

# VESTIGES



August  
2003  
Volume 23  
Number 8

*Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association*

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## President's Message

Hello all,

I'm sitting in my office in Price trying to see my computer screen through the sweat running down over my glasses. I will depend more heavily on Dorde this month to ferret out the typographical mistakes. It's hot here; yesterday was 104° and today won't be much cooler.

Things are going well in Range Creek. We've had URARA members from California to North Carolina there to help out. What a great group of volunteers you are!

There have been some hitches. Lester Carr arrived in the canyon the first day of the project and found the key to the locked gate was not in place, so after hiking for a few hours and not finding anyone, he had to turn around. Others arrived before I was able to communicate that they were coming, so some of the fulltime help had to go on a bit of short rations for the weekend. And everyone found it hot and buggy. Thanks to all of you who helped and donated time. Individual members also donated \$300 to help with the effort.

The news regarding the Bill Barrett Corporation's proposal to drill gas wells in and around Nine Mile Canyon continues to be upbeat. I spent part of one recent day in the canyon with an attorney for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Amy Cole. She came to Utah to see for



herself what is special about the canyon. She was there for two days, seemed to fall in love with its history, and came to realize it really is special and one-of-a-kind.

During the course of my tour with her I learned several things. First, URARA needs to ask for consulting status on the project. The Trust has that status, but we should have it, too. Since we can comment as an organization on the new Environmental Assessment when it is released, I will ask for that to be done. If it's granted it will ensure we are at the bargaining table at all times.

Second, the Bureau of Land Management failed to follow the rules governing its responsibility to consult with historical and heritage groups, as well as Native American tribes, during the EA process. That is a major blunder. I have to believe the error was committed in an effort to push the proposal through before anyone noticed it. I also have to believe that omission was the main reason the EA was "pulled," something that is rarely done.

The Trust is willing to fund someone to finish the BLM's application to have the canyon placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a district. The previous effort by the agency failed and is now in limbo, but as yet agency personnel have not been very willing to meet with Amy to discuss the issue. Members of the URARA Board inquired about the failed process at our last Board meeting.

The most interesting part of the conversation with Amy was a revelation that URARA might qualify for grant money to help us with the Green River symposium. The group has set aside money specifically for Utah projects. It can be used to bring in speakers, for publications, and for symposium-connected expenses in general.

Here are details on the August 9-10 picnic at Joes Valley.

Saturday August 9: Meet at the group pavilion on the west side of Joes Valley Reservoir at 9 a.m. Steven Manning will lead a tour to Joes Valley Alcove, then to Ferron Canyon. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. at the Lowry Water primitive campsite, located about two miles north of Joes Valley Reservoir on the dirt road leading north to Millers Flat and Huntington Canyon. The campsite is located at the junction of that dirt road and the dirt road turning west to Lowry Water. The campground is right alongside the road. The only improvement there is a pit toilet. Please bring water and everything else you will need. If you should want to stay at a motel rather than camp, below is a list of local motels.

Tours will leave the group pavilion Sunday morning at 9 a.m. to go to Rochester Creek, Ivie Creek, and other places on which we will decide. Additional tours will be added if group numbers warrant. Please bring a side dish, your plates and utensils, and your own drinks. URARA will provide sandwich material.

On a more personal note, I recently spent parts of two days with David Coulsen, the man responsible for writing the fascinating piece on African rock art appearing in *National Geographic* several months ago. He has a beautiful new coffee-table book out on the same subject. David was in the U.S. drumming up funding for the Trust for African Rock Art, and is also visiting some of the most important sites in the West. I led him and his family into Horseshoe Canyon. They were thrilled. "Amazing, amazing, amazing," is about all he could utter after we arrived at the Great Gallery. His wife had to force him to eat lunch; he just didn't want to leave the panel. This comes from a man used to seeing giraffe petroglyphs 18 feet high, and graceful pictographs estimated at tens of thousands of years old.

As we walked the 7-mile round trip in temperatures hovering around 110°, the normally overpowering heat was rarely noticed as we talked about conservation issues, discussed ways of providing economic benefit to locals from the art, and compared beliefs and underlying meanings shared in rock art found thousands of miles apart.

David pointed out that he feels like the Lone Ranger (my term, not his) as he studies rock art in Africa. He's envious of URARA and the way we share information, join together monthly in meetings, and go on field trips to fascinating panels all around the West. But most of all he's jealous of our conversations and our ability to discuss issues and sites as friends.

"You are so lucky," he volunteered after hearing about the group. "I have no one [to share with]," he complained quietly.

Yes, we are lucky. We're lucky to live in a state with rock art so powerful and beautiful it draws visitors from halfway around the world. And we're lucky to be able to share it with friends and acquaintances.

See you on the trail,  
Layne Miller  
2003 URARA President

## Motels Near Joes Valley

### Carbon County:

#### Price

##### Best Western Carriage House Inn

Continental breakfast, frig, indoor hot tub and pool, some non-smoking rooms, some microwave. From \$52. 590 E Main St. 435-637-5660 [http://utah.calhotels.us/hotelinfo.php?210607?price\\_menu.html](http://utah.calhotels.us/hotelinfo.php?210607?price_menu.html)

##### Budget Host Inn

Heated outdoor pool, small pets okay \$10 charged, frig, some non-smoking rooms, some microwave. From \$37. 145 N Carbonville Rd. 435-637-2424

##### Greenwell Inn Convention Center and Luxury Suites

Complementary breakfast and coffee, indoor pool and spa, data ports, frig, some microwave. From \$49. 655 E Main St. 435-637-3520 <http://www.greenwellinn.com/>

##### Holiday Inn & Suites

Complementary coffee, data ports, indoor pool, some non-smoking rooms, some shower only, some frig and microwave. From \$84. 838 Westwood Blvd. 435-637-8880 <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hiis/hd/prcut>

##### National 9 Price River Inn

Complementary coffee, some non-smoking rooms, some frig and microwave, pets okay \$5 extra. From \$39. 641 W Price River Dr. 435-637-7000

##### Super 8 Motel

Indoor pool and hot tub, data ports, some non-smoking rooms, some frig, Continental breakfast, shower. From \$51. 180 N Hospital Dr. 435-637-8088

### Wellington

##### National 9 Inn

Indoor pool, some non-smoking rooms, some frig, pets okay \$5 extra. From \$44. 50 S 700 E. 435-637-7980

### Emery County:

#### Huntington

##### Village Inn Motel

Some non-smoking rooms, pets okay. From \$25. 310 South Main. 435-687-9888

#### Castle Dale

##### Village Inn Motel

Hot tub, some non-smoking rooms, pets okay, microwave, frig. From \$25. 375 East Main. 435-381-2309

#### Ferron

##### Gilly's Inn

Microwave, frig. From \$25. 15 N. State Street. 435-384-3333

#### Emery

##### Taylor's Tub-n-Grub Bed and Breakfast

432 S. 200 W. 435-286-2375

We believe the above information to be correct, but check with the facility to be sure. We have less information about the Emery County facilities.

# Symposium Doings

## Call for Presentations and Papers

By David Sucec, Chair, Symposium Committee

Utah Rock Art Research Association  
Twenty-Third Annual Symposium  
J. W. Powell Museum, Green River, Utah  
October 11-13, 2003 (Columbus Day Weekend)

The URARA Symposium Committee announces a call for presentations and papers for the Utah Rock Art Research Association 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium. Abstracts should be kept at about 200 words, but sufficient to give an idea of your presentation. The deadline for abstracts is September 1<sup>st</sup>, and we ask that everyone interested in making a presentation or a paper honor the deadline so we can finalize the program.

The Symposium Committee will give preference to papers that relate to Utah rock art, if need be, but will jury out papers only should we run out of time slots. Presentations will be allowed a minimum of 30 minutes.

Abstracts will be reviewed for suitability, balance of points-of-view, and to ensure that the number of papers does not exceed the time available for presentations.

Because of the higher quality of projected image, 35 mm slides are the preferred projection medium for the symposium, but a digital projector will be available for use in addition to the usual slide projector. We encourage presenters to deliver their presentations from notes if they feel comfortable doing so, rather than to literally read their papers.

Please send abstracts to David Sucec, Presentations Coordinator, at 832 Sego Ave, Salt Lake City UT 84102; phone 801-359-6904, or email to [davids@networld.com](mailto:davids@networld.com)

Please also refer to me for any questions regarding abstracts.

## Symposium News

The keynote speakers for the symposium will be:

Dr. Terence Grieder, Professor Emeritus of the Art History Department of the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Grieder is the author of the book *Origins of Pre-Columbian Art*.

Canyonlands ranger and former URARA member Jim Blazik, author of the popular website 42GR532 at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/6381/>. Blazik will speak concerning the Archaic Painted Tradition.

In next month's issue we'll have more information about the speakers, and abstracts of their papers. Also, next month we'll have the symposium schedule. The banquet will be in the museum and Chairperson Sucec is prospecting caterers as we speak. If he gets the information for the dinner, we'll slip a registration form into this issue, otherwise, next time.

He continues to call for people to help on the Symposium Committee. Help is needed for the advance planning and also at the scene. Various talents are needed. Please contact him at [davids@networld.com](mailto:davids@networld.com), telephone: 801-359-6904, or mail to David Sucec, 832 Sego Ave, Salt Lake City UT 84102, to volunteer or to find out what needs to be done.

Opposite you'll find the application for vendors for this year's symposium, again coordinated by Jan Gorski. Selling will be for Saturday and Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Monday is a full day of field trips.

Please refer to last month's *Vestiges* for a list of lodgings and camps.





**URARA SYMPOSIUM 2003**  
**Green River, Utah, October 11-13, 2003**  
 J. W. Powell Museum, 885 East Main Street

**VENDOR APPLICATION FORM**

|                |          |      |
|----------------|----------|------|
| Name:          |          |      |
| Business Name: |          |      |
| Address:       |          |      |
| City:          | State:   | Zip: |
| Phone:         | Country: |      |
| Fax:           | E-Mail:  |      |

***Equipment (Quantity) or Area (Linear Feet) Requested:***

4x8' Table: \_\_\_\_\_ or 6x6' Space: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 per 4x8' table or 6x6' space)

Chairs: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Requests (subject to availability): \_\_\_\_\_

***Media (check as many as appropriate - must be related to rock art)***

- |   |                                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books          | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters/Prints |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cards          | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clay/Pottery   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock        | <input type="checkbox"/> Software       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing/Fiber | <input type="checkbox"/> Paintings   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass          | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Other          |

***Additional Information (Including price range of items offered):***

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Submit application with check or money order (payable to URARA) and photos, slides, or samples of work (**DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 13, 2003**) to:

URARA - Vendors  
 Jan Gorski  
 424 E. Spring Grove Avenue  
 Highlands Ranch CO 80126-2274

Phone: 303-791-8118

Email: [wild4nature@earthlink.net](mailto:wild4nature@earthlink.net)

Applicants must be URARA members, and must submit an item for the auction

# New Information on Coso Range Petroglyphs

By Dorde Woodruff

Since the last time we wrote about this area in *Vestiges*, most of the websites have changed. After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, tours at the Navy's facility at China Lake are more tightly controlled, and potential visitors need to be informed of the rules. The Maturango Museum webpage at <http://www.maturango.org/pettoursF03.html> and the new Navy webpage at <http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/~pao/pg/Ptrglyph.htm> list these rules. The Navy one is new, and has much better photos than its predecessor, though they are small.



Tours may be arranged either through the Museum's Petroglyph Tour Coordinator at (760) 375-6900, Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., or directly through the Navy's Corporate Communications/Public Affairs Office at (760) 939-1683. The Navy's Peggy Shoaf is exceptionally helpful. A volunteer tour guide has to go with every 12 people, and every so often the Navy holds classes to train local people who wish to do this.

The original petroglyph area at China Lake was understood on the basis of the late, great Campbell Grant's 1966 survey, the survey also being the basis of his classic 1968 book *Rock Drawings of the*

*Coso Range*. People who studied rock art of the area always thought more sites could be found. But roads are few in the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, and a successful new survey was begun only in 1996, by the CRM firm Far Western Anthropological Research Group of Davis, California. Some archeological sites including petroglyphs are found on the granite formations, but most are on the basalt. Access was by helicopter. Over 400 new panels of rock art were discovered. The complex of kinds of sites that tend to occur together includes petroglyphs, rock shelters, dummy hunters, hunting blinds, rock rings, milling stations, open air occupation sites, and chipping areas; also one geoglyph was found. Peggy Shoaf wrote an online article on the new survey for the Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California, but that organization is no longer active, so its website is no longer viable.

Due to security concerns and lack of roads, the Navy has no plans to open the new petroglyph area to visitation; those in Little Petroglyph Canyon (actually the lower part of Renegade Canyon) remain the only portion of the Station's rock art accessible to the public.

However, the surveying firm's website <http://www.farwestern.com/rockart/> has quite a long series of pages explaining Coso rock art in general and the more recently-discovered sites in particular, with maps and many photos, and includes a bibliography. The award-winning video *Overview of the Rock Art of the Coso Range* by Mark Pahuta includes the newer sites, for sale either at the Maturango Museum or by mail, see <http://www.maturango.org/Mailinfo.html>.

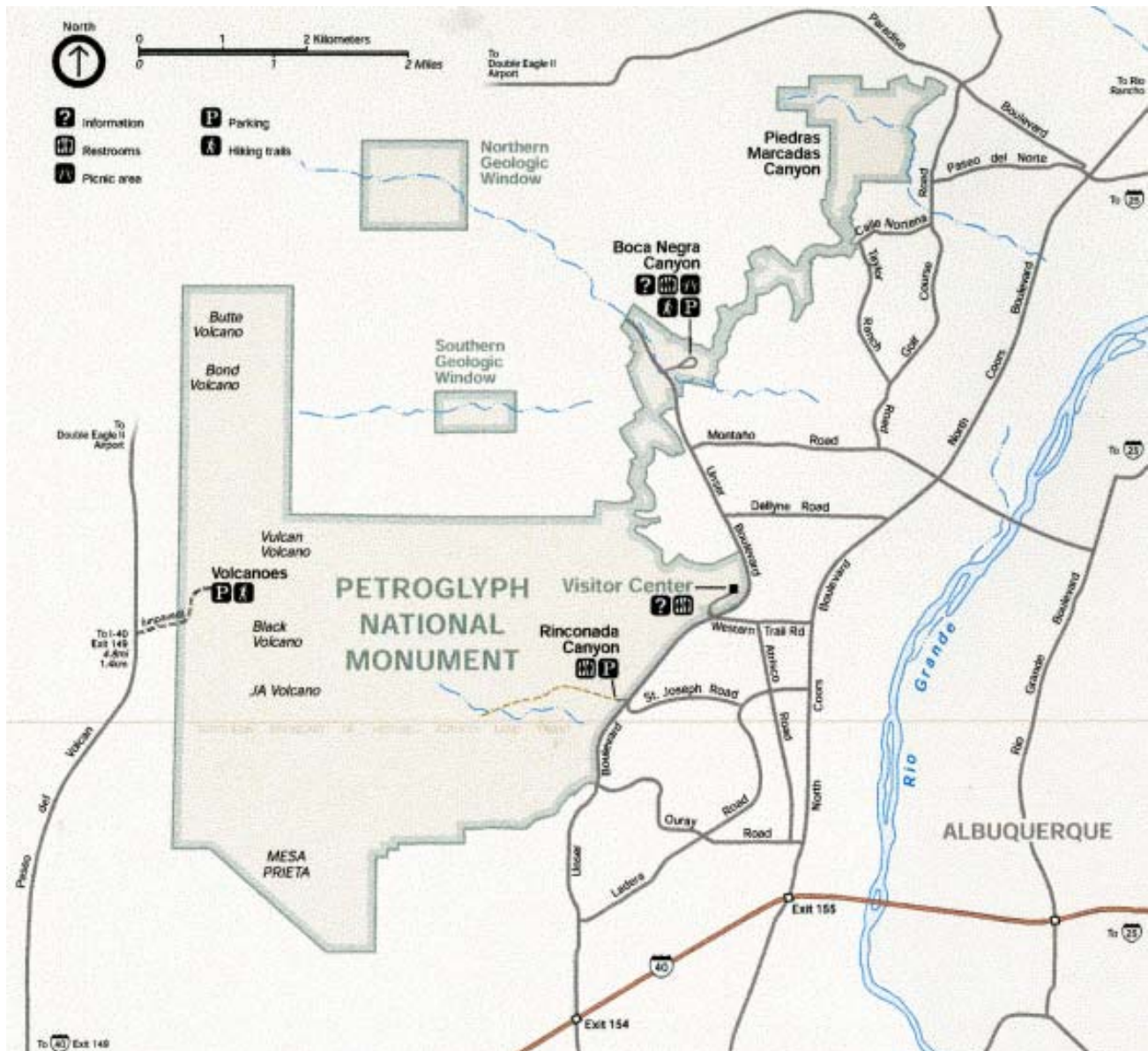
On the Web are photos from China Lake by various rock art enthusiasts. Our member Phil Thum recently posted a series of photos at <http://www.oldstonecuts.com/chinalake.html>.

*Photo, Impaled Sheep, from a China Lake press release.*

## Janet Burningham in the Hospital

At the University Hospital in Salt Lake, Janet endured complications after serious surgery July 17th, but is about to be out of intensive care as of July 27, and seems to be on the mend. Janet and Gary would doubtless appreciate hearing from their many friends in URARA, as she faces a long recuperation.

# Road Controversy in Petroglyph National Monument Heats Up Again



It started way back in the '80s.

On the one hand, people began to push for protection for the sacred home of 17,000 petroglyphs on Albuquerque's West Mesa, being trashed as the city grew.

On the other hand, developers began to look at large tracts of land west of the present-day monument, designated in 1990. The Sandia reservation on the north, the Sandia Mountains to the east, and Kirtland Air Force Base on the south all block growth of this fast-expanding city in directions other than west. And already an extension was desired for Paseo del Norte, which butts up against the north end of the monument, to feed traffic into and out of the plots on the west side.

The Petroglyph Monument Protection Coalition was soon formed, to fight cutting through the monument with the road; later it turned into the Sacred Alliance for Grassroots Equality (SAGE) Council, spearheaded by Pueblo people.



Support for the highway in the Albuquerque City Council waxed and waned. The Park Service was initially against it, but New Mexico senator Pete Domenici scored a coup when he bypassed the Department of the Interior to attach a rider to a foreign aid bill, which successfully removed an 8.5-acre swath from the monument to accommodate the highway. After that the Park Service said that since they no longer owned the land, they had no official position. Those opposed fought the highway extension through the courts, and blocked funding for it.

Various voices decry the lack of planning, which they see as endemic to Albuquerque. An extension of Paseo del Norte is the cheapest way to bring traffic relief to residents of the west side, because development has been allowed all around Paradiso Boulevard just north of the monument, which would have been a better alternative.

Now there's another possibility for a road through the monument, an extension of Unser Boulevard, which cuts up from the southeast to the monument.

Besides the religious aspect, the opposition maintains that an expensive road through the monument would mainly benefit developers, that city councilors get a large part of their campaign contributions from developers, that funding these roads removes money needed in the inner city, that there remain water-use problems on the west side that are not yet solved, and there is even some talk of discrimination against non-whites.

In May of this year the City Council approved design agreements for the extension of Paseo del Norte. The initial cost was expected to be \$11.5 million. Mayor Chavez did not get the road built when he was mayor in a previous term, and in this term is trying again. Citing precedent, Chavez once said that even "the Vatican has a road going through it."

Besides SAGE, other groups such as 1,000 Friends of New Mexico and the National Parks Conservation Association oppose this road project. Another objection is that the road benefits residents who live out of the city limit, so why should city residents pay the big bill for it with the city's limited funds?

In June the City Council debated whether to spend the money instead, or first, to rebuild the messy Coors Boulevard and I-40 interchange, which would also help the traffic problem. According to an editorial in the *Albuquerque Tribune*, the real issue is how best to spend those multi-millions. The editorial also pans the City's plan to use road money scheduled for 2005 projects to pay for the extension of Paseo del Norte.

Pueblo and SAGE activist Laurie Weahkee explains the religious aspect:

"For native religious beliefs, think of it as a snake. If you take out a piece of the snake, you're affecting its life. We want people to understand the integrity of keeping this whole. It's keeping the prayers together."

Knowing the great significance of the snake to Pueblo beliefs, it seems an apt analogy.

The total cost of the extension for the Paseo del Norte and its connection on the west side of the Monument is expected to be at least \$66.5 million over the next 10 years.

Now a referendum to the voters on the proposed "fast track" \$11.5 million bond originally slated for 2005-2007, plus the half-million bond for the design, goes to the city's voters in the fall.

SAGE is considering another lawsuit. And several city council members, tired of the bickering attending this and other issues, are declining to run again.

For more information, see:

<http://www.sagecouncil.org/petroglyphs.html>, <http://www.sagecouncil.org/about.html>

<http://albuquerque.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2003/04/21/daily5.html>

[http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/opinions03/060403\\_opinions\\_edwed.shtml](http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/opinions03/060403_opinions_edwed.shtml)

[http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/060703\\_news\\_nelson.shtml](http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/060703_news_nelson.shtml)

[http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/061403\\_news\\_roadside.shtml](http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/061403_news_roadside.shtml)

[http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/061403\\_news\\_paseo.shtml](http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/061403_news_paseo.shtml)

[http://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/guest\\_columns/guesta06-20-03.htm](http://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/guest_columns/guesta06-20-03.htm)

[http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/062303\\_news\\_council.shtml](http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/062303_news_council.shtml)

[http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/062403\\_news\\_council.shtml](http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/062403_news_council.shtml)

[http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/071703\\_news\\_council.shtml](http://www.abqtrib.com/archives/news03/071703_news_council.shtml)



## Texas Nature Conservancy Buys Vast Acreage along the Devils River

Visiting the rock art along Texas' Devils River by boat is a pleasant thought. Up to now it's been hard to accomplish, requiring knowledge of the difficult access and where to camp. In Texas the state owns the waterways but private property owners the banks. And Texas ranchers are notoriously private about their holdings.

The Devils River is widely appreciated as one of those time-traveling places, free-flowing and relatively untouched. The conservancy's 87,000 acres will be resold, but with conservation easements to protect the habitat, with a mixture of uses including traditional ranching, recreation, and even homesites where appropriate and away from the river, but without excessive subdivision.

The conservancy previously purchased two large parcels farther south on the Devils River, in 1991 and 2000.

This should make life easier for those wishing to enjoy the river and its environs.

See the feature article on Texas rock art in the January issue of *Vestiges*.

From an article by Neil Strassman, *Knight Ridder Newspapers*, Jul. 12 in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, posted online at <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/6291116.htm>

## Rock Art Author Found in Violation of Copyright

Prominent rock art researcher Robert G. Bednarik of Australia sent to the Rock-Art email list an item on copyright of rock art drawings.

Bednarik translated a judgment from the High Court of Austria that he thinks is likely to have implications in other countries and serve as a precedent.

The plaintiff and the defendant in this case are both active researchers in Alpine rock art. The defendant used a drawing of the plaintiff's in a book, without permission, without any changes, and without giving credit to the researcher-artist.

The court found that, even though the drawing was based on a given rock art image and a faithful likeness was intended, that the act of drawing requires individual judgment according to the recorder's ability and skill, and thus potentially differs from that of another scholar.

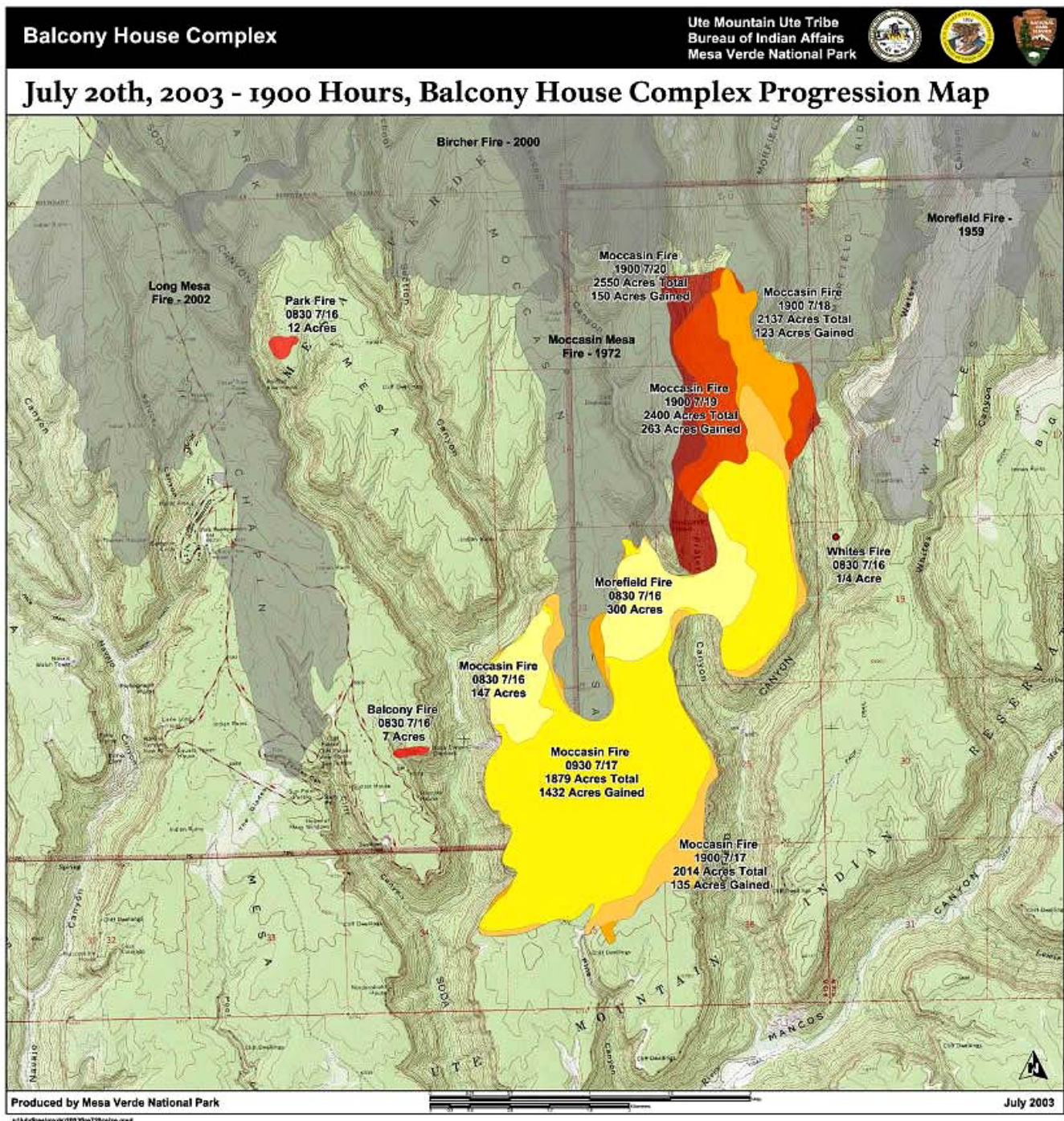
Therefore, the drawing was judged to be protected by copyright, and the defendant was sentenced to removing it from his book, and to pay costs.

Bednarik is at present Convener, President, and Editor of the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations (IFRAO); Secretary and Editor, Australian Rock Art Research Association (AURA); Contributing Editor to *Discovering Archaeology*; and holds several other official positions in rock art research.

In a heartfelt response on the email list, Dr. Joan Vastokas, art historian and anthropologist, professor and Graduate Program Director in the Anthropology Department at Trent University at Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, and an active researcher on Algonkian rock art, pointed out that Barry Fell, among others, had used her and her husband's photos and especially line drawings of the Peterborough Petroglyphs without permission, and even distorted them to serve his interpretation; she felt that she probably should have taken him to court on it. So the question of the legality of using other's work has been on her mind for a long time and she was pleased to hear of this judgment.

## More Quilt Blocks Needed

We're getting close! Elva Ogden needs just 7 more of the 30 required to make the beautiful annual quilt for auction at the Symposium. Elva will be gone much of August, and she needs them this month! So come on, you talented folks, send your 12x12" rock art quilt blocks to her at 2844 E. 3400 South, Salt Lake City UT 84109. Any extra will make a head start on next year's.



## *Fire at Mesa Verde Again*

By Dorde Woodruff

Multiple lightning strikes sparked a series of small fires near Balcony House and elsewhere in Mesa Verde on Tuesday, July 15, in the late afternoon. A tour group near that ruin got an unexpected thrill when a 40-foot wall of flame shot up near them. The park was evacuated within a couple of hours. All visitors, some of whom had just arrived and unpacked, had to leave the park, so many that motels in nearby Cortez and Durango had to turn people away. The ruins themselves were never threatened.

Several people spoke to the possible damage to rock art. But there was no word on whether



any rock art actually was affected. The main physical threat to the park from fires is erosion from the denuded acres — but to the local businesspeople, it's the effect on tourism, a mainstay of the local economy. Normally the park draws as many as 4500 people a day. The park has been closed due to fire for nearly 40 days since the year 2000. Since '89 about 60% of the park has burned.

And tourism is already down this year, probably all over the Southwest. At Lake Powell, for instance, officials for ARAMARK, which also operates in Mesa Verde, are very upset; it's their worst season ever.

The trees in the park in these latter-day, hot, dry summers have less moisture than kiln-dried lumber, 2% vs. 8-10%. Where yearly precip averages 18 inches, this year's has been 6 inches at Mesa Verde, no longer quite so verde. Less than an inch was received since April, and none since June 18.

Bark beetles compound the problem of destruction by drought for the pinyon trees. They're much more susceptible when it's droughty and they can't produce much sap to discourage the beetles. Experts say the area of the park hasn't been this naked of trees since the Ancestral Pueblos left after using too many trees for building and for fuel. They hoped that the old junipers wouldn't burn.

Each fire crew has an archeologist to guide them, fire lines are routed around any archeology, and bulldozers aren't used.

The Balcony House Complex fire, so named when smaller fires merged, became Colorado's #1 firefighting priority. It was also burning south of the park on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation, home of a great URARA trip recently (see *Vestiges* May issue: 6-7), but Ute officials said that as long as it stayed north of the Mancos River they wouldn't close their park.

On the [www.nifc.gov/fireinfor/nfn.html](http://www.nifc.gov/fireinfor/nfn.html) website, the latest information as of July 23<sup>rd</sup> was that the Balcony House Complex fire covered 2,600 acres and was 20% contained. Containment was expected by the 24<sup>th</sup>. The park reopened on the 21<sup>st</sup>, though helicopters were visible dropping water and retardant, heavy equipment was traveling the roads, and the fire was only 15% contained at that time.

The park's management, like land managers all over the West, now realizes that fire suppression during the previous decades was a bad idea, increasing fuel loadings, a condition that the drought has only exacerbated. The park has started prescribed burns. Fighting these big fires costs a lot of money, this one the better part of a million dollars, long before full containment.

*Thanks to the Arizona Daily Sun in Flagstaff, Salt Lake's Deseret Morning News, the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, the Farmington Daily Times, Denver's Rocky Mountain News, The Denver Post, and Mesa Verde's fire webpages, starting at <http://www.nps.gov/meve/fire/index.htm>, for information for this article. Look at the latter for more information and maps, about this fire and others at the park.*

## Baja Cave Paintings Dated to 7,500 Years Ago

According to an article on the *National Geographic* website, [news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/07/0717\\_030717\\_bajarockart.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/07/0717_030717_bajarockart.html), new research shows Baja California murals to date as far back as 7,500 years before present. In spite of the fact that the Cochimi people, living in the area when the Spanish fathers came, told them the paintings were made long ago, the late Clement Meighan, relating them to an artifact dated only about 600 years ago, thought they were done by the Cochimi.

But Harry Crosby, author of the definitive book *The Cave Paintings of Baja California: Discovering the Great Murals of an Unknown People*, always thought they were very old. Crosby began his study of Baja in 1967, and a second edition of the 1975 book came out in 1997.

Alan Watchman, well-known rock art researcher from Australia, is conducting an ongoing study of the Baja pictographs. He and his team added 320 more sites to the 90 previously known

in the Sierra de Guadalupe. Watchman is working together with Lucero Gutierrez of Mexico and Marisabel Hernandez Llosas of Argentina. Not enough archeology of the area is yet known to distinguish the group of native people the artists belonged to.

According to Crosby the paintings are on a volcanic material aggregated of pumice and ash, which would be similar to that of Utah's Clear Creek rock art. Knowledge of the underlying substance helps understand the process of weathering. Crosby sees much overpainting and as many as five layers in some places, with the older layers so degraded as to have almost disappeared, and newest ones quite fresh-looking. Dating so far suggests the paintings were made over a span of at least 2500 years. He believes the paintings are degrading relatively slowly.

Well-known pictograph sites in the Sierra de San Francisco nearby are included in a World Heritage site, and the team studying the Sierra de Guadalupe asks that their rock art be included by extension of the boundaries for the World Heritage site.

## Urbanization Creeping Up on Pahrnagat, Study and Conservation Work is Ongoing

A master-planned, golf-course-oriented community for 50,000 slated for the south end of Lincoln County and the north end of Clark County along US 50 in Nevada, near the Pahrnagat rock art area, has people worried. It's about an hour from Las Vegas megapolis. Also Las Vegas area water managers are eyeing the piping of groundwater from northern Lincoln County.

In addition to Pahrnagat itself, the area in question includes the rock art sites of Mt. Irish and Badger Mountain, west of US 50 in Lincoln County. Besides thousands of glyphs, the area contains hunting blinds.

The Nevada Environmental Coalition, a group of organizations and individuals mostly up until now concerned with air and water issues in and around Las Vegas, sent a proposal to Nevada senators Reid and Ensign asking for a bill similar to the Clark County Public Land and Natural Resources Act passed last year, establishing a National Conservation Area to protect 48,000 acres around the Sloan Canyon petroglyphs (see *Vestiges* January of this year, pp 2,8,9).

Mark Henderson, BLM Ely district archeologist, is overseeing rock art documentation and site monitoring in the area.

Henderson also is in touch with Farrel Lytle. Lytle saw a mention of the URARA symposium last year in the email newsletter *Got Caliche*, came to the symposium, and joined URARA. A materials engineer, he did basic research at Boeing and then with his wife Manetta retired to Pioche in the Nevada area pioneered in part by Lytles. He took delivery in May of a hand-held instrument to use x-ray fluorescent analysis on the desert varnish in order to date petroglyphs. Lytle has promised *Vestiges* a report of his research when he has sufficient data.

For more information on activities in this important rock art area, see an article from the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, [http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj\\_home/2003/Jul-14-Mon-2003/news/21707085.html](http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2003/Jul-14-Mon-2003/news/21707085.html)

*Right, painting from Mt. Irish. Steve Goesser photo, via Kat Johnson.*





# FIRE IN RANGE CREEK

By Layne Miller

Well, the Range Creek project came to a fiery early end (at least it looks that way for now) when lightning ignited a fire in the canyon bottom, driving archeology crews from the project. Jerry Spangler reported crew members battled the tiny blaze before realizing they were way overmatched.

As they drove the rugged road out of the canyon, some of the group had to turn back and head out over the even rougher Turtle Canyon road as flames became very intense.

Early reports indicated the fire might be doused in a day or two, but within two days the fire exploded from 45 acres to 200 acres and the BLM closed the canyon. Two days later a BLM report indicated 65 firefighters were battling the blaze and smoke jumpers were on the way. The historic ranch house seemed to be safe, as a fire line was established on the southwest flank, but containment was not predicted anytime soon.

As a side note, Jerry said it might be possible for URARA members to go into Range Creek in the fall to do rock art surveying, something many members have been hoping for.

More information will be given out as it becomes available.

## Nominations Needed for URARA Board of Directors

By Dorde Woodruff

We encourage nominations from members for these positions, or volunteer yourself! Help determine URARA's direction. 2003 has been a productive year, and the board members work well with each other, by and large.

The new non-profit-organization-determined Bylaws specify that Directors serve a two-year term. Except that for this first year some were elected to one-year terms, so that the terms will stagger, and not everyone will be out at the same time.

Outgoing (unless re-elected) one-year Directors are: Craig Bowen, David Sucec, Dorothy Lynn, and Troy Scotter. Troy does not want to run for the next term, though he says he would serve the year after that. David also does not want to run; Craig and Dorothy haven't said.

Please send nominations to vice-president Nina Bowen, 225 S 800 East, Bountiful UT 84010, 801-292-5012, or [bch8@qwest.net](mailto:bch8@qwest.net), by Sept. 15th.

## Labor Day Weekend Field Trip to the West Desert

By Kirk Neilson

Our field trip will begin in Kanosh at the city park located on the west side of Main Street between Center Street and 100 North. We'll leave there at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 30, after everyone signs the liability release.

There is a small store in Kanosh but not a lot to choose from. There are RV parks, motels, and larger grocery store in Fillmore, 15 miles north of Kanosh.

We'll be visiting Hole-in-the-Rock, the Paxton Shearing Corral, the Oppenheimer Site, sites near Black Rock, Devil's Kitchen, and if time permits, the Great Stone Face and sites north of Delta.

Be sure and bring a polarizing filter for your camera. Bring plenty of water.

Leaders Margaret Grochocki and Kirk Neilson will be at Kanosh on Friday afternoon to assist the early birds.

For more information contact: Margaret Grochocki, P.O. Box 249, Cedar City UT 84721, 435-865-5113 or [gmargaret@cedarcity.org](mailto:gmargaret@cedarcity.org), or Kirk Neilson, 471 E 1800 South, Orem UT 84058-7962, 801-225-3747, or [kneilson78@earthlink.net](mailto:kneilson78@earthlink.net)



## SHOW YOUR COLORS

When people met on the trail ask you what URARA is, you can propagandize them as to appreciation and conservation of rock art. Sometimes they will even be willing to join URARA.

Request these patches from Craig Bowen in his office of Publications Distribution. Send \$3 apiece to him at 225 S 800 East, Bountiful UT 84010, postpaid.

Owl motif car window stickers are also available from Craig at the same price.

Don't forget to request some club cards to give out, too, if you don't have any. They have the purpose of URARA stated on the front, and the address; rock art etiquette is on the back.

## Pecos Conference to be Held in August of 2004 in Bluff, Utah

The 2004 conference is planned to go back to "the roots of the Pecos Conference—everyone will camp out." It's sponsored next year by the Southwest Heritage Foundation (SWHF); Abajo Archaeology, a contract archeology firm based in Bluff; the Edge of the Cedars Museum of Blanding; and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Since last month planning is ongoing.

Who are the players?

The non-profit corporation SWHF was formed nine years ago when Indianapolis businessman Skip Lange bought land from a local resident, to support preservation of the Bluff Great House and its excavation and study. The 7½-acre site is near both the town and the San Juan River. Pottery sherds indicate occupation from about A.D. 500 to 1300. The site was used long before the Great House—one of the most distant of Chacoan outliers—was built, and small Pueblo II ruins surround it. The site also contains a Great Kiva. Over a hundred Great Houses are known, but in recent years they've been little researched.

UC-Boulder under the husband-and-wife archeologist team of Catherine Cameron and Steve Lekson runs a field school in Bluff every year. The Colorado group has also surveyed sites along the San Juan.

Abajo Archaeology brings its expertise to the Great House project. Winston Hurst of Blanding, member of an original southeast Utah pioneer family and lifelong resident, one-time director of Edge of the Cedars and also the much-appreciated tour leader of a memorable URARA trip, now works primarily with this firm.

Doubtless the archeology in the area is relevant to the area's abundant rock art.

## September Field Trip to San Rafael Reef Area

By Nancy Mason

On Saturday Sept 27 this trip will visit sites up Old Woman Wash. The rock art in the area includes excellent Barrier Canyon Style sites, very old petroglyphs, scratched or finely incised glyphs, and more. The day will be spent hiking and scrambling in this beautiful area, although participants could opt out of visiting the more distant sites if desired. The outing will include exploration and searching out additional sites.

On Sunday the 28th we'll visit some rarely-seen sites along the washes that flow out of the San Rafael Reef, as they cut shallow channels across the San Rafael Desert. These are mostly painted sites; at least one is Barrier Canyon Style. They can be accessed by 4WD and short hikes with easy scrambling.

Also, on both Saturday and Sunday, arrangements can be made for participants to visit other well-known sites along the eastern Reef, including Black Dragon Canyon, Petroglyph Canyon, Three Fingers, Straight Wash, North Temple Wash, Temple Wash, and Wild Horse Canyon.

Camp will be made on Friday and Saturday night by Garvin's Chimney, near the base of the Reef at Old Woman Wash. Other camping with better access for trailers is available throughout the area. There is lodging in Green River or Hanksville.

Four wheel drive and high clearance vehicles will be needed for this trip, especially due to sandy conditions that may develop. If the weekend is rainy or the roads wet, the trip will be postponed until the following weekend, October 4-5.

Limited to 25 participants. To register, call Nancy Mason at 303-459-3397, beginning August 10<sup>th</sup>. Details on camping and meeting times and places will be provided on registration.

## Late Fall Southern New Mexico Field Trip

By Jim Duffield

The URARA field trip Friday, Oct 31-Sunday, Nov 2 will feature the Three Rivers and Alamo Mountain sites in southern New Mexico, important and extensive examples of Jornada Mogollon rock art.

The Three Rivers petroglyph site is 27 miles south of Carrizozo, New Mexico, where there are several motels, and then 5 miles east on a secondary paved road.

We'll meet at the campground there between noon and 1 p.m. on October 31<sup>st</sup>, with the site visit to begin at 1 p.m. For those unable to arrive until later in the day, we'll have time the next morning for about a two-hour site visit.

Panels here are concentrated on a mile-long basalt ridge, the most extensive rock art being clustered at the far north end.

The campground is at the south end of the ridge. There is a \$2 per vehicle charge that covers the camping fee and access to the site, or \$1 for those having Golden Age or Golden Eagle cards.

Alamo Mountain, about a two hour drive south of Three Rivers, is a flat-topped feature about two miles wide. The rock art, nearly all petroglyphs, is concentrated on the western slope mostly between the 5300 and 5600 foot contours. The area to be visited is about 1¼ miles in length, and will be covered in two half-day periods. The field trip will end after lunchtime on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, although those who wish to explore further are welcome to stay longer.

The BLM has set aside a small area for primitive camping at the southwest base of the mountain. There are no fees, no toilets, no water, also no trees for miles around except for a few cottonwoods near the old Butterfield Stage Station. Due to limited camping space here and at Three Rivers this trip will be limited to 12 participants.

Hiking will include rocky and substantial off-trail sections with about 300 feet maximum elevation difference. Days should be cool, with rather cold nights.

Road travel will involve highways and gravel roads, quite a lot of the latter. Any passenger vehicle should be okay, but travel trailers are discouraged due to space limitations.

URARA members who wish to participate in this field trip should call the leader, Jim Duffield, at 505-473-0605, preferably in the evening—sorry, no email. Leave a message on the answering machine if there is no answer.

This field trip will be limited to those who haven't previously visited Alamo Mountain although some may have already been to Three Rivers.

# August Picnic at Joes Valley

By Dorde Woodruff

The easiest way to get to Joes Valley is to go west 15 miles on Utah State Route 29 from Orangeville.

The group pavilion where we meet (see president's message) is about a mile before the developed campground on the west side of the lake. It's right by the water on the east side of the road, and is the only developed facility before you come to the Joes Valley Complex, #91 on the map.

The map is excerpted from a Utah Public Lands Recreation Opportunities map (given out at the Olympics). The numbered shields correspond to Forest Service campgrounds, and the numbered cogged wheels to state parks.

If you should want to combine the picnic weekend with adventuring in the Wasatch Plateau either coming or going, there is also dirt road access.

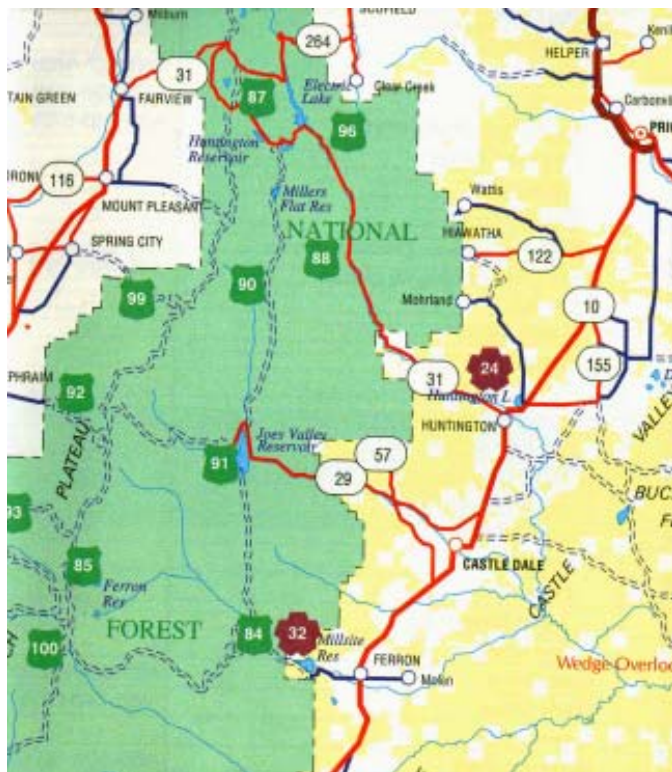
The dirt road between Joes Valley and the paved Fairview-to-Huntington road is the easiest of the two dirt through-roads, about an hour Layne says, though it can get washboardy later in the season. The dirt road west from Joes Valley to the Skyline Drive first goes up some spectacular switchbacks, which are fine if not wet, impassible if wet. Higher up are some switchbacks that are rocky and thus require high clearance. It would be easier going down than up.

The road south from Joes Valley is fine as far as it goes. It accesses North Horn and South Horn Mountains. But it's been decades since it was a through-road, and now the last rough, short connection to the Ferron Canyon road is an ATV trail, blocked from use by cars. It also shows as a through-road on the state highway map, one of those few dirt-road anomalies that persist beyond all reason. Jim and I couldn't do it with dual purpose motorcycles 15 years ago.

Small canyons that have streams will have water plants that are pretty, but the big show, which changes weekly, is usually on top of the plateau, accessed by the Skyline Drive, the Huntington-Fairview paved road, and others. This year is not a good one, though there are some good spots. The picnic is towards the end of the high country wildflower season. If you should want to do some touring after the picnic, talk to Layne or myself for possible routes other than these (I once spent many days in and around Huntington Canyon as an ecologist).

Joes Valley is becoming famous nationally, even internationally, for rock climbing, and you may see people practicing that sport while you're there.

The reference for the research at Joes Valley alcove, which we'll be visiting, is:  
Barlow, K., and Metcalfe, D. 1993 *1990 Archaeological Excavations at Joes Valley Alcove*. University of Utah Archaeological Center Reports of Investigations, No. 93-1. 136 pp.



## Calendar

June 23-August 2

Participation in archeology, Range Creek in the Tavaputs Plateau; register with Layne Miller. Canyon closed at this writing for fire.



|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Aug 9-10      | Summer Picnic, Membership Meeting, Field Trip. Joes Valley, Wasatch Plateau of central Utah. See pages 2,16 for details.  |
| Aug 14-17     | 2003 Pecos Conference, Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. For details see <a href="http://www.swanet.org/zarchives/pecos/2003/">www.swanet.org/zarchives/pecos/2003/</a>   |
| Aug 30-Sept 1 | Field Trip, West Desert of Utah. See page 13. Leaders Kirk Neilson, 801-225-3747, or <a href="mailto:kneilson78@earthlink.net">kneilson78@earthlink.net</a> , and Margaret Grochocki, 435-865-5113, or <a href="mailto:gmargaret@cedarcity.org">gmargaret@cedarcity.org</a> |
| Sept 12       | Board of Directors and Membership Meeting, SLCC South Campus  |
| Sept 18-20    | 6th Biennial Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, Estes Park, Colorado, see <a href="http://www.unco.edu/rmac/">http://www.unco.edu/rmac/</a>   |
| Sept 19-23    | Springfield and La Junta area, Southeast Colorado. Susan Martineau, <a href="mailto:susanmartineau@hotmail.com">susanmartineau@hotmail.com</a> or 303-499-4410. Registration needed for Crack Cave, see May issue, page 18.   |
| Sept 27-28    | Field Trip, eastern San Rafael Reef, southeast Utah. See page 14,15. Leader Nancy Mason, 303-459-3397.  |
| Oct 11-13     | 23rd Annual URARA Symposium, Green River, Utah.   |
| Oct 18-19     | Field Trip, Capitol Reef, Utah. Carol Georgopoulos and Ray Freeze, call 435-425-3704 or 505-771-2245, or email <a href="mailto:carolgeo3@hotmail.com">carolgeo3@hotmail.com</a>   |
| Oct 31-Nov 2  | Field Trip, Southern New Mexico and Alamo Mountain. See page 15. Leader Jim Duffield, 2949 Plaza Azul, Santa Fe NM 87507-5337, 505-473-0605.  |
| Dec 5         | Christmas meeting, First Unitarian Church, 569 South 1300 East, SLC.  |

## URARA

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*Nine Mile photos by Layne Miller. Above, Sheep Canyon, right, Happy Hikers, Below, Pregnant Buffalo Panel. Groesbeck was a Mormon who hauled freight between Salt Lake City and Vernal for Mormon President Brigham Young.*

