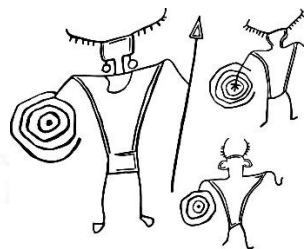


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Rick Mathews

The Symposium in Kanab was filled with excellent speakers, awesome fieldtrips and hanging out with fellow URARA members. When I first saw the list of field trips, I wasn't sure which one to choose. They all looked great. I sort of let matriculation pick for me.



I ended up on the Johnson Canyon fieldtrip. It was filled with awesome images. The 2nd site had historic inscriptions. There were advertisements for the Jensen & Brooksby Store & Garage and John N. Allen, Attorney at Law and a Columbia Pictures film crew from June 1938. I did some digging and found two movies most likely filmed in Johnson Canyon in 1938: *The Great Adventures of Wild Bill Hickok*, and *Overland with Kit Carson*. Further research is needed. We ended the day at Skutumpah Creek where there were some unique anthropomorphs and pictographs.

The speakers did a great job. I love learning more at each symposium. One of the highlights for me was the discussion about the Utah Lake celestial alignments. I have spent a lot of time on the west side of Utah Lake, so of course I'm excited to learn more.

Thanks again to Pat for planning the symposium, Bob for arranging the speakers, and Tina for organizing the fieldtrips. Thank you to the many other hands who helped make the symposium another successful event. Thank you to speakers, fieldtrip leaders and attendees. The Minutes of the board meeting and members meeting are posted on the web page.

November 2025

Prez (continued)

As we round out the year, we will have URARA Christmas Parties. We are still working out the details, so stay tuned.

Fall is a great time to go and see things. Please feel free to share your adventures on the forum, ask questions and even brag a little.

Field Trip Notes

Tina Tan

Many thanks to Jeff Frey for bringing together the FTs for the Kanab symposium! And to all the FTLs who volunteered their time and led the trips. We couldn't have done it without you all.

I appreciate that everyone was understanding about the weather necessitating the cancellation of some field trips. Hopefully you all found some other trips to go out on and had a good time regardless.

The Pinyon Canyon Colorado FT scheduled for November is likely going to be cancelled or postponed, due to the government shutdown. But we will have the Gold butte trip as planned.

I'm already thinking ahead to next year and wondering what FTs we'll have. If you have ideas and would like to lead a trip, please get in touch!!

Roger Cook

This year turned out to be a bit difficult due to the arrival of heavy rains that caused cancellations of many field trips and disruptions to others. I would like to acknowledge the hard work the field trip coordinators did in setting up all the field trips and then making difficult decisions about which trips would need to be cancelled for safety concerns. Most people were still able to get on alternate trips. In my case, my trip to Paria Canyon was cancelled on Friday but I was able to join another trip to sites near Kanab. I met some new people on that trip and got to see a new canyon and new rock art that I would not have seen otherwise.

My Monday trip to two private ranches was not cancelled but the group size was a bit big due to accommodating those whose original trips were cancelled. It was a real treat to get to visit these two ranches as access to these sites is very limited. That's one of the benefits of being an URARA member, occasionally getting access to these kinds of properties.

I even became an impromptu field trip leader as a group of us wanted to visit the third site (Skutumpah Canyon) advertised as an alternative add-on to the private ranch tours. With ample warning that I had not scouted the route or the rock art a group of 8 adventurous souls raced the dark clouds up the canyon and back. I'm happy to say that we found the rock art, got back to the vehicles before the rain rolled in and didn't leave anyone behind. As always, I left Kanab with new friends and great memories by being out in the great outdoors with like-minded people.

Minutes, Annual Membership Meeting

Roger Cook

In person meeting at the Kanab Symposium, October 12, 2025

Rick Matthews, President, called the meeting to order.

Rick thanked all of the volunteers who helped make the Symposium a success.

Rick presented the boards nominees for new board members:

- Nancy Lombardo
- Rein Van West

The floor was open for nominations from among the membership but there were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to accept Nancy Lombardo and Rein Van West as new board members. **The motion passed** by a vote from the members.

Treasurer's Report – Carol Duecker

Carol presented the 2024 Profit/Loss Statement and a breakdown of Total Assets. These documents can be found on the URARA website.

We continue to be in a solid financial position.

Other Items:

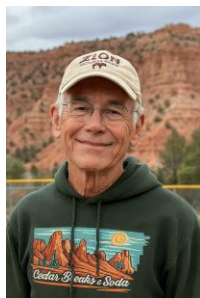
- Carol Patterson announced the 2026 Symposium will be in Bluff, UT Oct. 8 – 12.
- Field Trips: Tina Tan gave an update on field trips and said we may have a few more in 2025. Some planned field trip may be impacted by the government shutdown. We can always use more field trip leaders. Please contact Tina if you have an idea for a field trip and especially if you are willing to lead a field trip.
- Christmas Parties: Rick reminded folks that we would like to have Christmas parties this year. If you are willing to host, please let Rick know.
- Moab nomination: This project is on 'pause' for now. Hopefully this is a short-term blip. Government headcount reductions and the government shutdown are impacting many programs. Steve Acerson will continue to keep tabs on this.

Minutes by Roger Cook, URARA Secretary

Welcome To Our New Board Members

Diana Acerson

URARA is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Board members, Rein van West and Nancy Lombardo. These dedicated individuals bring a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives to URARA, and we are excited to welcome them into leadership roles. Their enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment to our mission will help guide URARA as we continue to promote the study and preservation of rock art in Utah and beyond.



Rein van West

Tells us with great humor that he is older than most; Married for 37 years to Jan Sanborn van West and have two sons and three grandchildren. He was born in the Netherlands and raised in Venezuela, Texas, Colorado, & Oklahoma. He's had a twenty-five-year teaching career in public and private elementary and middle school education, and outdoor education in Colorado Springs.

Presently co-chair of Public Lands Committee, co-chair of nominations, and co-chair of membership committee with over 200 members, of the ROCC (Ridgway-Ouray Community Council, a watchdog group committed to keeping Ouray County rural and community oriented. Became a member of Chipeta Archeologist Society in Montrose, CO, and later the Grand Junction chapter of CAS. Their home away from home is Utah and its public lands – where they began visiting in the late 1980's and soon became fascinated with the drawings and symbols there. Did a couple of excavation stints at Champagne Springs with archeologist Dave Dove, outside of Dove Creek, Colorado, and that piqued curiosity about the people that inhabited the areas near where they now live – who were these people, what were their technological advancements over time, what kept them together, what was the meaning of their rock images, what was their shared belief system, and so on. A major reason for joining URARA was to acquire more understanding around these questions and it continues today.



Nancy Lombardo

I got my degree in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico about a million years ago. I participated in an archeological dig in Rowe, NM, which was unfortunately devoid of any truly interesting artifacts. As a result, I am a retired librarian who has worked in most types of libraries around the country. I finished my career with 28 years at the health sciences library at the University of Utah doing digital publishing. I am a rock art enthusiast but also love archeological habitation sites. I lived in NM for 14 years and have now lived in Utah for 31 years. I have been a member of URARA since 2018, have attended 4 Symposia and a number of field trips.

New board members (continued)

We encourage all members to introduce themselves at upcoming meetings and events, and to reach out to our new Board members with any questions, ideas, or suggestions. Together, we can continue to make meaningful contributions to the understanding and appreciation of Utah's remarkable rock art heritage.

URARA thrives because of the passion and participation of its members. If you are interested in volunteering, serving on committees, or learning more about Board activities, please contact us through our website and on the forum, or at upcoming events. Let's work together to preserve and celebrate Utah's rock art for generations to come.

It's rewarding when we know we have made a difference. But we need more folks to step up to the plate. Share in that reward, share in our successes.



•
Clamshell area Steve Acerson

Only YOU Can Subscribe to the Members Forum

Robert Van Orden

Well folks, this is my once a year plug for people to subscribe and participate in the Members Forum. But first let me say a lengthy THANK YOU for a great and wonderful Symposium! I think I gained three pounds! On multiple occasions I had to pry things out of Pat Sullivan's hands!!! Some people work too hard!!! Tina Tan, and others, successfully juggled field trips around the rain. She was up late obtaining last minute permits. Thank you to my friends John and Deb Mitchell, and Rein and Jan van West, for making the Watermelon Social a success. I am including a photo of me in the octopus hat that my sister made.



For me, the most powerful part of the Symposium was the Panel Discussion. WHEN NATIVE PEOPLE SPEAK FROM THEIR HEART, FOLKS SHOULD LISTEN! For the rest of my life I will remember that Glendora Homer sang a Kaibab Paiute song for us! I met Daniel Bullets' father on the Kaibab Paiute Reservation. I paid the \$10 fee, and he drove me to a site near Pipe Springs. Another sad story, after 150 years, America finally gave them back 1/3 of the water from Pipe Springs. Just to torture the art history crowd, I would be very happy to use the Hopi word "KUKVENI" (footprints) for rock images! Mowana Lomaomvaya spotted my T-shirt from the Hopi Museum right away.

Roger Cook and I made it to a couple of sites on the Lower Paria before the rain. There was an extremely ancient site with a Glen Canyon Linear sheep and sediments above the images! Along the way, we also passed a site probably dating to about 1935-39, with a lonely sheepherder's topless beauty! Sorry, but even crazy Rob is smart enough to not include a photo, LOL. It took a few extra minutes, but I coaxed Evelyn Billo up to the Clamshell. I swear, that gal smiled from ear-to-ear for twenty minutes straight!!!! In the moment, I made the mistake of being barefoot. Even those of us who put their whole hearts into this adventure, are capable of making mistakes.

Back to the Member's Forum. Unlike every other organization you might be a member of, the URARA default setting for the Members Forum is "unsubscribed." Which means that in order to get emails and participate in our forum, you have to go to the URARA website and "subscribe" to the Member's Forum directly. In order to invite NON (former) URARA members and locals, some adventures cannot be formal URARA field trips. One perfect use of the Members Forum is networking for spur of the moment, or weather dependent adventures. Just like the sign on my neighbor's gate, "You must be present to win!" Thanks again, to all the Symposium volunteers!

Symposium Photographs

Diana Acerson



More Photos

Steve Acerson



Rosy Slots Field Trip, Friday



South Indian Canyon, Friday

Update on American Fork Vandalism

Steve Acerson

The Forest Service went down to the site this morning with Claire Dean, who is the rock art conservator. She did an assessment and is going to write up her report. She said it will be very difficult. The dots on the panel are lipstick that is still globbed on there and is greasy on the porous limestone. All the other markings are made with paint pens.

I was hoping that our month of rain might have dull things a bit, but it made no affect whatsoever on the graffiti. She also said the difficulty is, although it's all paint pens, the different colors can react in different ways depending on the solvent we are trying to use to remove it. It is likely that not all of it can be removed, and there will at least be a shadow of much of it, although it will look a lot better than it does now.

We're going to do some preliminary tests on the effectiveness of different strategies. Once we figure out the best way to proceed. SHPO Will likely contract with her to do the conservation work.

Fox 13 had a camera guy on site today, and Ian Wright, the new public archaeologist, is going to see if he can make contact with some of the schools in the area. Hopefully if we could figure out who did it, they can put some money towards the conservation work, because it's not gonna be cheap.



Smith Preserve Trip Report

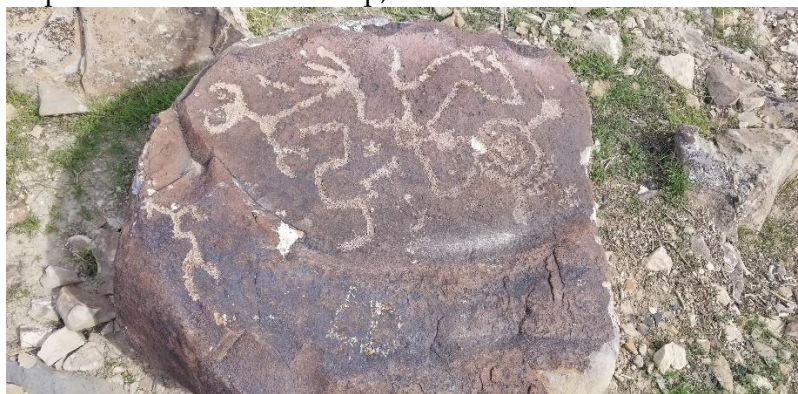
Rick Mathews



At the end of October URARA hosted a fieldtrip in of the Adelbert Smith Family Archeological Preserve (SFAP). We were able to casually stroll along the trails and see archaic and early Fremont images. I always enjoy showing people the SFAP. There is so much to see and nearly every time I visit I see something new.

After we toured, Franz took us to Table Rock. He reviewed what he spoke about at the Symposium and showed us many other images in the general area.

I always enjoy showing my favorite images at the SFAP and talking through various topics with attendees. The awesome part about a URARA group is you get new insights from fellow members. So, if you have the opportunity to lead or be part of a URARA fieldtrip, do it!



Johnson Canyon Field Trip
Troy Scotter

Junior Shovel Bums in Action

John McHugh

While Blessed Sacrament School's "Shovel Bums" (5th through 8th grade) were in the classroom and field performing research, documentation, and stewardship of prehistoric Native American rock art their younger colleagues were learning the rudiments of archaeology in the classroom. In fact, so many students were interested in Native American culture and rock art that it necessitated the formation of the "Junior Shovel Bums" archaeology club for 3rd and 4th graders too young to go in the field like their older peers.

Under the guidance of tutelage of the Shovel Bums' room mother, Alexa Hansen, and Blessed Sacrament Resource teacher, Reagen Ford, the Junior Shovel Bums archaeology club was forged. These 8 through 10 year-olds learn the rudiments of archaeology, especially jargon words like *artifact*, *stratigraphy*, *gridding*, *rock art* (which is now more often being called *rock imagery*) and other similar concepts. Each class had an associated lesson and activity, the final lessons concluding during the first part of October.

The Junior Shovel Bums will become full-fledged Shovel Bums in 5th through 8th grade, and will then go into the field to steward, protect, and study the magnificent Native American rock art of Utah.



3rd and 4th grade Junior Shovel Bums look for "artifacts" during a gridding activity. Supervisor Alexa Hansen is visible in the background.

Annual Christmas Party in Moab

Susan McDowell



Almost time to jump on your favorite reindeer and join the fun at the dinner pot-luck in Moab. In past years, we've had folks come from Farmington, Cortez, Mancos, & Grand Junction to join the local Moabites celebrate the season. Please come **on Saturday, December 13th at 5:30** and bring your favorite side-dish or desert. I'll have a ham warming in the oven to be served at 6:00. BYOB and let's PARTY! Quentin Baker has promised to create some entertainment for us. The event will again be held at Susan McDowell's house located at **2208 Rio Verde**, Moab UT 84532, near the golf course. Please RSVP to moabsuz@gmail.com or call 435-260-8097 if you have trouble finding it. Hope to see you in December.

Calendar, URARA Events and Trips

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)
December 13	Christmas potluck, Moab, Susan McDowell
2026	
January TBD	Annual board retreat Moab
Oct 8-12	URARA Symposium, Bluff, Utah

URARA symposia and field trips (FT) are available to members only. Members receive an email notification when a field trip opens for registration, usually about 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.

CRAA and URARA are currently sharing monthly ZOOM presentations.

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>

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

President	Rick Mathews
Vice President	Pat Sullivan
Treasurer	Carol Duecker
Secretary	Roger Cook
	John McHugh
	Darlene Koerner
	Tina Tan
	Margo Mahoney
	Carol Patterson

Committee Chairs and Appointees

Tribal Liaison	Carol Patterson
Historian/Archives	Keith Fessenden
Website/Board Advisor	Troy Scotter
Membership Coordinator	Deb Mitchell
Funds Manager	Pat Sullivan
Conservation/Preservation	Kent Williams
Education	John McHugh
Field Trip Coordinator	Tina Tan
Symposium Chair	Pat Sullivan
Publications Editor	Dennis DeVore
Vestiges Editor	Ben Everitt
Nominations/Governance	Diana Acerson

URARA Conservation Coordinators

<u>BLM District</u>	<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Coordinator Lead		
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	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