nomar Santana holds up his “picture story,” depicting Kokopelli’s flute music as the germinator of the crops and a Cloud Being who benevolently brings the needed rain.

Calendar and URARA Events

May 16-20	ARARA 2024 Conference, Farmington NM https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info-2024
May 20-23	Indian Creek and Peekaboo Field Trip
July 18	URARA Quarterly Board mtg, Zoom, 6:30 MDT
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



Tres Amigas

Lookin' for rock art in southern Utah

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

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Conservation/Preservation	Kent Williams
Documentation/Research	Darlene Koerner
Education	John McHugh
Field Trips	Steve Acerson
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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