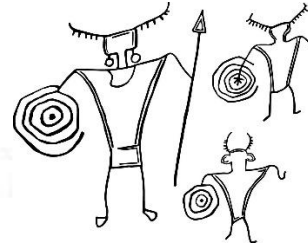


VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Rick Mathews

Happy April everyone!

I got my membership renewal email just a few days ago. This got me thinking back to when I joined URARA. I had no intention of becoming president. I was just interested in learning more about Utah's early inhabitants and the writing they left on the rocks so many generations ago.



I'm proud of URARA's active consulting with land managers. Through our site database all our collective years of exploring allows URARA to weigh in on proposed projects on public land. URARA helps our land managers know about the impact a project could have on images. Stopping vandalism is also an important part of URARA's public outreach. URARA helps others understand the importance of the Rock Images and how to visit them with respect.

URARA has taught me a lot. I've been to symposiums and learned from others. When I first joined I knew a little and now I know a little more. Sharing knowledge with each other is important. I've been able to share knowledge I've gained as a guide at the Smith Preserve and as a presenter for other organizations.

URARA is a great organization with a great mission! Please join me and renew your membership when you get the email.

April 2026

URARA 26

Bluff, Utah

October 8-12

Work shops
Field Trips
Presentations
Artists vendors

<https://urara.wildapricot.org/>

2026 Bluff Symposium Announcements

Rein van West

Accommodations Are Heating Up:

The amount of rock art is crazy-huge compared to the availability of accommodations in teeny Bluff! October is the month that spills out hordes of red rock enthusiasts of many stripes so recommend reservations asap – No accommodation disappointments on our watch! Checking the cancellation policies shows that nearly all reservations can be cancelled until shortly before the Bluff event if necessary. RV parks fill up as quickly or sooner than the indoor ones. Tip: Sand Island RV/Camping sites 5 miles west of Bluff are ‘first come, first served’ for a nominal fee. Two group sites are by reservation with recreation.gov only. Here is the site for accommodations:

<https://bluffutah.org/> Click on ‘Stay’

More Volunteers Needed:

This could be your year to refill the snack table, take photos, check people in, set out chairs and tables, be a live auctioneer, get dusted while helping with parking (kidding) – what’s the payoff? ‘Appreciation’ in helping pull off yet another fabulous URARA symposium with the possibility of some cool swag like kazoos and party favors – absolutely scintillating! As before, please volunteer your availability to either:

Carol Patterson, urraca2fly@gmail.com

Rein van West, arcticwild@gmail.com

Attention To URARA Member Vendors:

Symposium vendors have always been an important and valuable part of this annual event. Who hasn’t appreciated the amazing art items that members spend hours/days making? Vendor tables will be located within the safe and secure Bluff Community Center and vendors will be able to see and hear the speakers. If you’re interested in being a vendor this year, please email Rein at the above address with contact information and required table space.

Symposium Call for Abstracts

Bob Crifasi, Speaker Coordinator

The symposium committee is inviting potential speakers to submit abstracts for the 2025 URARA symposium to be held Oct 8 – October 12, 2026 in Bluff, Utah.

Presentations will take place on Saturday October 10 and Sunday October 11. Speakers 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 submitting proposals is July 1, 2026. Please email your abstract to Bob Crifasi at rcrifasi@hotmail.com or send to 3257 Hawthorn Hollow, Boulder, CO 80304

April Webinar Red Linear in Time and Space

Carol Patterson

The subject of the URARA-CRAA April webinar is Red Linear in Time and Space

By: Jerod L. Roberts, M.A., RPA

Time: Apr 16, 2026, 07:00 PM Pacific Time, 8:00 Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82352185271?pwd=JyPnA6XmWNgoQeoVffFye0VnGCv3n7.1>

Meeting ID: 823 5218 5271

Passcode: 982419

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82352185271#,,,,*982419# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,82352185271#,,,,*982419# US (Houston)

Join by SIP

• 82352185271@zoomcrc.com

Join instructions

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/82352185271/invitations?signature=moqyk4yEhOV47IsigxdK0sSDnWMcd3n9JL_thl-JiYA

Red Linear in Time and Space:

Chronological and Geospatial Insights into a Lower Pecos Rock Art Style

The Red Linear style is a distinctive indigenous rock imagery tradition of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, characterized by anthropomorphic figures depicting hunting, fertility, cooperation, and aspects of daily life. Radiocarbon dating of diagnostically clear figures suggests the style was present by approximately 5600 calibrated years ago. A geospatial analysis of more than 600 anthropomorphs from 25 sites reveals patterned regional variation in figure size, form, and attributes.

This presentation refines the defining characteristics of Red Linear anthropomorphs, documents regional variability, and examines their temporal relationship with other major Lower Pecos rock art traditions of Texas and Coahuila, Mexico. Recent Pecos River style dates by Steelman et al., suggest that Red Linear and Pecos River imagery were contemporaneous for over a millennium, reframing these traditions as coexisting visual systems and highlighting a pivotal period in the cultural development of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands.

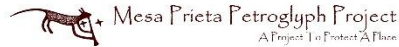


April Webinar (continued) -

Speaker Bio:

Jerod Roberts is an archaeologist who studies indigenous rock imagery along the Rio Grande and its tributaries, including the Lower Pecos Canyonlands and northern New Mexico. He currently serves as the Project Archaeologist for the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, where he focuses on preservation, recording, and community engagement. He brings over a decade of experience working with rock imagery across the Southwest, including extensive fieldwork in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands with the Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center.

www.mesaprietapetroglyphs.org



Field Trip Notes

Tina Tan

My apologies, but we were not able to get the Cottonwood Canyon trip to work out.

Field trips planned but not approved are listed in Vestiges (p. 9 below). But we need to check in with the respective field offices. If the trips are not approved, they will not show up under the Field Trips tab on the URARA website. So the best place to check will be on the website under Field Trips. If we have the approvals in place, I will have the trip dates and description up.

****PLEASE NOTE: registration will still only take place 2-3 weeks prior to the trip.****

If you register for a trip and find you're unable to make it, please contact the Field Trip Leader (FTL) asap, so we can fill the trip with those on the waitlist. The earlier we know, the more notice the waitlisted folks will have. Your consideration is much appreciated by all.

The wait list is filled manually with the first person on the waitlist. Your spot on waitlists depends on when you register.

A reminder that each member can sign up for up to 3 trips in a year; this allows us to have more members participating.

Want to see more field trips offered? Guess what? We need more volunteers to lead them! Let me know if you'd like to step up.

For regular URARA Field Trips around the Bluff area, the Monticello office has given us a list of a few sites we can visit without a permit. If you'd like to visit sites in the Bluff area and are willing to lead a trip out there, please contact me and let's see what we can work out.

Questions? Let me know at tinatan07@gmail.com

URARA Site Data Collection Efforts and Purpose

Diana Acerson

Many URARA members are familiar with URARA's Conservation and Coordinator program, comprised of folks who work with land managers where land use activities may impact rock art. For those of you unfamiliar, the Conservation Chair, currently Kent Williams, as well as Coordinators, are the first point of contact for agencies like the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices. When consultation invitations are extended to Kent or Coordinators on proposals for land use, they can report and respond. URARA has a member Coordinator for every area of the state of Utah, usually covering each BLM field office area of jurisdiction. At present there is not as much activity out of the field offices due to the current political environment. But keeping vigilant is important.

Usually, land managers contact Kent directly, or he finds the information on the web as sometimes is the case with the BLM. From there, through URARA's site database, we can inform land managers of documented rock imagery in the proposed areas to be leased and/or developed. Comment letters are also issued by our Conservation Committee, giving input to the agency on proposed projects.

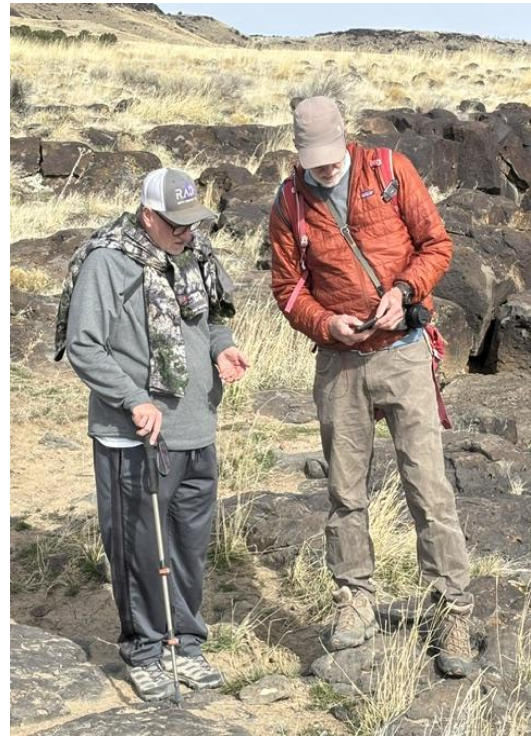
As an example of some of the site collection we do when a proposal comes up, Kent issues site maps with the current information we have to the Area Coordinator. Then to confirm, the Coordinator can return to the area to check for any other sites that might be in the area of concern. Inspection is also justified if they learn of more sites, or feel a more thorough investigation needs to happen. This way a more comprehensive comment letter can be issued from URARA to the land managers.

On March 16, Kent, Jeff Roberts, Steve & Diana Acerson, who are coordinators for the Fillmore and Cedar City BLM field offices, met at an area where a new lease proposal for geothermal energy is in process (photos below, p. 7). New sites were discovered as well as other site locations confirmed. The data for the new sites was entered into URARA's site collection app, created by Kent and Troy Scotter a few years ago. This app immediately can add the data to the database and then Kent can create GIS mapping, and the information can be used appropriately.

The purpose of the URARA database is to aid in the site information gathering process and ultimately protect sites from impacts. The database was initiated by Troy Scotter years ago, is only for land management agencies, and cannot be accessed by URARA members for personal use. Kent and Troy do an amazing job in managing the site data. However, site information is always appreciated from the membership to add to the database, to help accomplish the goal of protecting the sites from potential threats.

Site data Collection (continued) -

If you have sites you can share with Kent, even if they might be duplicates, or in a different format (dots on maps, etc.), or you would like more information on the URARA site collection app, please contact Kent at willikb15@gmail.com.



URARA Library

Nina Bowen



URARA's bookshelf in the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River is still there. Go visit it if you are in town. You can get your hands on real paper copies of old Patina or symposium presentations, or maybe even Vestiges. Remember to put the books back where they belong on the shelf.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center videos

Ben Everitt

The Old Pueblo Archaeological Center has posted videos of some of its presentations; many include aspects of rock art: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDgPTetfOL9FHuAW49TrSig/videos>

Rock Art News - Age Dating

These Mesmerizing Cave Paintings Were Discovered in 1901. Now Archaeologists Finally Know When Some of Them Were Created Smithsonian March 17 2026

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/these-mesmerizing-cave-paintings-were-discovered-in-1901-now-archaeologists-finally-know-when-some-of-them-were-created-180988355>

Characterisation of rock varnish at Murujuga (Western Australia): Implications for climate records and petroglyph dating Quaternary International 15 April 2026

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040618226000406>

Rock Art uranium-thorium and radiocarbon cross-dating at Altamira cave, Spain [Quaternary Science Reviews](#) Volume 379, 1 May 2026

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379126001095>

Snakes



Photo contributed by Carol Patterson, credited to Ed Horton

Calendar, Trips and Other Events

April 13-15	URARA Field Trip SR 95 Area, Hitchhiker Panel, Rein and Jan van West
April 16	URARA Webinar Jerod Roberts on Red Linear paintings of the Upper Pecos River.
May 16	URARA Field Trip Nine Mile Canyon, Layne Miller
May	URARA Field Trip Vernal area, Darlene Koerner
June	URARA Field Trip Vernal area summer solstice, John McHugh
June 25-29	ARARA Symposium Great Falls, Montana https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-General-Info-2026
Aug 14-16	URARA Summer Picnic, Fremont Indian State Park.
August 22	URARA Field Trip Head of Sinbad, Layne Miller
September	URARA Field Trip Fremont Indian State Park, John McHugh
September	URARA Field Trip Smith Reserve, Rick Mathews
Oct 8-12	URARA Symposium, Bluff, Utah

URARA symposia and field trips (FT) are available to members only. Members will be notified by email when a field trip opens for registration, usually about 3-4 weeks before a trip. 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. <https://urara.wildapricot.org/>

CRAA and URARA are currently doing monthly ZOOM presentations on alternate months. CRAA will have January, March, and May (Summer months off), and October (December off). URARA will have February, April, Sept, and November. <https://coloradorockart.org/>

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. Accessible on-line via Utah Tech University ICL. <https://reg125.imperisoft.com/ICL/ProgramDetail/3837333038/Registration.aspx>

San Diego Rock Art Association (SDRAA) meets on line until further notice. <https://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>

Grand Junction Chapter CAS meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday of each month <https://www.casgjchapter.org/public-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

2026 URARA Board and Officers

President	Rick Mathews
Vice President	Carol Patterson
Secretary	Nancy Lombardo
Treasurer	Carol Duecker
	John McHugh
	Darlene Koerner
	Tina Tan
	Margo Mahoney
	Rein van West

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	Carol Patterson
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	Bill Hirt