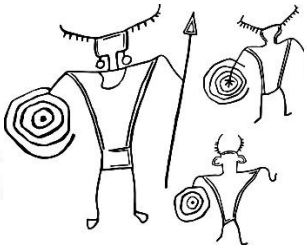
VESTIGES



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Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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From the Prez

Rick Mathews

What a great Symposium!! Thank you to all who participated! This year's symposium was awesome! We had great speakers and great field trips. I'm glad the weather cooperated for our event.

I loved the Field Trip I went on. We had a great time. I took the East side of Lower Butler Wash; Upper Sand Island Petroglyph Trail Field Trip on Friday. In Lower Butler Wash we forded the stream, made a muddy crossing, found a USGS corner, and saw some great petroglyphs. After Lower Butler Wash we welcomed the flat Upper Sand Island Petroglyph trail but after just a short walk, we found a lake on the trail. Oh well, I guess I'll have to visit another time.

We also passed a historical inscription that had me scratching my head. The inscription reads NO 14 19 58 and it was close to a USGS corner. So when I got back to my hotel, I started googling. Here's what I found out. The inscription was made by historical surveyors from the USGS or General Land Office as part of the Public Land Survey System. 14 Corresponds with the Section number, 19 (not 1e) corresponds with the Township and 58 represents the Range gridline. So you see some rock imagery is completely interpretable. Haha!

At the membership meeting we elected two new board members. Welcome Byron Loosle and Franz Villate! They will both make a great addition to the board.

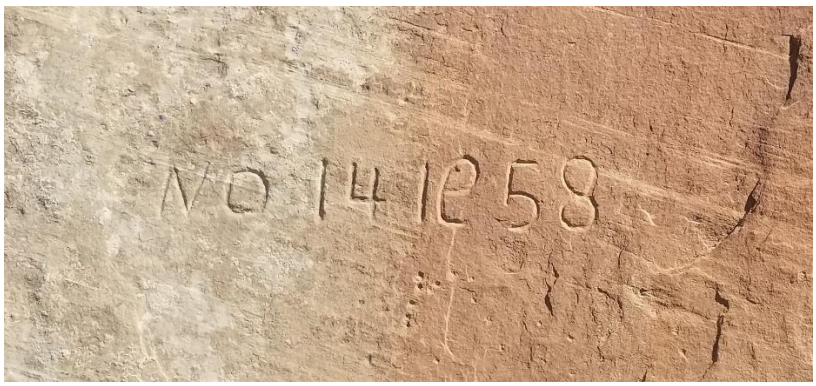
Prez (continued) -

For those that aren't aware, Bluff and a lot of the surrounding areas have been inundated with more rain and flooding. My cousin sent me pictures of Montezuma Creek overflowing its banks and another friend shared pictures of the washed road leading to her grandmother's home. Bluff Community has made an appeal for help. You can make a donation here: https://bluff-area-flood-relief.raisely.com









And a Great Time was had by All

Marc Silverman



Cedar Mesa field trip, L to R: Steve Freers, Richard, Dave Manley, David Sucec, Lili White, Marc Silverman, Karin Edwards, Leigh Grench (with Pica!) - Marc Silverman





- Tina Tan

Symposium Parting Shots

Carol Patterson

Thank You to All,

For the past year, Rein van West and I were in charge of the URARA , Oct 8-12, five-day symposium with 137 people registered and 25 volunteers and 18 presenters, three workshops, 15 field trips on Friday and Monday, banquet dinner, live and silent auction, tee-shirts design and ordering, swag bags, rented up graded AV equipment.

Rein volunteered to take on hiring food caterers, locating 45 tables and 150 chairs, half from other motels borrowed, and everything else that isn't listed, and was helpful on things I forgot.

Robert Crafasi organized all the presenters and found replacements for those who canceled at the last minute.

Tina Tan organized the field trips with months and months of negotiating for permits with the BLM.

The Gallery Show of drawings and sculpture by Joe Pachak was curated by Janet Lever-wood: assembled by Alisa Johnson, Chad Johnson, Tom Harper, Greg Hayes.
Swagbag and tee-shirt order-sorter - Cathy Rocaw
Registration and badges: Sally Johnson, Nina Bowen, Margo Mahoney, Nancy Lombardo.
Work Shops with Dave Manley on photography and Connie Massengale on painting sandstone with natural mineral paints, (see pics above)

Pre-production:

AV : Erin and Malia on 2-hour pre-production setup and troubleshooting of computer and projector failure to communicate!
Furniture Movers: Joe Vinyard, Stephen Bowers, Mark Galbraith, Cathy Racow, Alisa and Chad Johnson, Tom Harper, Patricia Jones, Tami Okubo,
Parking: Spencer Wade, Jeff Frey, Roger Cook: Refreshments: Sue Morgan and many helpers
Production: Watermelon Social: Christina Myers, Lisa Armantrout, Rick Mathews, Tom Harper
The Presentations were produced by: the ***Magnificent Seven***:

Bob Crafasi - moderator, introductions and timer
Jeff Reynolds (DJ of KVNF radio for 30 yrs) on sound mixer board
Sky Roshay on projector, mics and speakers
Dennis Roshay on video editing of introduction movies, video archivest.
Tracy Baker on clicker/pointer and battery changer
Cathy Rocaw on hand-painted event signs, auction paddles,
Joe Vinyard as GOPHER - chair and table deliveries, returns, and set up.

Silent Auction: Sally Johnson, Nina Bowen, Connie Bridge, Margaret Grochocki
Live Auction: Tracy Baker, Steve Acerson
Restroom Pickup: Linda Richardson and helpers

Thanks to all the great people who helped it be a wonderful event in Bluff.

Symposium Patterson (continued) -







Janet's Gallery show of rock imagery documentation, by Joe Pachak, herself, and others

Rice paper rubbings of rock images on the Silk Trail of Siberia'

Connie's Painting workshop









Painting with natural pigments during Connie's class.



Symposium attendees



Bob Crafasi with Cassidy Morgan of the Navajo Cultural Preservation Office and Aldean Ketchem of the White Mesa Ute tribe, panelists speakers on their views of sacred land.

Thanks to Field Trip Leaders

Tina Tan

A quick shout out and thank you to all of you who volunteered to lead field trips for the Bluff Symposium:
Steve and Diana Acerson

Sally Johnson

Jeff Frey

Connie Bridges

Dave Manley and Leigh Grench

Bob Crifasi

Patty Jones

Margo Mahoney and David Rohrer

Kent Williams

Nancy Lombardo

Werner and Carol Duecker

Tom Harper

Stephen Bowers

Troy Scotter

Our Field Trips went off well for the most part, and despite the rain on Monday, most Field trips managed to get out to the sites. I appreciate everyone's efforts to make it all happen!

While our permit for the Bluff area is valid till June 2027, it is unlikely we will have more FTs out there this fall due to the heavy rain and devastating floods that's happened in the area.

For those who would like to help, see https://www.bluffcommunityfoundation.org/relief

The Navajo and Hopi communities have also been impacted and these are some other websites if you'd like to help out:

https://navajohopisolidarity.org

https://www.warmelders.com

Leslie Wertz 1943-2026

Francois Gohier

Leslie Wertz passed away on September 1st, 2026 in San Diego, California. She was 83 years old.

Losing Leslie forces us to also remember Will Tapp, her life-long companion; both were friends to many of us. A young nurse working night shifts in the ICU in a San Diego hospital, Leslie met Will Tapp through a colleague whom she asked whether he knew someone who could accompany her to climb Picacho del Diablo, at 10,157 ft the highest peak in Baja California. Will was the founder of San Diego Mountain Rescue, a group of volunteers dedicated to rescuing hikers and rock climbers lost or in difficult situations in the mountains of southern California and northern Baja (I was present when at a meeting of our San Diego Rock Art Association, a woman I did not know came up to Will and thanked him for rescuing her many years ago). The ascension of that rugged mountain led Leslie and Will to share a life of adventure in the desert wilderness which turned into a passionate quest and appreciation for aboriginal rock art in the southwest.

Leslie and Will were long-time members of URARA. They attended the annual symposium and volunteered to lead field trips on these occasions, which they also did with small groups of friends during the year. They were extremely conscious about safety and always watched over the well-being of the participants. Leslie was reserved and quiet but nonetheless constantly attentive. When driving on some remote dirt road and reaching a rough spot, Will would stop, get out of his vehicle and walk up along the column of following cars telling the drivers to be sure to engage 4WD.

Will and Leslie understood the fragility and uniqueness of rock art and the need for vigilance in protecting it. At the 2013 symposium in Moab the URARA Board asked members to provide whatever information they could about sites in an area of Utah slated by the BLM for gas and mineral exploration. Will and Leslie had planned to go to New Mexico after the symposium. Instead they drove all the way back to San Diego to get the notes they had gathered over the years and make them available to URARA. After that, they did go to New Mexico.

Will passed away at the end of January 2017. Since we all lived in San Diego, Sandy Early and myself made sure to see Leslie as often as possible. Leslie never gave up on discovering new rock art sites. We traveled together as far as Wyoming to visit the Dinwoody sites, but more often we limited ourselves to camping trips in the Mohave Desert in California, to the Chumash sites above Santa Barbara or the Hohokam and Patayan sites along the Gila River in southern Arizona. When the time came for Leslie to slow down her outdoor activities due to health reasons, she would ask me where I had been, where I camped, and wanted to see my new photos after we had lunch at my house. “Cinnamon”, her four-legged companion, was always present!

A few weeks before she passed away in her nursing home, Leslie again asked me where I had been camping. I had pinned photos of rock art panels on the walls of her room. Her memory was failing but her love for her friends and for rock art kept shining through until the end.

Leslie Wertz (continued) –



Leslie and Cinnamon - Francois Gohier

CRAA Webinar Whoop-Up Canyon

CRAA

You are invited to a joint zoom event with the Colorado Rock Art Association and Utah Rock Art Association by Lucas Keeler.
Date: Nov 12, 2026
Time: 7:00 pm Mountain Time
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82861541124?pwd=wRH3EVMKX9LqxlSQnhzUsz6F6Iw2od.1

Whoopup Canyon is an extensive system of roughly 150 rock art panels along a four-mile-long stretch of Dakota sandstone in northeast Wyoming. Whoopup was, of course, known to Native Americans for thousands of years, but it wasn't until the 1930s that the first scientific surveys were conducted. At that time, Ralph I. Olinger—Lusk businessman, Wyoming Legislature representative and amateur archaeologist—provided drawings and wrote to University of Denver anthropology professor Etienne B. Renaud detailing his visit to "Whoop-up Canon." Olinger noted of the petroglyphs: "The deer and elk are mostly pictured, but there are mountain goats, antelope, bison, and a few other animals. There seems to be none of horses." The Olinger account appears to be the first documented field study of Whoopup in historical times. Following Olinger's rediscovery of the Whoopup petroglyphs, W.H. Over, University of South Dakota Museum director, conducted field work on the lower Whoopup petroglyph system in July 1939.

The University of South Dakota's summer study was followed up on October 12 and November 15 of 1942 by Rapid City area farmer, entrepreneur, and historian Charles Hass' research work. Hass, with assistance from the Shuck family, conducted his summer of 1942 studies primarily in the lower end of Whoopup. Haas took many photos of the southern panels and dated the rock art to the "Post-Glacial Period, perhaps 10,000 yrs ago." Haas' estimate of the dates is very comparable to the dates that have since been acquired using modern techniques. Unfortunately, Haas appears to have chalked many of the rock panels to enhance the images for photographic purposes.

Preserving Whoopup is of the utmost importance. Potential damage to the panels from wildfires has continued to be a growing concern. In 1997 an emergency closure of Whoopup Canyon was implemented because of decades-long legacy of damage such as chalk outlines, bullets, and graffiti. To complicate matters, the canyon had begun to be advertised as a rock-climbing venue via a new information platform known as the world wide web. The site remains open only for supervised guided education tours, researchers investigating the site under a cultural resource research permit, and Native Americans requesting access for traditional religious use.

Lucas Keeler Biography
Lucas Keeler grew up in Newcastle and is a lifelong resident of Wyoming. He holds degrees from Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. Lucas has been employed by the Bureau of Land Management since 2019, and works out of the Newcastle field office as a Petroleum Engineering Technician. Lucas is the author of three books pertaining to Black Hills, Weston County, and Crook County history.

More Field Trip Photos

Tom Harper - . https://benchcreek.smugmug.com/URARA-Events/URARASym2026FieldTrips/n-WbCLVf





Calendar; Trips and Events

Nov 12 19:00 mt	CRAA ZOOM presentation Whoopup Canyon petroglyphs
Dec 13 16:00 pt	SDRAA Virtual presentation Northern Sierra Nevada Petroglyphs and Their Protection

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

Grand Junction Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday of each month https://www.casgjchapter.org/public-meetings

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**

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

BLM District	**Field Office**	**Coordinator**
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