

Great Basin Glyph Notes

The Newsletter of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation
Member International Federation of Rock Art Organizations

First Quarter 2009

Volume 8-1

6th Annual Meeting of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation

Mark your calendars now for the sixth annual meeting of NRAF. The date is May 1–3, 2009 and the venue is Mesquite, Nevada.

Mesquite is located in the rugged Virgin River Valley. The small town of approximately 18,000 people is located on the border between Arizona and Nevada, just south of the Utah border, only 45 miles southwest of St. George, Utah. With such a location, Mesquite offers easy access to many of Utah's national parks and monuments, as well as some of Nevada's great rock art. Nevada's oldest state park, Valley of Fire, is 45 miles south of Mesquite and offers petroglyphs from Basketmaker and Puebloan cultures in the region. Field trips will be announced in the upcoming weeks, but members are guaranteed spectacular viewing of rock art. The region presents an interesting blend of Great Basin and Southwest styles of rock art.

The meeting begins Friday evening with a no-host reception, an event that sets the tone for the rest of the meeting. Come early, greet old friends, make new ones, and prepare to enjoy the hospitality of the CasaBlanca Hotel, the host hotel.

On Saturday, the meeting officially begins with a summation of the year, lectures, presentations, and shopping with featured vendors.



The CasaBlanca is a beautiful full service Mesquite resort offering over 450 deluxe tower rooms and suites. CasaBlanca has a spacious, clean-air, and 24-hour casino. The resort also has a Cal Olson designed 18 hole championship golf course, world class co-ed spa, three restaurants including Katherine's fine dining, meeting space, lagoon pool with water slide, and live entertainment.

Saturday night is the Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony. The theme for this year's banquet is 'Southwestern Flair.' Menu selections include assorted salads, salsas with corn tortilla chips, chicken fajitas, cheese enchiladas, tacos, grilled salmon with tequila cream sauce, side dishes, and churros and Tres Leches cake for dessert.

We will also present a Year in Review slide show, so if you have pictures you would like included, please refer to page 6 for instructions.

NRAAF has a special low rate for the meeting of only \$59.95 per night for single or double occupancy. Rooms are

non-smoking. Check in time is 4 PM and check out is 11 AM.

Sunday will be the day for field trips. As the trips are arranged, information will be sent out so that members can mark their preferences for site visits.

Mesquite is approximately a one-to-two hour drive from Las Vegas and a nine-hour drive from Reno. It has a municipal airport for small aircraft, but travelers on commercial jets would fly into Las Vegas and then make arrangements to drive north to Mesquite.

We hope to see as many members there as possible—let's make it our best attended annual meeting!



From the President

I'm honored to be the new President of the Board of Directors and hope to do as good a job as our first President, Don Fowler. I will continue to work hard to live up to the high standards he set for the Presidency and that you have set as Foundation volunteers.

As might be expected, we at the Foundation are stressed by the economic outlook. Let me reassure you that Gus and I are working hard to keep the Foundation going. My priority for the next two years is fundraising to ensure we can continue to record sites and help protect rock art in Nevada. I have a goal of raising an additional \$50,000 a year and will keep you informed as to our progress. I'll be asking for your support and ideas in reaching this goal.

My second goal is to increase our capacity for field projects and free Gus's time for leading them by developing two new full-time staff positions, including someone to help with fundraising.

My third goal for the coming year is to double our membership and increase volunteer effort in the field and in the office. I admire your dedication to our cause and will be asking you for help in the coming months.

While working for these goals, I will continue to support Gus by helping him organize and run the Foundation's upcoming field projects, in Black Canyon and Lincoln County, as well as planned projects in Clark County and in northern Washoe County. As always, we will rely on you to volunteer for these projects and ensure that they are done to the highest standards.

Please join me in working to keep the Foundation ever more active in rock art preservation. You have made the Foundation the most respected rock art recordation organization in the world.

Let's keep going and growing.



Pat Barker, President,
NRAF Board of Directors

Website News

Over the coming months, NRAF will be making enhancements to its website to make it more interactive and informative. This redevelopment of the website is made possible in part by a generous donation from Don Frazier. We hope that once this work is complete, the website will be a source of information about Nevada rock art, the Foundation's past and present programs, and a venue for us to better acknowledge the important contributions made by NRAF volunteers, members, and donors. The most immediate changes are that the NRAF website's address is changing to www.nvrockart.org and the principal email address is now info@nvrockart.org. As we revamp the website we'll try to keep disruption to email and web service to a minimum, but given the vagaries of 21st century technology we can't guarantee that there won't be some interruptions in service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President, Pat Barker PhD

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Catherine Fowler PhD

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Angus R. Quinlan PhD

Newsletter News

Readers may have noticed the new appearance of Great Basin Glyph Notes. Our editorial team of Darla Garey-Sage, Kim Hopkinson, and Gus Quinlan has put together the new design and some new features. Check out the Volunteer Profile, a permanent feature, and Field Notes, a section devoted to news of fieldwork for NRAF. On page 2 you will always find either 'From the President' or 'From the Executive Director.' The letters will rotate each issue.

Members are encouraged to submit story ideas, pictures, or information to editor@nvrockart.org. Praise is welcomed; criticism frowned upon.

Note that our website and email addresses have changed.

We are now www.nvrockart.org and info@nvrockart.org.

Field Notes

Clark County—Mark Boatwright (BLM Las Vegas) is looking for volunteers to assist him with recording work at Gnat Canyon, Granite Springs, Knob Canyon, Arrow Canyon localities, and similar sites in Clark County. If you are interested in helping, provide the NRAF office with your contact details by emailing or calling Kim Hopkinson (info@nvrockart.org or 702-804-6723). Your name will be placed on a sign-up list and more information provided when Mark Boatwright finalizes his fieldwork schedule.

Black Canyon—NRAF will be assisting Far Western Anthropological Research Group to record rock art at the Black Canyon site, Lincoln County during April 13-17, 2009. This is part

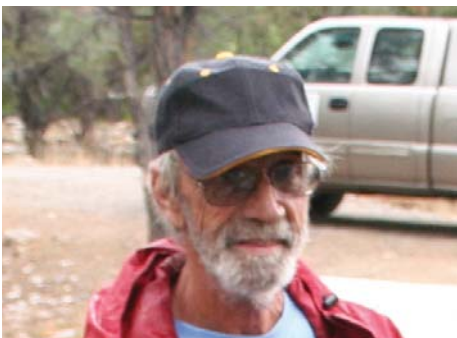
of a larger project being conducted by Far Western to produce a comprehensive cultural resource inventory and analysis of the archaeology at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge. Black Canyon is well known as the type-site of the Pahrangat Representational Style. This style is believed to predate 1500 BP and is characterized by distinctive anthropomorphs that are solid pecked, oval or rectangular in shape, with wide eyes and a vertical line protruding from the head. These are often accompanied by equally distinctive patterned body anthropomorphs that are rectangular, with internal decoration and often appear to be holding an atlatl-like object.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, return the project

registration that will be mailed the week beginning February 23rd.

Lincoln County Rock Art Inventory Project—In late spring and the fall of 2009 NRAF will start work on a three-year inventory and assessment project to identify known prehistoric rock art sites on BLM-managed land in Lincoln County. During the project, sites will be visited to record baseline information to assess their current condition, management needs, and support their site stewardship. Ultimately, the project will result in enhanced archaeological knowledge of the distributions and characteristics of Lincoln County rock art. Appeals for volunteers will be sent out closer to the time of the fieldwork sessions.

Volunteer Profile: Bill James



Bill James, NRAF Volunteer

Las Vegas resident Bill James is a retired engineer from a career working with electric utilities and large construction firms. In retirement Bill found that he had a lot of time on his hands to contribute to organizations promoting public service, culture heritage preservation, and environmental protection. In addition to volunteering on NRAF projects, Bill has worked on trail maintenance in the Jarbidge Wilderness and Glacier National Park, tamarisk removal in Death Valley National Park,

an archaeology project in the Virgin Islands National Park, barbed wire fence removal in local wilderness areas, and was a Red Cross volunteer in New York for 9/11 and in New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina.

Bill is a site steward and has worked on NRAF recording projects large and small, including Sloan Canyon, Little Red Rocks, and Lagomarsino. Bill's enthusiasm, stamina, and attention to detail make a great contribution to field projects. Even when suffering through the most challenging conditions, Bill's productivity and enthusiasm are undiminished!

Bill loves the openness of the desert west and enjoys hiking and camping, something that those who have worked in the field with him can attest to. He is also a skilled metal welder and has made shelving and rock art themed gates—his handiwork is always on display on his truck! Currently Bill is also teaching himself blacksmithing.

Bill likes to keep himself fit by “enduring” long-distance bicycle tours: Bangkok to Singapore, Nicaragua to Texas, eastern Europe, Chile to Argentina. “I'd like to do more of this; maybe India, maybe my body will say ‘enough.’”

Bill attributes his interest in rock art to his hiking experiences; “My casual curiosity in encountering petroglyphs on hikes led me to the NRAF because I like learning more about the people who lived in the desert before us.”

NRAF Contact Information

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702-804-6723

Kimberly Hopkinson,
Assistant to the Executive Director
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NRAF Lecture Series

Mountain, Mesa, and Canyon Rock Art of the Sierra Sinagua, Northern Arizona

by Dr Kelley Hays-Gilpin



Kelley Hays-Gilpin

Dr. Kelley Hays-Gilpin spoke at the January 19th 2009 NRAF Lecture series. Dr. Hays-Gilpin is a professor of anthropology at Northern Arizona University and also the Edward Bridge Danson Chair of Anthropology at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Her lecture featured the rock art of the Sierra Sinagua of Northern Arizona, a term that describes a geographic region, an archaeological complex, and a culture area.

Sierra Sinagua was so named by the arriving Spanish and means 'mountain range without water,' because surface water is rare in the region. The rock art of the Sierra Sinagua is primarily characterized by petroglyphs, incised, pecked, and carved images, although a few painted images (pictographs) are evident.

The Sinagua culture comprised agricultural peoples who inhabited the region of the San Francisco Mountains around Flagstaff from roughly 700 to 1300 AD. Many Hopi people believe that their ancestors, the *Hisatsinom*, included the Sinagua people. Characterized archaeo-

logically by deep pit houses and pueblos, the Sierra Sinagua created extraordinary pottery, textiles, and rock art.

The Hopi People refer to rock art as 'footprint marks' (*tutuveni*) to describe the signs left by the migration of their clan ancestors across the southwest in the beginning of the Hopi time. Among the Hopi people, spirals generally signify migration, and specific clans identified their spiral migration marks with their identifying animal, bird, or geometric figures.

The Zuni people of nearby New Mexico also describe rock art as messages from their ancestors. The Tohono O'odham of southern Arizona, linguistic cousins to the Hopi, use a term for rock art that translates as 'long ago told.' Elsewhere, native peoples refer to rock art as 'storied rocks' or 'rock writings.'

These markings, not an alphabet per se, but more symbolic in their imagery, might have left information for the knowledgeable reader about trail markers, commemorations of visions, successful hunts, migrations, pilgrimages, or other highly visible and durable markers of territorial boundaries.

Four sites were presented to illustrate Sierra Sinagua rock art: Veit Springs, Chavez Pass, Anderson Pass and Picture Canyon. Veit Springs, the highest elevation rock art site recorded in the Sierra Sinagua, lies at nearly 8,500 feet above sea level on the southwestern slopes of the San Francisco Peaks, sacred home to the katsinas of the Hopi People. This site is known for its pictographs. Pictured at right is a distinctive white snake pictograph.

Chavez Pass is also known as *Nuvakwewtaqa*—"wearing a snow belt"— a Hopi term referring to a white strip of snow along the north slopes of Anderson Mesa, the major topographic feature in

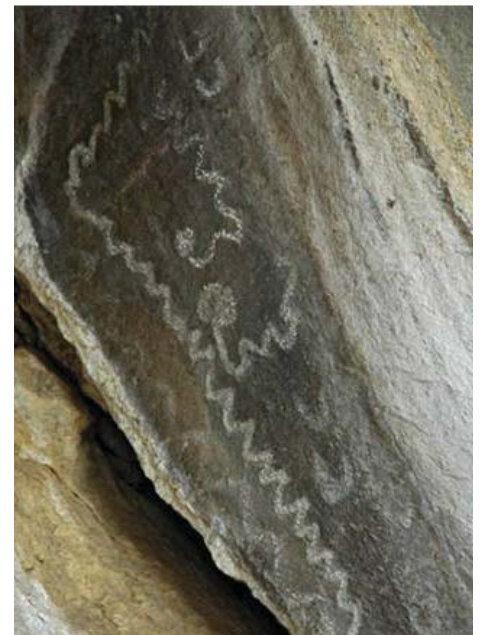
the region. The pass marks a strategically important and well documented route connecting the Hopi Mesas with the Verde Valley, traditionally occupied by southern Sinagua.

Picture Canyon to the east of the San Francisco Peaks boasts one of the largest concentrations of *Hisatsinom* rock art in the Sierra Sinagua (see page 5 for photo).

Anderson Pass to the southeast of the San Francisco Peaks has hundreds of petroglyphs (see page 5 for photo). It includes foot prints, suggesting that important trails once cut through Anderson Pass, making it a crossroads as well as a busy neighborhood.

Adapted from *Marks on the Land: Rock Art of the Sierra Sin Agua* by Kelley Hays-Gilpin and Donald E. Weaver, Jr.

Recommended reading: *Life in the Pueblo: Understanding the Past Through Archaeology* by Kathryn A. Kamp and Amy Henderson. Waveland Press. 1997.



A painted white snake at Veit Springs in the San Francisco Peaks, located next to a spring in a basalt cliff.



Petroglyph of rayed circle and other geometric figures at Anderson Pass, a site with 23 identified and recorded rock art sites, mostly small clusters of fewer than 20 panels. Several pit house villages, a large masonry structure (Anderson Fort), isolated room-sized rock rings and numerous scatters of surface artifacts attest to the presence of human occupation in this area. Photo by Evelyn Billo and Robert Mark, courtesy of Rupestrian CyberServices.



Petroglyph of geometric and zoomorphic figures found in Picture Canyon, a basalt-walled box canyon into which the Río de Flag flows. This style is typical of the Sinagua culture, a term used to describe the way of life for the ancient farming people who lived in the region. Nearby are small caves, masonry structures, several buried pit houses, pottery scatters, and room-sized rock rings. Photo by Evelyn Billo and Robert Mark, courtesy of Rupestrian CyberServices.



Petroglyph of very large, fat-bellied lizard at Chavez Pass, an important site for Hopi clans migrations prior to their arrival at today's villages. 33 panels in small clusters are scattered a short distance from three large hill-top pueblos occupied from the 1200-1400s AD. Motifs include geometric forms, human-like stick figures, full bodied anthropomorphs with round midsections and exaggerated hands, feet, fingers, and toes, archers with bows, human hand prints, animal paw prints and plant forms. Photo by Evelyn Billo and Robert Mark, courtesy of Rupestrian CyberServices.

Next NRAF Lecture,
March 25th, 2009

Engraving Cultures

"If only lines could talk. Making a mark, that most essential act of an artist, is the beginning. A mark in all its original innocence leads to a lifetime of murmuring, whispering and seducing sounds that rise and fall in unpredictable rhythms. A line is a commitment. It violates, and divides. A line is within each and every letter of every alphabet in every language. When combined with other lines, shapes and colors, visual speech emerges." - Prof. Peter Goin

Foundation Professor of Art at UNR Peter Goin visually narrates his five year journey exploring Nevada Rock Art.

The lecture will be at the Grand Sierra Resort with no-host reception at 6 PM followed by lecture at 7 PM. Lecture is free to NRAF members and \$5 to non-members.

The NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION

6th Annual Meeting

May 1-3, 2009
Mesquite, Nevada



THE 6th Annual Meeting of the NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION will be held in Mesquite, Nevada at the Casablanca Hotel, May 1st-3rd, 2009.

Participants can look forward to rock-art themed lectures, field trips to some of the extraordinary rock art sites located in southern Nevada, the 6th Annual Rockies awards, and the opportunity to shop for NRAF and rock-art inspired merchandise.

All events (with the exception of field trips) will be held at the Casablanca Hotel. Specific venues are noted below.

WHEN	WHAT	DETAILS
Friday, May 1 st		
6-9 pm	Welcome reception with no-host bar	Free, Northshore room
Saturday, May 2 nd		
8:30 am -3:30 pm	6th Annual Meeting	Casablanca Showroom
		Registration (received before April 10th)
		Members \$20/each
		Steward Level Members and Above FREE
		Non-members \$25/each
		<i>Registration received after April 10th can only be done on-site and is subject to an additional \$15 fee</i>
6-9 pm	No host bar and banquet Annual Awards Ceremony	Casablanca Showroom Banquet \$35/person
Sunday, May 3 rd		
	Field Trips	Specific locations TBA Open to NRAF members only

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Casablanca Hotel and Casino is located in Mesquite, Nevada, approximately one and a half hours northeast of Las Vegas and nine hours southeast of Reno. Special room rates (\$59.95/night) are available for Annual Meeting participants who reserve before March 31st, or until supply is exhausted. To book your room, call Reservations at 1.877.438.2929 and use the group code **17753**. Please reserve your room early to guarantee receiving the special rate.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

NRAF plans to have a slideshow of photos from 2008 fieldwork projects and events during the Saturday evening banquet. If you have photos of NRAF friends and activities, or just beautiful pictures of Nevada rock art, please consider submitting them for this year's show. Simply email the photos, along with relevant information about the people and place and a statement that you grant permission to NRAF to use the photo in a slideshow, to info@nvrockart.org; in the email subject line type: "annual meeting slideshow." Or feel free to mail or drop off in person to the Reno office hard copies of your photos so that they can be scanned and included.

REGISTER BY APRIL 10th

To register for the Annual Meeting, please return the Registration Form on the opposite page and mail it with your payment to: THE NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION, 1201 Terminal Way, Suite 215, Reno, Nevada 89502 or, email your registration information to info@nvrockart.org. **Registrations are due by April 10.** Participants registering after April 10th must do so on-site, and will be subject to an additional \$15 fee.

The NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION 6th Annual Meeting

May 1-3, 2009 ~ Mesquite, Nevada

YES! I'll be attending the 6th Annual Meeting of the NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

REGISTRATION (add \$15 for registration after April 10th):

\$20 per member Steward level members and above-FREE \$25 per non-member

I plan on attending the evening welcome reception on Friday, May 1st

BANQUET (\$35 per person, RSVP due April 10th):

I plan on attending the banquet on the evening of Saturday, May 2nd and will need _____ tickets

ANNUAL MEETING MERCHANDISE (\$12 each, *circle size and quantity ordered*):

T-SHIRTS SMALL _____ MEDIUM _____ LARGE _____ XL _____ XXL _____

HATS _____

TOTAL \$ _____

I wish to pay by: Check MC VISA (sorry, no AMEX)

Card # _____ Exp date _____

Return this form by April 10th to:

The NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION, 1201 Terminal Way Suite 215, Reno NV 89502

THE NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION

Memberships Limited Income \$25 Individual \$30 Family \$45 Steward \$100

Sustaining Conservator \$250-\$500 Patron \$501-\$1,000 Founder's Club \$1,001 and above

Donations General Tribute Alanah Woody Memorial Fund

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email* _____

*By giving us your email address you agree to receive important updates and news about the Foundation via our Newsflash service. Your email address will not be shared with any other parties and will only be used to provide you with information about the Foundation's upcoming events.

I wish to renew by: CHECK MC VISA (sorry, no AMEX)

Card # _____ Expiration date _____

THE NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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NEVADA
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 all indigenous people in all its activities

The Past
Deserves a Future

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 respects the cultural and spiritual significance of rock art sites and shall not engage in any activity that adversely affects site integrity. 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. NRAF members will strictly adhere to all local, state, and national antiquities laws. 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 nondestructive with regard to the rock art itself and any 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 landholder.
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 landholder. 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



1201 Terminal Way, Suite 215
Reno, NV 89502