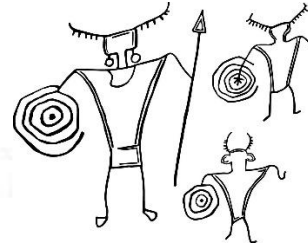


VESTIGES



July 2026
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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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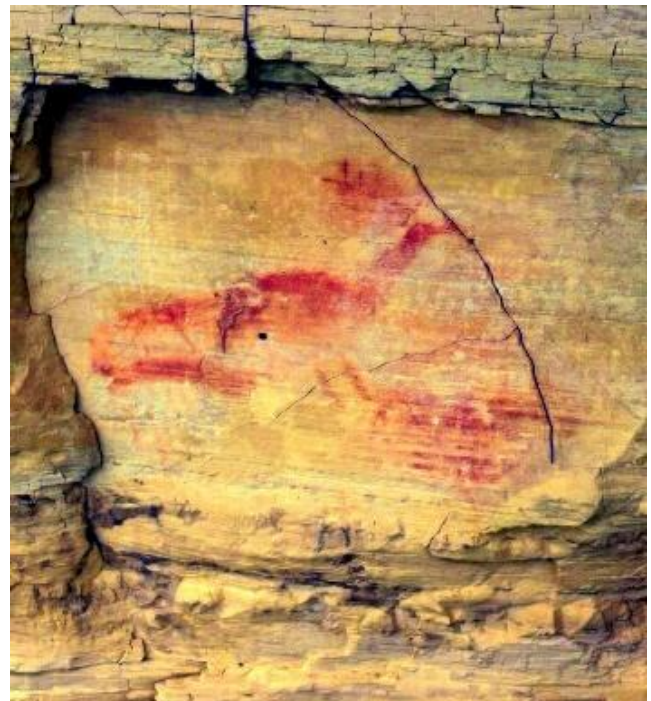
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From the Prez

Rick Mathews

I have to confess, I took some time and really enjoyed myself in June. I was able to head to Towaoc, CO, and participate in the bear dance on the Ute Mountain Reservation. I spent some good time with my uncle Norman and several other family members. One of the places I always try and visit is the Canyon of the Ancients National Monument Visitor's Center near Delores. I credit the displays there for finally helping me wrap my head around the whole Basketmaker/Pueblo chronology. If you haven't had a chance to visit, I would encourage to you to do so. Oh, and fair warning, I reserve to go on about the Canyon of the Ancients in any up-coming Vestiges.

One of the fun things about my involvement in URARA has been the way my family supports me. Last month, I talked about my nephew and I roaming the backroads of the Uinta Basin so he could show me some stuff he'd seen. This month he sent me a picture of a pictograph; Here's the D-stretch version.



Prez (continued)



This is a crazy summer. I was at a powwow last Saturday in Salt Lake and ended up putting on a jacket. I didn't see that on my bingo card for Summer 2026.

Sadly, Utah is a blaze. There are fires burning across the state. Please be careful out there. Keep your vehicle on designated roads. If you have a campfire, make sure it's attended and completely out when you are done with it. I would like to take time to thank the firefighters for their hard work. I pay my respects to those who perished in Snyder Fire.

And before I close my message, I want to wish you all a Happy 4th of July! Celebrate responsibly!

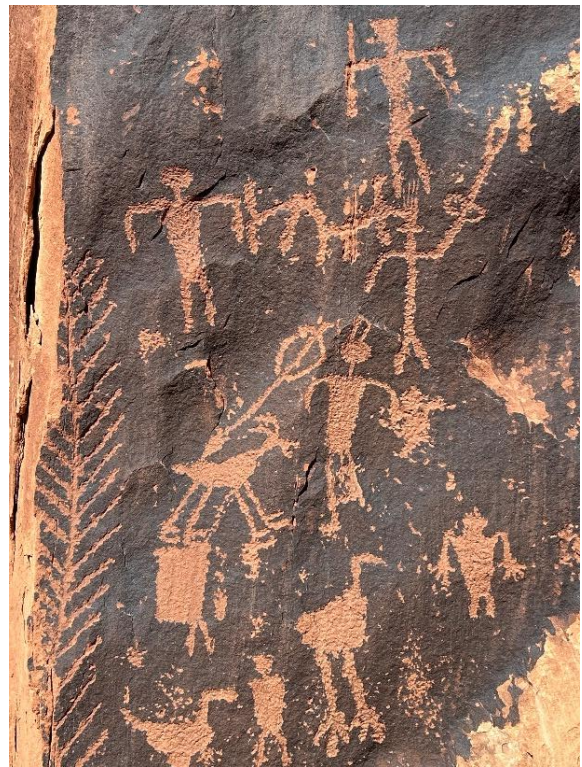
Bluff Symposium Update

Carol Patterson and Rein Van West

The vibe is palatable – It's been eight years since Bluff has been in the loop to host another symposium but 2026 is the year!

The Bluff area is blessed to have a ton of amazing rock art sites that draw visitors from all over. Some of this year's field trips will be a mixture of ones that have been offered before and new ones. There will be options to pre-order lunches this year as well as attend a star party hosted by the Bears Ears Partnership. The usual format of workshops on Thursday, field trips Friday and Monday, and another awesome line-up of speakers for the weekend.

Be sure to look at the August Vestiges for a pre-registration peek before registration opens later in the month. See you there!



Field Trips

Tina Tan

A big thank-you to those of you who have volunteered to lead field trips this year! Your efforts are so appreciated.



Looking towards the Bluff symposium, I'm happy to report we now have permits from the Monticello BLM field office as well as Glen Canyon Recreation Area for our field trips out there. We will also have a day float option on the San Juan River, so I hope you are all excited for Bluff.

I have about 8 field trips for Symposium, but could use a few more leaders, please reach out if you can help. Per BLM regulations field trip leaders need to have current basic First Aid training. You can complete this training online or in person,

and URARA will reimburse you for the cost. One option is through the American Red Cross (visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) for details).

Still Room for Symposium Vendors

Rein van West

Vendors wishing to have a booth at the upcoming 2026 Bluff Symposium for October 11-12th will need to register online this year. Registration for vendors will open at the same time as registration for Symposium participants. When registration opens check the URARA website (www.utahrockart.org) and look for the symposium section of the events tab. There is a limit of eight (8) vendors this year.

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 interested in being a vendor this year, please email Rein at arcticwild@gmail.com with contact information and necessary table size space.

If you have questions before next month's article, please contact Rein van West at arcticwild@gmail.com. Vendor set-up information will be in the August Vestiges.

Invitation for a Poster Presentation Powerpoint

Carol Patterson

I would like to invite people to submit a PowerPoint to a poster session for the October Symposium in Bluff. It could be on any topic that is relevant to the context of rock images in this region, preferably. Here are topic suggestions; *and suggested contributors in italics.*

- Conservation and Preservation (*Steve and Diana Acerson and others*)
- Documentation, recording, drawing, site plans and submitting to SHPO, (*Darlene and team, Pam and Quint, Nina Bowen, Leigh Grinch, and others.*)
- Research and Writing – Rock Art Data Base – what’s been published (*Leigh Marymor*)
- Education outreach (*Diana and Steve, and others*)
- Photogrammetry and drone photography, 3D documentation (*Bob and Evelyn, Ryan Moreau, and others*)
- Archaeoastronomy and ethno-archaeoastronomy (*John McHugh, Greg Munson, Ray Williamson and others*)
- Ethnographic research and tribal voices (*Laury Webster, Chris Lewis*)
- Native plants of this area (*Eirene Hamilton*)
- Geo-archaeology, Lidar mapping, ritual running roads, berms and swales agriculture (*Winston Hurst, Jonathan Till*)
- Bears Ears Partnership updates, (*Bears Ears Partnership Staff*)
- The Land In Between – Tribal conservation and preservation (*Kenny Winch*)


Posters would consist of a **5-minute PowerPoint with sub-titles**. Sound voice-over is optional but subtitles and short text pages are encouraged. Sound turned off during the symposium sessions.

Each poster PowerPoint will be shown on a large computer monitor on a tabletop, and an Apple or PC will be used to run the loops of 3-5 minutes. The title page menu lists the topics and authors. Click on the title and the PowerPoint will run the loop. The PowerPoint slide can be paused so the viewer can gaze longer at the slide to read the subtitles.

People who submit their “Poster PowerPoint” can bring their own laptop and run it or load it on our computer. The advantage of a PowerPoint is that the author does not have to be present to explain the poster and miss out on the presentations. The author may or may not even have to attend the conference.

Email your proposals to Carol Patterson Urraca2fly@gmail.com P.O Box 391, Bluff, Utah 84512


July Zoom Presentation Wings and Prayers Margaret Berrier




Margaret Berrier

On Wings & Prayers:

Birds in the Jornada
and Mimbres Regions



CRAA/URARA Webinar



SCAN ME!

July 16,
2026
7:00 PM

Native Rock Art at Taylorsville Library

John McHugh

On June 10th the Blessed Sacrament School “Shovel Bums” represented URARA while taking part in the “Digging Up Stories” event connected to the renovation and reopening of the Taylorsville Library. The theme intended to stimulate childrens’ imagination by exploring the way natural and cultural history evokes stories that explain Utah’s past. In-coming 6th graders Caleb Vela and McKenzie Soriano joined 7th grader Eilonwy Martin and 9th grader Isabeau Martin in showing pictures of rock art, making picture stories on rock art “scratch boards,” and reminding everyone that Native American rock art panels should always be treated with respect. URARA veteran Nina Bowen joined in on the fun along with the Shovel Bums’ supervisor, John McHugh. A great time was had by all!



Shovel Bum McKenzie Soriano, Caleb Vela, Eilonwy Martin, and Isabeau Martin arrange artifacts while sharing their passion for prehistoric Native American and their rock art.



Youth of all ages were welcome to tell stories on rock art “scratch boards.” This young man found he had a hidden passion for Native American picture writing.

Student Spotlight: Connor Hoisington



Connor has been a Native American rock art enthusiast since his middle school days as a Blessed Sacrament School where he was an honored “Shovel Bum.” Now an incoming senior at Juan Diego High School, Connor has been avidly working on the archaeoastronomy research at the Table Rock panel and is a co-author of the recently submitted scholarly article, “The Solar and Astronomical Alignments at the Table Rock Petroglyph on the Western Shore of Utah Lake.” He hopes to study engineering and coding in college, and someday combine these two passions into meaningful employment.

Call for Board of Directors Nominations

Diana Acerson

URARA is excited to announce that nominations are open for positions on our Board of Directors. We invite members who are passionate about advocating for, preserving, and studying Utah's rich rock art heritage to consider nominating themselves or others for this important leadership opportunity.

Board Member Responsibilities

- Participate in regular meetings and actively engage in board discussions.
- Contribute to the development and oversight of URARA's programs, events, and initiatives.
- Promote the mission and values of URARA within the community and beyond.
- Assist with organizational governance, financial stewardship, and member engagement.
- Serve as an ambassador for rock art preservation and research in Utah.

Who Should Apply?

We welcome nominations from individuals with diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to:

- Experienced rock art researchers, archaeologists, or historians.
- Community advocates with a passion for cultural preservation.
- Professionals in education, nonprofit management, or related fields.
- Current URARA members in good standing.
- Anyone committed to supporting URARA's mission and vision.

How to Nominate

1. Submit the nominee's name, contact information, and a brief statement outlining qualifications and interest in serving on the board.
2. Email nominations to **dace1950@gmail.com**.
3. Although nominations can be accepted from the floor during the members meeting, advanced nominations are preferred. Voting will take place on Sunday the 11th at the members meeting of the Symposium in Bluff.

Help shape the future of URARA and make a lasting impact on Utah's extraordinary rock art/imagery legacy – nominate yourself or someone else today!

Rock Art in the News

Toovuhshvooch Archaeological District For Sale *High Country News* May 2026
<https://classifieds.hcn.org/denver/real-estate-for-sale/toovuhshvooch-archaeological-district-for-sale/868b6f7b0e4a4ad9b25f5e7ddef5?utm>

Calendar; Trips and Events

July 16	CRAA/URARA presentation Margaret Berrier 7:00 PM MDT
Aug 14-16	URARA Summer Picnic, Fremont Indian State Park.
September	URARA Field Trip Fremont Indian State Park, John McHugh
September	URARA Field Trip Smi 16th Reserve, Rick Mathews
Oct 02	URARA Field Trip SE Colorado Area
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, Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday of each month <https://www.casgchapter.org/public-meetings>

The Utah State Historical Preservation Office has occasional events and tours;
 visit: <https://ushpo.gov/the-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

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