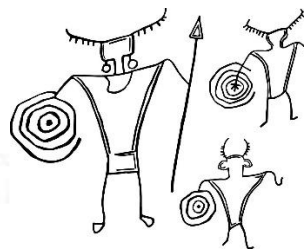


VESTIGES



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

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From the Prez

Rick Mathews

How did it get to be August already? July brought with it a lot of crazy weather. Several records were broken. And if the heat wasn't enough, monsoon rains flooded several areas. Our friends, the Acersons and others, were severely impacted by the flooding in Beaver and other areas. We extend our best wishes.

The board met in July and as you can imagine the topic of conversation was the Symposium. Carol and Rein are doing a great job to make sure our 2026 Symposium in Bluff will be a great one. Tina has some awesome field trips lined up and Bob has been working hard to make sure the speakers will add to our collective knowledge.

We also talked about the Summer Picnic happening this month at Fremont Indian State Park and Museum. While the Museum is undergoing renovations, the staff is offering participants a chance to see some of the behind-the-scenes action. There will also be some great field trips around the park. I love visiting Fremont Indian State Park. I try and get there once a year. There is always something new to see.

As usual I'm running behind schedule. I'm just getting back from a Powwow in Towaoc, Colorado. I did take some time to check out some local Rock Imagery. I was joking that it was too hot to sit around at the powwow, so I went hiking instead. I wasn't let down (see p. 3).

Enjoy your August!

August 2026

Field Trips Update

Tina Tan

Field Trips are getting trickier to manage these days, a vast change from how things were done in the past. These days, many Field Trips require some advanced planning - I'd have to check in with the land managers for the planned trip, and make sure we are 'good to go' to the sites any Field Trip Leader is proposing. Sometimes that requires a permit - which unfortunately is not a quick thing to obtain.

To that end, I have applied for and obtained permits from both the Moab and Monticello BLM offices. These permits will allow us to visit specific sites (not all sites) within their respective jurisdictions.



We don't have a lot of field trips scheduled for the Fall, so if you are interested in leading one, please let me know and we'll work on getting it on the calendar. And if you'd like to lead one within the Moab/Bluff areas, let's talk.

Symposium Field Trips

The URARA symposium in Bluff will have about 11-12 Field Trips.

I had originally thought that we'd have a day trip to float the San Juan river. However, the water level has been very low, and it is very likely that we'd have to cancel that San Juan FT due to low flows.

For those interested, the 11 remaining FTs will be to the following sites:

1. San Juan Hill, River House, Kachina Panel
2. East Side of Lower Butler Wash, Upper Sand Island Petroglyph Trail
3. Cedar Point and John's Canyon
4. *San Juan River Float Trip (subject to cancellation due to low water levels)*
5. Poncho House
6. Moon House
7. Monarch Cave, Fish Mouth
8. Procession Panel and Sand Island Petroglyph Trail
9. Wolf Man Panel and Cold Springs Trail
10. South Mule Canyon (House on Fire) and Arch Canyon Overlook
11. Sheiks' Canyon and the Green Mask
12. Roadside Ruin, Target Ruin, and Ballroom Cave.

Bluff Symposium Vendor Information

Rein van West

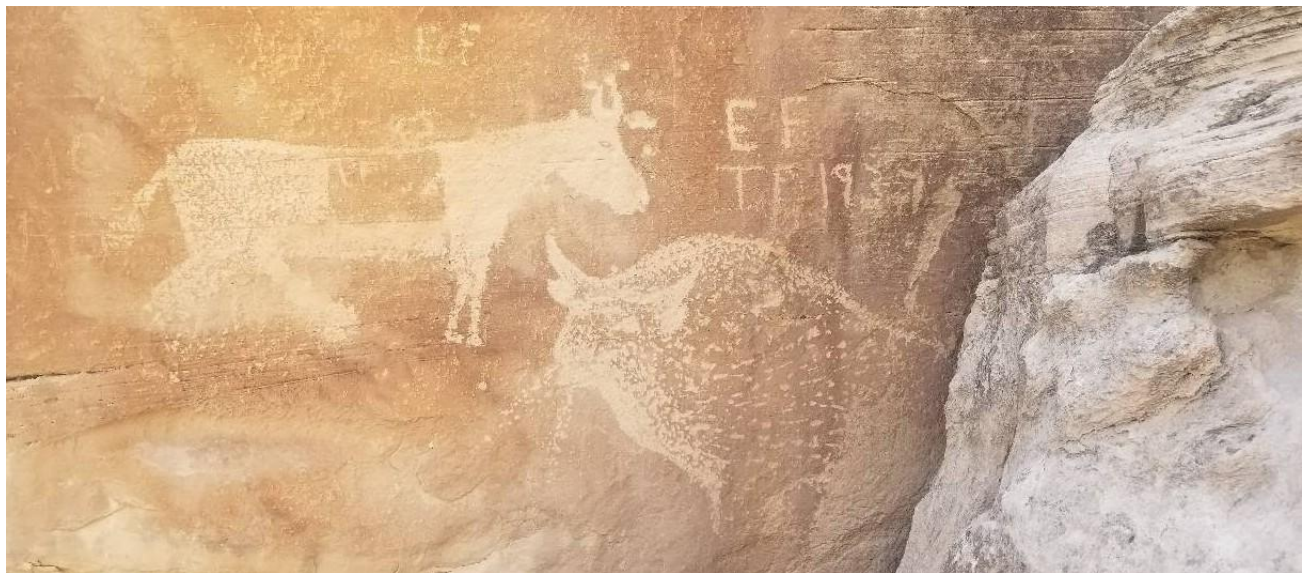
Vendors wishing to have a booth at the upcoming 2026 Bluff Symposium will need to register online again this year. Registration for vendors will open at the same time as for Symposium participants from August 20th-September 20th. When registration opens check the URARA website (www.utahrockart.org) and look for the symposium section of the events tab.

The symposium will be held in the Bluff Community Center, Saturday and Sunday, October 11-12, and vendors will be able to set up along the back and sides of the center. Fortunately, the location is the same space as the speaker presentations. There is a limit of ten (10) vendors this year.

Please note:

- Vendors do not need to be URARA members.
- The vendor fee is \$15 and a donated item to the auction.
- An 8-foot table and two chairs can be provided by the event location. You may bring your own table of the same, or smaller, size if you prefer. All vendors will have a ten-foot space, one table, due to size constraints this year. You may bring a smaller 3-foot table that fits behind your table. More information will follow vendor registration.
- Please bring your own extension cords.
- Secure Wi-Fi should be available for your use.
- More information on location; unloading and set up will be on Friday evening.

If you have questions or attempt to sign up for a space and are unable to do so, please contact Rein van West, arcticwild@gmail.com



McElmo Rick Mathews

URARA Summer Picnic

Margo Mahoney

When: 14 Aug 2026 - 16 Aug 2026

Where: Castle Rock Campground

We will be holding URARA's Annual Picnic at the Castle Rock Campground near Fremont Indian State Park August 14th, departing on the 16th. The museum at the park is closed for renovations, but we have arranged an artifact exhibit there at 2pm, Friday August 14th.

We have four campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis; 20, 21, 22, 23 (if occupying one of the reserved sites, you may be asked to share the site if occupancy allows). If you'd like your own campsite, please book soon to secure a spot. The park website has an interactive map:

<https://utahstateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/fremont-indian-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=UT&parkId=345271>

Richfield is about 20 minutes away if you prefer to book a hotel room.

ITINERARY:

Friday 2pm: Artifact Exhibit at Museum

Friday 3pm: Check in to campsites

Saturday: Field trips for day, to be determined by number of participants

Saturday Evening 6pm: POTLUCK In One of the Reserved Campsites

POTLUCK - CHILI WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE GROUP. PLEASE BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE BASED ON THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME:

A-I: Appetizer or Bread (Chip & Dips/Veggie tray/Fruit/Cornbread, etc.)

J-Q: Side dish (Green Salad/Potato Salad/Vegetables/Etc)

R-Z: Dessert (Brownies/Cookies/Pie/Etc)

Bring your own water/drinks/alcohol. Disposable Paper goods and utensils will be provided, but please consider bringing your own dishes and silverware to wash at your own camp to cut down on waste!

Sunday Morning: Pack up to leave campground

Sunday: Field Trips for day, to be determined by number of participants

Other Activities: Visit the rock art in Fremont Indian State Park, visit Monroe Hot Springs

Please RSVP through the URARA website so we know how many people to expect for supplies and chili portions!

If you have any questions, please email Margo Mahoney at fourfen@comcast.net

Go Fund Me for Steve and Diana Acerson

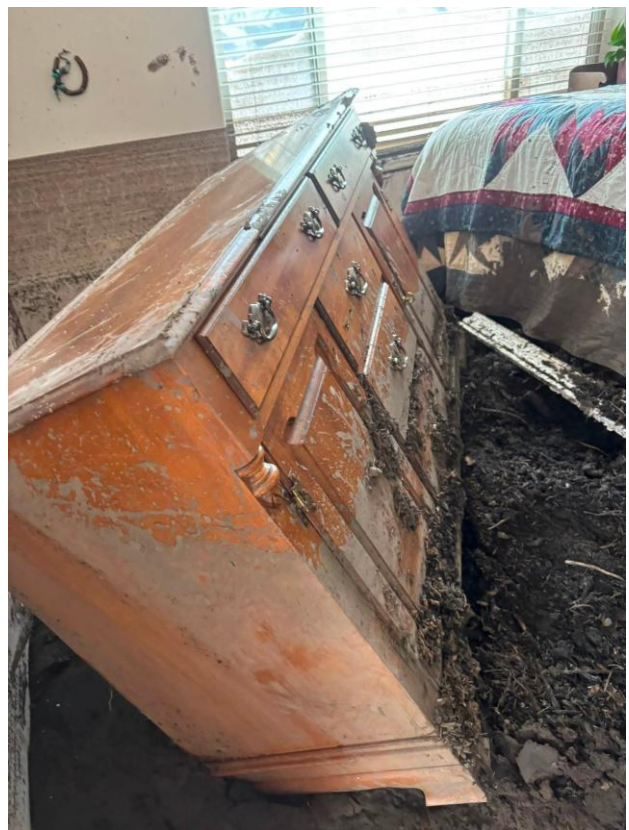
Margo Mahoney, organizer

Steve and Diana Acerson have experienced a devastating flood at their home in Beaver, Utah. The flood was a result of the massive Cottonwood Fire that started just two miles from their house. Their home is uninhabitable and filled with mud and debris. They are currently salvaging, cleaning, and storing what they can, but the loss is immeasurable. They had very little time to evacuate when they learned a flash flood was coming, but managed to get their laptops, cars, and trailer moved to safety. They are currently living in their trailer on a friend's property.

Steve and Diana have been instrumental in jump-starting URARA (Utah Rock Art and Research Association) and volunteering countless hours to the organization.

100% of donations, less credit card transaction fees go to the Acersons. Decide will ask for a donation for their platform, but you can modify that if desired.

<https://gofund.me/713665eba>





We are currently trying to salvage what we can. But our house is toast. Yard is gone. Lots of things are gone. House looks like it went through agitation with furniture scattered in different places. Thank you for all your kind offers and moral support. Thank you to those who are making the trips down here from your many places to help us in our recovery efforts. We are truly blessed to have such great friends and family. We love you all! --Diana Acerson

See porchcam video of flooding, Fox News - ed.

<https://www.facebook.com/fox13newsutah/videos/new-video-shows-just-how-fast-the-flash-floods-hit-beaver-utah-over-the-weekend-/1076881154903969/>

SE Colorado Field Trip October

Tina Tan

This foray to eastern Colorado will bring attendees to two of the finer rock art sites on the Southern High Plains, near La Junta, Colorado. Visit Hicklin Springs and sites in the US Army Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site.

Friday, October 2, 2026: we have permission to visit the Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site, a US Army property that contains many different high plains petroglyphs. US Army archaeologists will accompany us onto the site to show us some of the highlights of the many petroglyphs existing on the property. It took nearly a year to arrange for the permissions to visit the PCMS, and we are very grateful to the PCMS archaeology staff for allowing URARA to access this otherwise off-limits location. If you are interested in learning more about the rock art at the PCMS, pick up a copy of Larry Loendorf's *Thunder and Herds: Rock Art of the High Plains*, as this book deals principally with the rock art existing here.

Saturday, October 3: we will visit Hiklin Springs, a site that contains rock art spanning archaic through historic times. Hiklin Springs is notable for its considerable collection of archaic petroglyphs, including various atlatl and abstract images. Also present are a few interesting pictographs in a dark red ochre.

Accommodations can be found at La Junta, Colorado (motels and campgrounds).

Registration will open 2-3 weeks prior to Field Trip Start Date.

Trip Leaders: Bob Crifsai and Tina Tan

1. URARA holds no responsibility or liability for those participating in field trips.
2. Four-wheel-drive is recommended for high-clearance areas. Car-pooling is recommended, and is required for the final leg of some trips.
3. Many of the field trips involve hiking, easy to strenuous, through rough terrain with substantial brush where one may encounter unfriendly creatures, so be sure to pack appropriate footwear, hiking clothes with a jacket for that sudden rainstorm, a hat, and sunscreen. Don't forget your camera. Participants are responsible for bringing along plenty of water to ensure healthy hydration.
4. Plan to provide your own lunch, snacks, and drinks.

Earthworks (Geoglyphs?) in the News

Lasers reveal hundreds of geoglyphs *Live Science* 31 July 2006

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/americas/lasers-reveal-hundreds-of-geoglyphs-made-by-a-mysterious-civilization-in-the-amazon-rainforest-thousands-of-years-ago>

LiDAR reveals hidden Amazon earthworks from lost civilization *Archaeology Mag* 31 July 2026

<https://archaeologymag.com/2026/07/hidden-amazon-earthworks-from-lost-civilization/>

Mysterious Shapes Hidden Beneath the Amazon Canopy Reveal a Sprawling Ancient Civilization

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/mysterious-shapes-hidden-beneath-the-amazon-canopy-reveal-a-sprawling-ancient-civilization-much-bigger-than-researchers-expected-180989236/>

Calendar; Trips and Events

Aug 6-9	Pecos Conference Mancos Colorado https://www.pecosconference.org/
Aug 14-16	URARA Summer Picnic, Fremont Indian State Park.
September	URARA Field Trip Smith Reserve, Rick Mathews
Oct 02-03	URARA Field Trip SE Colorado Area Bob Crifasi and Tina Tan
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.casgichapter.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