

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 indigenous peoples in all its activities.

Member International Federation of Rock Art Organizations

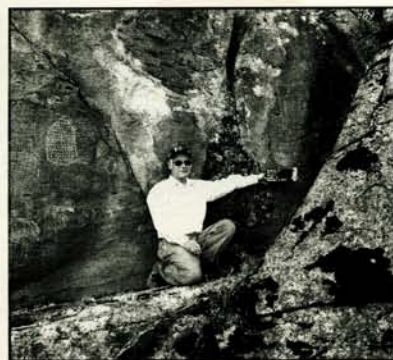
Our Past Deserves a Future



GREAT BASIN GLYPH NOTES

Mt. Irish Project Ends 2005 Field Season With a Bang!

NRAAF members from across Nevada (and a few from California and Oregon too!) came together for the **Mt. Irish Documentation Project in November 2005**, and a good time was had by all! Eastern Nevada is one of the most beautiful parts of our state and, to be honest, it was hard to concentrate on the work with such spectacular views to distract us! Despite one day of rain and hail, one day of freezing temperatures, and the frequent nerve-jangling sonic booms, a lot was accomplished during the project due to the efforts of the whole NRAAF crew – 4 separate sites and nearly 250 panels were fully documented. Shaman's Knob, Shaman Hill, Paiute Rocks, and Echo Panel have been included in the Mt. Irish Rock Art Trail Guide (recently developed by NRAAF Members and Site Stewards Bob & Penny Claubaugh, though Bob says that Penny did all the work!) and so these were the highest priority for documentation. Mark Henderson (NRAAF Member and BLM Archaeologist, Ely Field Office) is working hard to get ready for what everyone anticipates will be an enormous increase in visitation when the new Coyote Springs housing development is completed.



There is already a fair amount of visitation in the Mt. Irish area, but when one of the largest cities in Nevada is completed only a few miles south, there is sure to be more. It's so important to have site documentation completed and monitors in place before that happens. Hats off to Mark for his commitment to making sure that protection is in place ahead of time.

In addition to fabulous rock art and spectacular views, crew members were treated to dinner on several nights by our own Chef Jefe! That's right, Jeff Thelen drove all night from Tahoe to come and work for three days and serve dinner for three nights, plus a wonderful hot lunch in the field. In fact, it's rumored that some crew members made an extra effort to come early or stay a bit longer just to be able to feast on Jeff's cooking! The BLM and the Nevada State Museum both provided support for this project – without which the project would never have taken place. There is sure to be a lot more work in Lincoln County in the next few years, so watch the Great Basin Glyph Notes for information on more projects in that area ... you won't be sorry you came!

Northern News

The Lagomarsino project was combined with work at Dry Lakes to give “out-of-towners” an opportunity to participate in both projects and, once again, an amazing amount of work was done during September and October 2005. Nearly 450 panels were documented at Lagomarsino, bringing the total recorded in three seasons of fieldwork to just almost 1,500 panels! That’s a lot of rock art! The area adjacent to the road that passes through the site has now been fully recorded thanks to the hard work of NRAF volunteers, Team Leaders Ralph & Cheryl Bennett, and the support of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Forest Service.



Photo courtesy of Sandy Zoerner

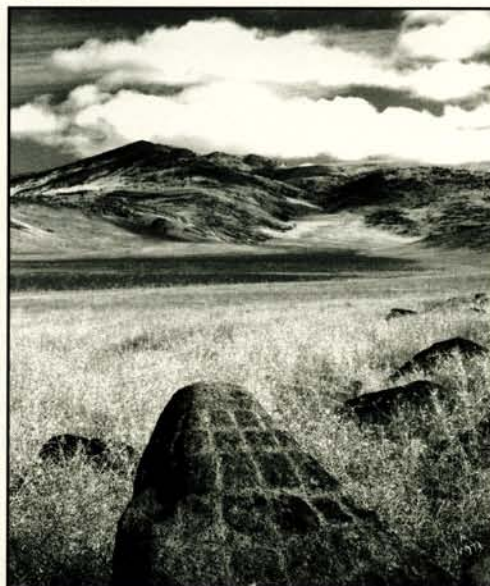


Western Village Inn-Casino again donated a field office for the length of the field project, as well as offering NRAF volunteers bargain room rates—many thanks to Dan Smercina for this incredible generosity. In addition NRAF thanks our other partners in the Lagomarsino Documentation Project—Storey County, NRCS, the Nevada State Museum and NDOT (Geodesy and Cartographic Units)—for their continuing support and help which makes this project possible.

The interpretive signs installed by NRAF in 2004 are still in pristine condition—amazing, but true! Plans for next year

include moving up the slope to begin working on some of the larger motifs just below the cliff, and then on to the cliff-face itself. Lagomarsino is a beautiful site and we invite you to come out and help do the hard work to document one of the most spectacular sites you’ll ever see – so mark your calendars now for mid-September through mid-October as Lagomarsino Month!

The Deep Grooves site in the Dry Lakes area of Spanish Springs was also documented during October 2005 – with the



help of Team Leaders Don and Joanne Murray and lots of NRAF Volunteers. Rock rings, hunting blinds, ground stone and very deeply engraved rock art make this one of the most interesting sites in the Dry Lakes area. The site is fairly accessible to visitors and along with other easily accessed sites, Deep Grooves was

a documentation priority. This site is a part of the very large Dry Lakes archaeological complex that is overseen by Peggy Waski, BLM archaeologist Carson City Field Office who is trying to “get the archaeology done” before visitor numbers increase dramatically. And with Spanish Springs growing rapidly and town now just over the hill, it’s not a minute too soon. NRAF will be working for one more summer on larger projects in Dry Lakes and for as long as it takes for the smaller sites that dot landscape. If you want to participate in short, 1-day “spur of the moment” projects with the Dry Lakes SWAT Team, contact info@nevadarockart.org to be included in the email list. The Dry Lakes Documentation Project is made possible with financial assistance from the BLM, Carson Field Office and the support of the Nevada State Museum.

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Now that winter has arrived in the north, outdoor work will slow down ... but there’s still lots going on! **One of the most pressing tasks now is to complete the inking for all the summer’s work ...** and there is a lot of it! The NRAF Office on California Avenue, Reno, will be open Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5-8 pm), so if you want to hone your inking skills and help with this very important part of the documentation process, now’s your chance. There will be additional office work to be done, so even if inking isn’t your “thing” there’s plenty of other things to do and NRAF friends to visit with ... so come on down – Tuesday or Thursday 5-8 pm!



Southern News

There's BIG news for NRAF activities in the south! First off, **join us for "Fun-in-the-Sun" in beautiful Boulder City!** Come to warm and wonderful Boulder City, **January 14-15**, for a gathering of friends and a group tour to a local site, followed by some other visits. We'll be staying at the historic Boulder City Hotel (at a special discount rate of \$48/night) and there will be an informal reception on Saturday evening with snacks and drinks to welcome weary travelers. On Sunday morning we'll car pool to a local site for a group site visit. And, that evening, after dinner, we'll gather for a presentation on the rock art in the immediate area of Boulder City by local Law Enforcement Officer Bob Oliver. The rock art in the southern part of the state is clearly the most threatened due to unprecedented population growth, which shows no signs of letting up. There is even more urgency for NRAF to document rock art sites and support the effort to get Site Monitors in place throughout southern Nevada. "Fun-in-the-Sun" is a way to kick-off this effort and to familiarize out-of-town NRAF members with some of the treasures we need to save in the south, as well as see the effects of public visitation without adequate protection.



Photo courtesy of John Loken

"Fun-in-the-Sun" will be directly followed on the 16-17th by a documentation project further south – near Laughlin – at Upper Bridge Canyon. It's a great little project in a beautiful area of yellow sandstone with lots of beautiful rock art, but the canyon is also host to gray owls! So, if you're in town already for the Boulder City party, plan on staying on for a couple of days for the work! You should have already gotten your mailer ... so if you haven't sent in your registration yet ... you better do it now!

Next (although officially unconfirmed at the time of going to press), is the **Sloan Canyon Documentation Project**. Sloan Canyon has an extensive rock art site in the main canyon—an area that is almost entirely encircled by Boulder City! In an effort to protect the rock art, as well as the other archaeological and natural resources of this wild and wonderful place, Sloan Canyon was made into a National Conservation Area in 2002. Structured, careful development and regulated public access is the goal of Charlie Carroll (Manager of the Sloan Canyon NCA) and his team which includes Lola Henio (Native American Coordinator and Lead Environmental Education Specialist) as well as a newly hired archaeologist and other environmental scientists. It is exciting for NRAF to be involved in the documentation of such an important place!



Photo courtesy of Barron Haley

The Sloan Canyon Documentation Project will be one of the most complex projects NRAF has yet undertaken and will require careful logistical planning. That planning is already underway, and although some of the details have yet to be finalized, project dates are anticipated to run from mid-February through the end of March. There will be approximately three weeks when volunteer help will be needed, but the daily number of participants will be strictly limited. A registration flyer will be mailed very soon and the registration DEADLINE is February 10 – there will be no exceptions, however, if "life" intrudes and you need to make changes, we'll maintain a list for people who are willing to trade work days. There will be training dates associated with this project so hopefully everyone who wants to participate, can. This is an important project and the rock art is beautiful!

Lecture Series Review & Preview

In October NRAF members had the pleasure of hosting **Ken Pringle's lecture** on Coso rock art. Ken shared with the audience his unique experience and knowledge of the fascinating rock art of the Cosos, and hopefully an abstract of his talk will appear in a future issue of *Great Basin Glyph Notes*. Ken also signed copies of the seminal book on Coso rock art that he was a co-author of. Our next Lecture Series speaker is Daron Duke, archaeologist with Far Western Anthropological Research



Group and currently working toward his PhD at the University of Nevada, Reno. Daron will be speaking on the results of the random and non-random sample survey completed by Far Western at Sloan Canyon. You won't want to miss it (see Calendar of Events for details).

Nevada Petroglyphs and Associated Features on the Landscape

April 2005 by Alvin McLane

Petroglyphs and pictographs are scattered over much of Nevada. They are found on basalt rocks in the northwest, in tufa caves that formed around Pleistocene lakes, in limestone caves in the east, on volcanic tuff in the southeast and on sandstone in the far south.



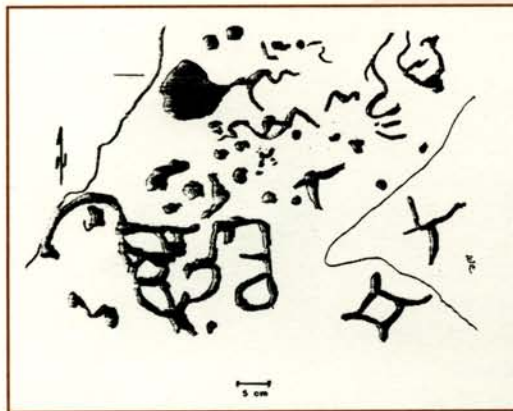
There are many features in association with petroglyphs, all part of the larger cultural landscape. There are rock alignments (geoglyphs), especially in connection with the larger sites. There are sometimes stacked up rock cairns, talus



pits, or rock rings and habitation debris is often in association with rock art. Carved stone ornaments and incised stones are sometimes also found. Temporally diagnostic artifacts may include projectile points, pottery and the images themselves. There are solar shadow interactions on important seasonal dates. Sites are often found in spectacular surroundings. I look around and record all of the associated features and wonder, "Why is this site here?"

Site Etiquette

The rules that we'll be discussing in this section of the Great Basin Glyph Notes are listed on the "**Rock Art Site Etiquette – A Visitor's Guide**" handout that you received at Documentation Training ... if you haven't gotten it, please contact info@nevadarockart.org for a copy. Site etiquette is so important and as a member of the NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION you should be able to help educate others in proper behavior at rock art and other archaeological sites. Also, if you have questions or concerns about these rules, or other comments, this column can provide a forum for discussion.



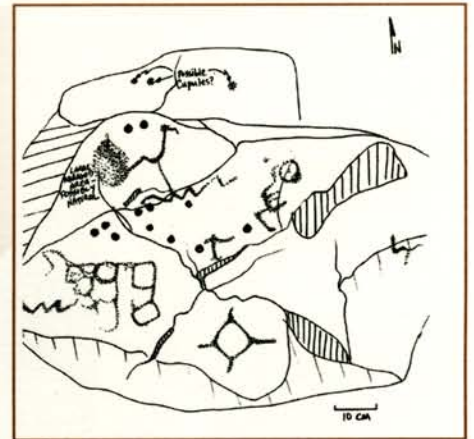
After the first rule "Don't Touch!" the second rule "**Don't make rubbings or direct tracings**" should seem like a no-brainer. But you'd be surprised how often it still happens!

Rubbings are known to cause damage to images by abrading them and sometimes even by leaving behind residues of the materials used to make the rubbings. Direct tracing seems less damaging but even the surfaces of petroglyphs are more fragile

than we think, and direct tracing done over pictographs causes irreparable harm to the delicate paints. The only reason anyone would trace rock art is because they believe it creates a more accurate record of the images. But studies done in England (Blaze O'Connor 1999 Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists) have shown this just isn't the case. A thin sheet of mylar is most often used along with felt markers to do the drawing. The irregularities in the surface of the stone cause distortions to occur simply because the mylar can't be made to conform to the contours of the rock. And even with great care, it's very difficult to produce a decipherable image by tracing. The images here are of the same panel – but which one do you think reflects a more accurate version of the petroglyph boulder? The difficulties with accuracy are made worse when the problem of long term storage is taken into account. Tracings are done "full scale" – that means they result in a life size copy of the rock art. Sometimes that can be very large ... so the mylar has to be folded or rolled for storage, neither a very good long term option when one considers that there are thousands of sites and hundreds of thousands of panels in need of documentation! And the shelf-life of mylar itself is questionable – certainly technology is improving, and someday there may be a type of thin, clear plastic film that will last for hundreds of years, but for now, who knows? In lots of cases, tracings done in the past have simply crumbled and still others have been thrown away because of storage space requirements!

Scaled drawings have always been used in archaeological research – even maps are simply scaled representations of the real world. So the scaled drawings that

NRAF projects produce are a continuation of a time honored method in archaeology, just applied in a new way. And they provide an accurate, practical and useful aid for land managers and other land holders to assess changes in rock art through time. We have to remember why site documentation is done in the first place ... the actual, archival site record is made up of photographs (and we do lots in different formats). But the scaled drawings are a far more effective management tool because they "reduce the noise" of a photograph and include just the rock art and direct impacts to it. This allows any changes to the rock art through time to be easily assessed. Don't be fooled into thinking "I can't draw" ... scaled drawings using a string grid are a fast, easy and accurate way to create a useful management tool.





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! ALL events are in Nevada, unless otherwise noted.

January

- 14 **Valley of Fire Site Tour**
East of Las Vegas off of I-15
- 14-15 **"Fun-in-the-Sun"**
Boulder City (south of Las Vegas)
Member Gathering, Site Tours and special
evening presentation by Bob Oliver.
- 16-17 **Southern Documentation Project**
Upper Bridge Canyon (near Laughlin)
- 21 **Grimes Point Site Tour**
East of Carson City on Hwy 50

February

- TBA **Southern Documentation Project**
Sloan Canyon
- 11 **Valley of Fire Site Tour**
East of Las Vegas off of I-15
- 18 **Grimes Point Site Tour**
East of Carson City on Hwy 50.
- 22 **NRAF Lecture Series**
"Sloan Canyon NCA" by Daron Duke
Reno, 7 pm South Valleys Library on
Wedge Parkway

March

- TBA **Sloan Canyon**
Southern Documentation Project continues
- 11 **Valley of Fire Site Tour**
East of Las Vegas off of I-15
- 18 **Grimes Point Site Tour**
East of Carson City on Hwy 50

April

- TBA **Southern Documentation Project**
- 8 **Valley of Fire Site Tour**
East of Las Vegas off of I-15
- 26 **NRAF Lecture Series**
"Pahranagat Rock Art" by William White
Reno, 7 pm South Valleys Library on
Wedge Parkway
- 29-30 **Northern Documentation Project**
Black Rock Desert (dates subject to change)

May

- Archaeology Awareness Month!**
"Behind the Scenes Tours" at the Nevada State
Museum in Carson City every Friday in May.
Featuring the Santini Incised Stones Collection!
- TBA **Southern Documentation Project**
- 6-7 **Coso Tour**
Ridgecrest, California
The tour is full, but you can be added to the
waiting list by contacting info@nevadarockart.org
- 13 **Valley of Fire Site Tour**
East of Las Vegas off of I-15
- 20 **Grimes Point & Hidden Cave Site Tour**
East of Carson City on Hwy 50

June

- 10-11 **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**
NRAF Annual Meeting

THIS THAT

Many of you know that **Jack & Elaine Holmes** were unable to attend the NRAF Annual Meeting in Reno in 2005 due to illness ... well, had they been there, they would have been

awarded the NRAF Silver Pin. This pin is given to people who go above and beyond the call in helping to build the organization – not just doing the fun stuff, but also the hard work of organizing, promoting and raising funds. Jack and Elaine do it all in the south, with help from the always helpful Anne McConnell. They were also our first recipients of the “**Holmes Volunteer of the Year Award**” – which was named after them. But because everyone is so busy and the time just never has been right, they never got their pins! I’m tired of waiting and so Anne McConnell has given them their pins and now I’d like for all of you to give a hand to Jack & Elaine Holmes – no one deserves it more!

Thanks to Dave Palmer, Brian & Vicki Curwen, Barby Struble, Anne Higgins, Janice Hoke, Franco & Pat Moller, and Helen Valborg for their generous donations to the Lagomarsino project. Don Frazier’s generosity continues to help us move toward the important equipment purchases we need. Between Don and Board Member Heidi Roberts, we’ll soon have a sub-meter GPS unit and the software that we need! And Bob Beckwith & Leah Wills, Ed Laine, Sandy Nadelson, Kay Peek, Janice Pine, Jack & Marge Gibson, and Bob Vierra all made very generous Year-End donations – many thanks! FYI – these donations have all been made as of the time of writing (early December) – if anyone sent a donation and it’s not listed – sorry! It will be next time!

And speaking of generous donations ... Silver State Gallery’s annual **Rockin’ Art Show** has allowed Carolyn Barnes to donate more than \$3000 to NRAF in the last two years! But as many of you know, Silver State Gallery has closed its doors after 15 years on Plumas Street in Reno. But don’t worry! Before the doors even closed on the final “Red Dot Sale” at Silver State, Cheryl Bennett scooped the show for the Artist’s Co-op! So, there WILL be a Rockin’ Art Show next July in Reno – but it will be at a new venue! Watch the *Great Basin Glyph Notes* for details!

Hopefully **Joanne Jackson** is finally out-of-the-woods ... she’s had far more than her share of illnesses this winter and I’m pretty sure she’s getting sick and tired of being sick and tired! Also on the mend are **Nancy Humphries** and **Jean Taylor**, both with some brand new “parts!” Maybe they can give some advise to Advisory Council member **Bob Morrill** on the care and feeding of new parts since he’ll be getting one in February! And best wishes to **Bill Bancroft** who had to miss the Mt Irish project due to back surgery. I guess that’s a good enough excuse to miss work!



We always say that NRAF members will go to any lengths to get the job done ... here’s just one more example with **Frank Crosser** doing whatever it takes! In addition to engineering some pretty great flexible, extendable, descendible, and otherwise manipulable frames for string grids; turns out Frank is pretty flexible himself!

For you students of rock art who have read the main resources for rock art in Nevada, the name “Fulton**” may ring a bell with you (see New Members). Turns out that new member John Fulton is the grandson of “Mr. R. L. Fulton, of Reno, Nevada” who provided information on northern Nevada rock art to Garrick Mallery – whose work was then cited verbatim by both Steward (1929) and Heizer & Baumhoff (1962)! Apparently an appreciation for Nevada’s rock art heritage runs in the family!

ERRATA – In the last issue of the *Great Basin Glyph Notes*, the grant received from the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Forest Service for the Lagomarsino Canyon Petroglyph Documentation Project was listed as “NEW & USFS” instead of “NEA & USFS” ... oops!



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.

New Members

Ralph & Theresa Bell
 Charles & Wanda Brown
 Marion & Stevan Dana
 Gene Fults
 John & Claudia Fulton **
 Jan Gorski
 Diane & Julian Holt
 Rick Hulse
 Lidia Jiminez
 Alex & Shelley Kasper
 Charles Lambert
 Gary D. Noyes
 Katherine Peek
 David Radford

Marcial Reiley
 Sherry Sanders
 Shirley & Danny Sherrod
 Matthew Schneider
 Vicki Smith
 Angie Wulfow
 George & Catherine Yago

New Steward
 Judi Steele

New Conservators
 David & Trish Vaughn



Now - On To 2006!

Ralph and Cheryl Bennett continued their tradition of hosting an NRAF Christmas Party in December at their home in Reno ... and again, a good time was had by all! And since we're already planning

ahead for 2006 - projects, training, meetings and all the rest, the first thing on my new calendar is a Christmas Party in Las Vegas! So, I'll be looking for a place to host the event ... just keep watching the *Great Basin Glyph Notes* for all of our activities and events! On to a successful and productive 2006!

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"To document, conserve and ensure the integrity and protection of Nevada and Great Basin rock art."

NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION

Working for the Conservation of Nevada's Rock Art Heritage

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 \$1,000

Other: Tribute Fund \$500 Founder's Club \$1,500 and above

Name _____

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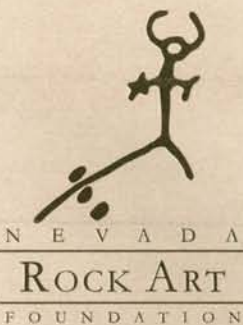
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*Our Past
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NEVADA
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Code of Ethics

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation subscribes to the following Code of Ethics and encourages its members, as a condition of membership, 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