



N E V A D A

ROCK ART  
FOUNDATION

*The Nevada Rock Art Foundation's principal objectives are to document rock art sites at risk, and work to conserve and ensure the integrity and future protection of all Nevada rock art sites.*

*The Foundation respects the cultural heritage and traditions of indigenous peoples in all its activities.*

*Member International Federation of Rock Art Organizations*

*Our Past Deserves a Future*



## GREAT BASIN GLYPH NOTES

### Lagomarsino Canyon Petroglyph Project Resumes!



By the time you get this *Great Basin Glyph Notes* we'll have been running two large projects (Lagomarsino and Dry Lakes) concurrently - a new departure for NRAF! By running **Lagomarsino and the Dry Lakes projects** simultaneously, out-of-town volunteers get a chance to spend a little time at both areas, and we can do twice the work in the same amount of time! Lagomarsino Team Leaders Ralph & Cheryl Bennett are keeping things in order when PIs Alanah & Gus have to go back to their "regular" jobs. At Dry Lakes, Don &

Joanne Murray will cover when the PIs are gone, covering for Team Leader Signa Pendegraft who will be flitting around Italy!



Once again a huge THANK YOU goes to Dan Smercina, Manager of the Western Village Inn & Casino, for his ongoing support. Dan has again offered NRAF volunteers the incredible deal of rooms for only \$20/day for the duration of the project! What a difference that makes in allowing NRAF



members to come from all over the country to participate. Storey County, NRCS & RC&D, Nevada DOT and the Nevada

State Museum also continue to support NRAF's efforts to document this important site. With financial support received from the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Forest Service, we hope to record all of the rock art along the road by the end of this field season. We'll be continuing through October 16th and our goal for this year is to not get snowed out or be surrounded by wildfires (both of which happened in 2004)! There is also a Documentation Training Workshop scheduled during this session, on 8-9th October, at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City - contact [info@nevadarockart.org](mailto:info@nevadarockart.org) to see if there is still room.

And remember that Lagomarsino needs more Site Monitors. Joan Johnson ([jdjohnson101@cs.com](mailto:jdjohnson101@cs.com)) is the local coordinator ... so let her know that you want to help! This is your chance to help protect the most spectacular site in northern Nevada!!





## Northern News.....

Documentation at Dry Lakes continues from October 1st through October 11th for the second Fall session. This year "The Kitchen," "Deep Grooves," "Rattlesnake Jump," and "Gooney Bird" are the focus of our efforts. The Kitchen, over 100 panels, was recorded in July. In the Fall session we hope to complete the recording of the three other sites, which total about 200-300 panels. This means that in the Dry Lakes area this year NRAF volunteers will have devoted around 1600+ "person hours" to the documentation of around 400 panels. BLM financial support for this documentation project and the site monitoring program is provided through the Carson City Field Office. Documentation is the first step to site protection, with educating the public and monitoring the area being the next steps. Sparks is just over the hill now and more people are "discovering" the area for recreational activities. We want to make sure that those who are out and about in the Dry Lakes area know the correct site etiquette when they encounter its fragile archaeological resources. A thorough and accurate documentation allows land managers to monitor changes in sites over time and will also help prosecute violations of antiquities laws should that be necessary. NRAF's educational efforts are making a difference, and with Site Monitors keeping an eye out, hopefully we'll never have to sit in a courtroom again. Punishment of offenders is an important deterrent, but it is far better to prevent damage in the first place.



Hardy NRAF members helped out with a University of Nevada, Reno, recording project in the extreme northern part of the state. Primitive camping were the only accommodations offered, and each day featured a hard hike over very rocky terrain (the sites were in Rock Creek after all!) while fighting off the bugs for which the area is famous! Pictured are the volunteers relaxing after applying extra bug spray!

A small site in northern Nevada was recorded by NRAF at the request of the BLM in early summer – here is the Executive-Director showing that recording rock art can be relaxing as long as you aren't the one holding the string grid frame for a couple of hours (Connie Alther and Frank Crosser are stoically supporting the frame).



The Annual Silver State Gallery Rockin' Art Show was another great success! Carolyn Barnes and the Gallery were able to donate over \$1300 to NRAF from sales during the month of July! Tied to the annual, month-long "Artown" celebration in Reno, the show has become an annual event for NRAF artists too! 24 artists (12 NRAF members) participated and Silver State Gallery donated 20% of all sales during the month to the NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION – thanks Carolyn!

Our Reno area Lecture Series has been such a great success that we may need to find another venue that can hold more people as attendance has averaged over 70 people per lecture! These presentations are held on the fourth Wednesday of every other month at the South Valleys Library in Reno (doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the lecture starts at 7 p.m.). The lecture is free and open to the public. This helps NRAF to fulfill part of our core mission, to educate the public on the heritage significance of Nevada's rock art, and gives NRAF members the opportunity to learn about wider

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rock art research topics in addition to the process of preservation and documentation of the rock art that we all love so much. The first in our *Great Basin Glyph Notes* Lecture Series was presented by the NRAF Deputy Director, Dr. Angus R. Quinlan on February 25, 2005. Gus's presentation, *A History of Rock Art Interpretation*, was a perfect place to start, because it is critical to understand the anthropological theories that underpin all the research that has been done to try to understand the functions and meanings of rock art. The following is a summary of Gus's presentation.

"Archaeological interpretation is all about fitting objects and monuments into a context to give them meaning in the present, usually by carefully constructing an interpretive context by thorough archaeological recording and relating these observations to general anthropological theories of human cultural behavior. This makes archaeological interpretation inherently analogical and explains why the first Palaeolithic cave art to be discovered in Europe (at Altamira in 1879) was not initially recognized as ancient art because there were neither contemporary analogs nor a theory of rock art functions that explained why Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers would have made it. It was only some 20 years after its initial discovery that Altamira was accepted as being authentic because by then there was better knowledge of contemporary peoples using rock art and a theory had been developed (hunting magic) that explained rock art's importance to hunter-gatherers. Since then a number of theories have been developed to explain why rock art was made and what it may have meant to the peoples who produced and used it. All of these theories developed out of new perspectives in general anthropological theory, not necessarily because of new discoveries regarding the properties of rock art sites. Consequently interpretation is productive when it engages in a reflexive relationship with rock art data, leading to new understandings of the characteristics of rock art sites, and with theory being modified by field data. Interpretation is less productive when it is simply imposed on data and only modified by new understandings of the general theory on which it is based."



NRAF member Steve Sterns is busily putting our lecture series on DVD so that a Lecture Series library can be built. Forthcoming lectures include Kenneth Pringle in October – some NRAF members have had the good fortune to have had Ken guide them on the Coso site tour. Ken's talk promises to be a fascinating presentation on Coso rock art, and a chance for those who have not seen this spectacular corpus of rock art to see why it is so famous.

## Southern News . . . . .

**C**an you see that long string coming from the top of this photo with the board tied to the bottom? Those southerners are a determined bunch ... just look at the lengths they'll go to get the perfect picture! Anne Carter is the leader of the photo crew in the south and she just won't settle for less than just right!



**W**e kick off an active winter and spring in the south with the long-awaited **documentation project at Mt. Irish, Lincoln County!** If you've never been to this wonderful area, now is your chance to see some of the state's most interesting rock art and participate in its protection. Mt. Irish is a 640 acre Archaeological District, located in eastern Nevada – this region is striking for its high snow-capped mountain ranges and deep valleys. There have been minimal improvements to



*Photo courtesy of Anne Carter*

the Mr. Irish Archaeological District by the BLM, in an attempt to preserve some of its "wild Nevada" character. But with the future development of

Coyote Springs to the south, the area is sure to see much greater visitation ... and threat. So, that's where NRAF comes in – to thoroughly document sites as a first step in their protection and conservation! We'll begin with the most highly visible and most commonly visited sites in the District, then move outward from there, until all of the rock art in the District is fully documented! We'll establish our "base of operations" in Alamo (on Highway 93) which has a small motel, a gas station and store – for those who want to camp, nearby Ash Springs has a small RV Park and gas station.

Work begins on November 10th and continues through November 16th. There will also be a Documentation Training workshop to be held in Alamo on November 12-13th for NRAF members who haven't yet had the necessary training to participate. An information mailer will be sent out shortly, and the deadline for registration will be November 1 ... as you probably know, these fill up quickly, so don't delay! The Mt. Irish area has site monitors in place through the NAA Site Stewardship Program, and Anne Carter is the NRAF Steward Coordinator for Lincoln County.



Contact her to find out if more help is needed  
([carter0419@earthlink.net](mailto:carter0419@earthlink.net)).

Next in line in the south is a “Fun-in-the-Sun” field trip to the area around Laughlin in January – just to start off 2006 on the right foot! We’re planning on staying in lovely Boulder City, complete with a “Welcome Social” event on Friday evening, a field trip on Saturday and a group breakfast on Sunday before everyone heads for home. Details will follow when the date has been settled.



And we’ll be doing Documentation Training in the end of February and working in Sloan Canyon in the spring – another area that has been the subject of a lot of interest in recent times. Again, the dates are TBA, but keep watching your *Great Basin Glyph Notes* for all the details!

## Site Etiquette

We’re starting a new column here in the *Great Basin Glyph Notes* where the Rules of Site Etiquette will be discussed and elaborated from time to time. If you have any questions they can be discussed here as well. You all should have received the “Rock Art Site Etiquette – A Visitor’s Guide” (ARARA 2003) handout at Documentation Training ...if you haven’t please contact [info@nevadarockart.org](mailto:info@nevadarockart.org) for a copy. Site etiquette is important so that we all know how to prevent damage a rock art sites – especially if you’re a member of the NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION! By becoming a member of NRAF, you have taken on a certain level of responsibility by agreeing to abide by our code of ethics. People will look to you and your behavior to see how they should act, so we have to be certain at all times that what we do at rock art sites is what we would want others to do. As well-known conservator Claire Dean has said, “don’t do anything to rock art that you wouldn’t be happy to have done to your own head!”

Rule one:

-Don’t touch the rock art. Natural oils and acids on your skin will harm the images. Remember that you are not the only visitor to the site. The oils and acids soon accumulate to cause staining and other damage. Touching the images also simply wears them away over time.

This seems to be a simple idea, but it’s one of the hardest things to convince people of ... after all, it is a rock, what harm can there be in touching it? In fact, a lot of damage can be done when an action is done repeatedly by large numbers of different people. There are monuments in the world that have been closed to the public because the footsteps of millions of people have destabilized them, and many painted caves in Europe have been closed because visitors’ breathing caused bacteria to grow on the paintings. It’s not that anyone intended any harm, but it’s a problem of numbers. So if you’re about to fall and injure yourself, go ahead and put your hands out to break the fall. But don’t rub your hands on rock art just to “get the feeling” – it will damage the rock art and if others see you doing it, they’ll think it’s ok and they’ll do it too.

## CONTACT US

General Questions  
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## 2005 – 2006 Calendar of Events

Tours, presentations and projects fill very quickly, so if you don't want to miss out ... reserve a place early [info@nevadarockart.org](mailto:info@nevadarockart.org)! ALL events are in Nevada, unless otherwise noted.

### October

- 1-16 Recording Project  
Lagomarsino
- 1-11 Recording Project  
Dry Lakes
- 8-9 Documentation Training  
Carson City at the Nevada State Museum  
(limit 20)
- 15 Site Tour, Grimes Point  
East of Carson City
- 15 Three-Corners Conference  
UNLV
- 26 NRAF Lecture Series – Ken Pringle  
“Coso Rock Art”  
Reno,  
South Valleys Library, doors open  
6:30 p.m. & lecture starts @ 7 p.m.



*Ken Pringle at Coso.*

### November

- 5 NAA Site Steward Recognition Event  
Overton
- 12 Site Tour, Valley of Fire  
East of Las Vegas
- 10-16 Recording Project  
Mt. Irish
- 12-13 Documentation Training  
Alamo
- 19 Site Tour, Grimes Point  
East of Carson City

### December

- TBA Christmas Party  
Reno & Las Vegas

### January 2006

- TBA “Fun-in-the-Sun”  
Boulder City and points south!

### February – March

- TBA Documentation Project  
Sloan Canyon, in Henderson



## THIS & THAT

**Island Ink-Jet** refills all types of ink cartridges for printers ... and the owner of this new environmentally friendly business is our own Roger Isles!! Roger has offered to refill

NRAF ink cartridges used for documentation and other business for free (!) and he's looking for part-time sales help in the new store, so if you're looking for a little something extra, you might give him a call! (775) 746-5622

Everyone has to agree that **Inga Nagel** deserved her award at the first Annual Meeting for being "Best Equipped Volunteer" ... but she may have met her match in **LaVita Jones**! When Jeff Thelen prepared his famous Chinese Chicken Salad for lunch one day at Dry Lakes, LaVita whipped out her chopsticks and started eating! Now that's being prepared!



Many thanks to **Jim Ouimet** who once again has developed the black & white film on several of our projects. Jim has really spoiled us – on the rare occasions when we have to take our black & white film to a regular camera store for developing, it is never done as well as Jim does it in his own personal darkroom. Between Jim and our "special discount" on film from **Ed Laine** (Laine Photography), we have most of our photography needs covered. Thanks guys – your support makes a big contribution to NRAF's reputation for achieving the highest level of documentation!

Some of you have probably noticed that the \$15 **Other Archaeological Organization membership** has been dropped from our membership form ... and maybe you're wondering why! We figured out that people who could afford to be members of more than one organization paid less for their NRAF membership than people on limited incomes or students, who usually can't afford more than one membership. Somehow it just didn't seem fair ... so, the decision was made to standardize the membership levels to \$25 Limited Income (this includes fixed income, retired and students); \$30 Individual; \$45 Family; \$100 Steward; \$500 Conservator and \$1,000 Patron.

Best wishes to **Jeanne Howerton** on her recent nuptials! She and her husband Charlie were married in the Church that Jeanne's grandfather built in Manhattan – as she put it "We had a splendid wedding in Manhattan,

reception in Belmont, and honeymoon in Paris. Sounds so high brow until you know that we never left Nevada!" All the best to Bride and Groom!

Thanks so much to all of you who contributed to buy the fabulous neon Logo Man, by neon artist Jeffrey Johnson. Angus and Alanah really love it! What a terrific first anniversary gift ... and to think, 20% of your gift went to the Foundation – doubly terrific!



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"Each moment you live  
You stand at the intersection  
Of all that was  
And all that is yet to be.

The world swirls onward  
While every living thing  
Savors the moment now.

This moment transforms all things  
And each becomes eternal."

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This poem was written in 1997 by our good friend **Phil Hutchinson** who passed away in September. He lived a rich, full life and is survived by a large family and many friends who loved him and still find his footprints all across the desert that he loved.



## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help with a vast array of tasks from database management to stuffing envelopes and making photocopies. If you want to help but don't know what you can do, we have a job for you regardless of your skill level!

Our Foundation is growing fast – and we need your help to keep up! If you're willing to give or set up presentations, school activities, lead site tours, or just stuff envelopes – let us know and we'll put you to work.





## Panel Program

Because the Lagomarsino Recording Project is a multi-year project it poses particular funding challenges. We'll be working at Lagomarsino for quite some time to come, and the cost is enormous, but NRAF is committed for the long haul to do whatever it takes to document and protect this breathtaking, World Heritage caliber site. So far we have been fortunate to

receive support from the NEW and USFS for the 2004 and 2005 field seasons, as well as funds raised through the efforts of NRAF members (including donations and the proceeds from NRAF merchandise). But if you want to do something extra, to permanently attach a symbol of your commitment to Lagomarsino, become a Panel Sponsor! The panel pictured here is still looking for sponsor – and it could be you! By sponsoring a panel you contribute to its documentation and make possible continued recording of the site. In return you receive a framed photograph of the panel you choose to sponsor, and acknowledgement in any future publication. And remember, any donation is tax-deductible! Makes a great gift too!

## New Members

Joyce Abbott  
Betty Barats  
Leah Bonstead  
Richard Crane  
Judith Day  
Candace Duncan  
Anne Higgins  
Roberta McGonagle

Bambi & Daniel Miller  
Carol Ormsby  
Bill & Nancy Peacock  
Silvia Pierce  
Candace & Richard Rooney  
Greg Seymour  
Steve Stoney  
Gene Winn



## Panel Profile

John Gianotti, of Zephyr Cove, was the very first Panel Sponsor! He's known the Vice President of our Board of

Directors for many years and when the Preserve-a-Panel program was started, Shari and Alanah noticed how much this well-known panel reminded them of John! When we showed it to him, he could see the likeness too and decided on the spot that he'd sponsor that panel and do his part to help document the Lagomarsino Canyon Petroglyph site. John has led an interesting life and among other exciting things, was once the Senior World Champion Downhill Skier! Like most of us, he loves Nevada and its culture and history, and he recognizes the importance of protecting these very special places. Thanks to him, and the other Panel Sponsors, NRAF will be able to continue to document this important site and help make sure it's there for posterity.



## Nevada Rock Art Foundation

*Working for the Conservation of Nevada's Rock Art Heritage*



*Our Past  
Deserves a Future*

Membership Application:  Yes, I want to join!  Yes, I want to renew!  
Memberships:  Individual \$30  Family \$45  Limited Income \$25  
Donors:  Steward \$100  Conservator \$500  Patron \$25  
Other:  Tribute Fund \$500  Founder's Club \$1500 and above

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# Code of Ethics

*The Nevada Rock Art Foundation subscribes to the following Code of Ethics and its members, as a condition of membership, agree to abide by the standards of conduct stated herein.*

1. NRAF members will be respectful at rock art sites – many are regarded as sacred by indigenous peoples and as such will be treated as a valued part of our shared cultural heritage.
2. All local, state, and national antiquities laws will be strictly adhered to by the membership of NRAF. All research or educational activities taking place at rock art sites shall be subject to appropriate regulations and property access requirements.
3. All rock art recording shall be non-destructive with regard to the rock art itself and the associated archaeological remains which may be present.
4. No artifacts shall be collected unless the work is done as part of a legally constituted program of archaeological survey or excavation and with express permission of the land holder.
5. No excavation shall be conducted unless the work is done as part of a legally constituted excavation project and with the express permission of the land holder. Removal of soil shall not be undertaken at any time for the sole purpose of exposing subsurface rock art.

*Working for the Conservation of Nevada's Rock Art Heritage*

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