

# GREAT BASIN GLYPH NOTES

NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2014 MEMBER INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ROCK ART ORGANIZATIONS

Volume 13-2

## Nevada Rock Art Foundation At Work



Rock art at Pah Rah High Basins

Early summer fieldwork by NRAF has focused on two areas in Washoe County: the Black Mountain Archaeological District and the Pah Rah High Basins Petroglyph Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). ACEC's are defined in the Federal Land Policy Management Act as "areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards."

The Black Mountain Archaeological District and the High Basins Petroglyph ACEC are managed by the Carson District

of the BLM, whose Resource Management Plan is undergoing revision. Proposed are an expansion of the Pah Rah High Basins ACEC (from 3,881 to 5,260 acres) and the establishment of a Black Mountain Archaeological District ACEC (3,414 acres). Both areas are listed as culturally significant locations that face threat from urban expansion, increased OHV use, and possible theft and vandalism.

In the Pah Rah High Basins Petroglyph ACEC, NRAF is working to revisit previously recorded sites to update the site records and to record sites for which no records exist. NRAF worked in the area from 2004-2006 and recorded 28 sites, with Signa Pendergrast leading the effort for her Master's thesis at University of Nevada, Reno. In addition to the recording efforts by NRAF and Pendergrast, members may recall that Alvin McLane also did survey work in the area, and his records and maps (archived at the Nevada State Museum) are being used to relocate unrecorded sites. NRAF member Jeff Thelen has contributed greatly to the process of finding sites identified by Pendergrast and McLane but never officially recorded.

The work at the Pah Rah High Basins Petroglyph ACEC is part of an assistance agreement with the Carson District of the BLM that includes recording the petroglyphs at the Black Mountain Archaeological District. This area is a very large and challenging site. NRAF is working in association with the Walker River Paiute Tribe to record the site, which has great meaning and sensitivity for the tribal people. NRAF always strives to treat rock art sites with deep respect, but Black Mountain demands the highest level of sensitivity.

Fieldwork has 'only just begun' for both sites, and both require a level of physical fitness greater than that typically required for volunteers. If being exhausted and bruised is your cup of tea, sign up for the next sessions!

Upcoming projects throughout the summer and fall include recordation at the Lahontan Petroglyph Site, mitigation work in the Alamo area, and recordation at Grouse Ridge in the Tahoe National Forest. Numerous other projects are proposed, but not yet finalized.

## From the President

I hope everyone who attended our joint meeting with the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA) enjoyed themselves. We owe thanks to the NAA Board, particularly Mark Giambastiani, Sue Edwards and Jeff Wedding, and to Gus Quinlan, our director, and Darla Garey-Sage, our deputy director, all of whom made certain that we had a variety of papers, made local arrangements at the Carson Valley Inn, took care of registration, and organized field trips. Everyone knows that NRAF tours “rock.” The auction, as always, was fun and entertaining. Approximately 145 people attended with good representation from both organizations.

Thank you to those who took part in the survey of the conference. The written survey indicated that a large majority of attendees enjoyed the experience and would be willing to do it again. Eighty per cent of respondents rated the conference as very good or excellent.

We did have a few complaints about not being able to see the screens and not being able to hear the presenters, which may have been the result of having the dining room tables at which to sit in the large room, creating distances from screens and speakers. The situation may have been made a little more difficult perhaps because there were twice the people attending than a normal stand-alone NAA or NRAF conference. We can work on those issues at future events.

Some of you also had remarks about student presenters. Please remember that NAA and NRAF both provide students an opportunity to present papers for the first time in a friendly setting. We can pass along the comments and hope that no one is crushed by a review of their speaking style, and that they improve with experience and practice. The most important thing to remember is that you have the opportunity to hear students and professionals talk about their research as they are refining or doing it—probably you are the first to hear of something that may lead to changes in how we look at Nevada history and prehistory.

Some of you too, didn't like the content of particular papers, suggesting that topics be limited to Nevada. NRAF's mission includes the documentation, research, and preservation of rock art not just in Nevada, but in the Great Basin. People in earlier times didn't recognize state boundaries and we shouldn't be bound by them either. Research of a particular rock art style or culture doesn't stop at the border. Some of you didn't like the content of non-rock art papers. Several papers on early archaeological sites have direct relevance to old sites such as the petroglyphs at Pyramid Lake and those at Grimes Point. We might be interested in rock art styles but we also want to know what people were doing at a particular place, how they were making a living, where they lived and who they traded with. One of NRAF's future goals is to understand the placement of rock art on the landscape and the only way of getting there is to understand the people better through the archaeological record.

In conclusion, we'll likely have a joint conference once again, particularly where we see an opportunity to share ideas and make connections that give us a better understanding of over 10,000 years of history in Nevada.



Alice Baldrice,  
President, NRAF Board of Directors

From October 15-19, in Boise, Idaho, The Great Basin Anthropological Association will host its biennial Great Basin Anthropological Conference, a region -meeting of researchers within the Great Basin. NRAF's past president Pat Barker is President of the Board of the Great Basin Anthropological Association. The 2014 GBAC theme is Transitions. Visit the website link below for registration.



### *The Great Basin Anthropological Conference*

<http://www.gbac.whsites.net/GBAC/default.html>

## Volunteer Profile: Gordon Hamilton

In the four short years that Gordon has been a member of NRAF, he has logged an impressive list of projects, mostly in southern Nevada, but also in Cedar City, Utah, and Yerington, Nevada. Well versed in photography and IMACS, Gordon is a valuable member of the NRAF crew. He's also well known for researching the best restaurants in towns that serve as base of field operation, and many a fine meal has been had thanks to Gordon.

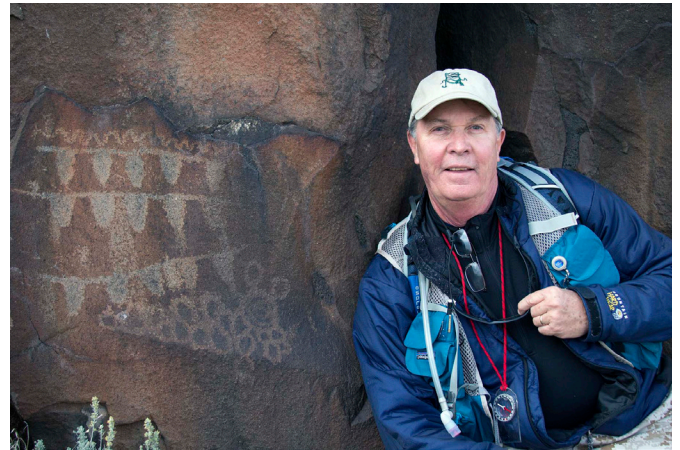
Gordon's involvement with rock art came about as a result of his interest in the peopling of North America. A local news media feature on Native American heritage in Nevada caught his notice, which led to an interest in Nevada archaeology more generally and rock art specifically. "I became interested in rock art as a significant part of an enduring record of generations of people whose lives have spanned the millennia."

He first explored rock art in areas around Las Vegas with the Southern Nevada Rock Art Enthusiasts group (late 1980s), the group now known as Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA). He learned of NRAF from his membership in the SNRAA. He has also worked as a volunteer with the National Park Service near Searchlight and Henderson, NV; the BLM Nevada Site Stewardship program in southern Nevada; and with the Friends of Red Rock at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation area. Although his professional work is in no way related to archaeology or anthropology, Gordon has "been fortunate to have the opportunity to do a little exploring on federal land, which has resulted in the reward of having a site named after myself by the Desert Research Institute."

Besides archaeology, Gordon also enjoys traveling to and exploring new places. He is an avid fly fisherman and golfer—most field sessions for Gordon include at least one day for fly fishing.

One of Gordon's defining traits is his archaeological curiosity: he reads in depth about archaeology and rock art, and always has questions about how the early peoples of an area lived and used the land. "My membership in NRAF has allowed me to participate in field work that I greatly enjoy with the good company of professionals of varied disciplines and expertise, and that of serious amateurs like myself."

In terms of the future, Gordon would like to learn to work GPS on an NRAF field crew, and observes that "While there are an inexhaustible number of niches in Nevada to discover, it might be refreshing to continue working with and for NRAF in more remote locations, possibly in cooperation with organizations in the surrounding states of California, Oregon, Idaho and Arizona, as we have most recently done in state of Utah."

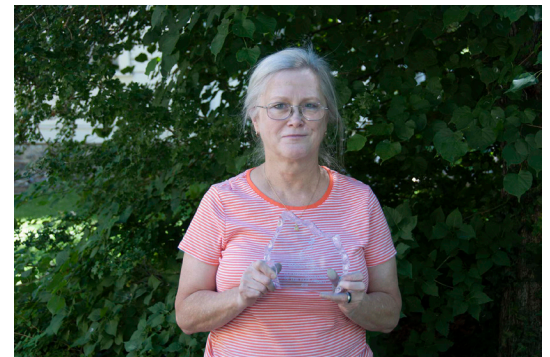


*Gordon Hamilton, Black Point, Utah*



*Doris Weber and Karen McGee, NRAF  
Volunteers, at 2014 Earth Day*

NRAF once again hosted a booth at the 2014 Reno Earth Day Event held in Idlewild Park. Joy Bridgeman, along with Sandy Zoerner, organized NRAF's participation. Staffers at the table included Karen McGee and Doris Weber, pictured at left, Alice and Michael Baldrice, Margie Jones, Joy Bridgeman and Sandy Zoerner.



*Barbara Biggs, NRAF 2014 Holmes Volunteer  
of the Year. Barbara was honored for her  
dedication to inking of field drawings and  
assisting with other office tasks as needed.*

# Nevada Anthropological Conference

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation was held in conjunction with the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Nevada Archaeological Association. The first joint meeting of the two organizations, the Nevada Anthropological Conference, was well received by NRAF members who attended the Conference, who said they very much liked the diversity of papers and larger number of attendees.

The conference ran for two days, with workshops on Friday morning, a poster session Friday afternoon, and sessions on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Topics covered a wide range of archaeological interest, with a total of 23 presentations over the two days, including Pat Barker's keynote lecture, "On-Again, Off-Again: Rock Art and Archaeology in the Great Basin." The sometimes strained relationship between traditional archaeology and rock art studies was examined by Barker, who observed that rock art is inherent in traditional archaeological methodology and study and that the false separation of rock art from archaeology serves both poorly.

Students and graduate students from Nevada, Utah, and California universities were a significant presence at the meeting, creating a welcome opportunity for conference attendees to hear about current research and meet the next generation of archaeologists in our area. Multiple Cultural Resource Management firm and agency archaeologists presented their ongoing work, as did Nevada professors. This full range of Great Basin archaeologists, including rock art researchers, coming together to share work and ideas made the joint meeting an important endeavor in the state. (See page 2 for the upcoming Great Basin Anthropological Conference, a multi-state regional meeting.)

Sunday saw conference attendees at a variety of field trips, all of which were well attended and appreciated.

Dry Lakes Field Trip



Lahontan Petroglyph Site Field Trip



Desert Creek Field Trip



The Boston Whaler, which escorted field trip visitors to Lahontan Petroglyph Site, was generously provided by the Lahontan State Recreation Area staff.

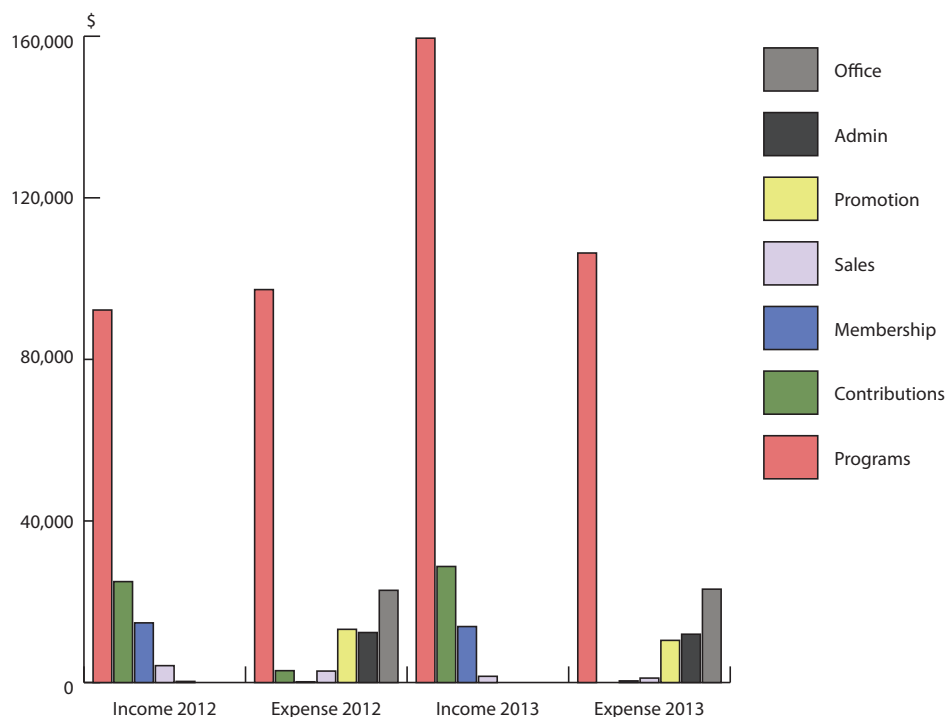
# Annual Report for 2013 by Angus R. Quinlan, Executive Director

The ways that NRAF implements its mission of rock art conservation will necessarily change over time, based on experience, mission accomplishments, and availability of resources. Our mission is to raise awareness of rock art's heritage significance by explaining rock art's place in archaeology, landscape, and culture. Through exhaustive site recordation we can present research that demonstrates why rock art is an important part of our shared heritage, both to the public and the community of professional and amateur archaeologists. With your support, NRAF continues to record important rock art sites, report and analyze the results of our fieldwork, and develop a rock art archive that serves the needs of research, public education, and site management.

Historically, NRAF's annual revenue varies year to year, although its general distribution (the proportion made up by grants, donations, and membership dues) has remained fairly stable, a pattern repeated in 2013. Compared with the previous fiscal year, revenue rose 49% due to strong growth in grants from government agencies and private foundations (up 73% in 2013) and general public support from members and donors (a 7% increase compared to 2012). Approximately three-quarters of all income was received in the form of grants for recordation and education projects, illustrating the continuing relevance that programs dedicated



Gus Quinlan  
Executive Director



to rock art heritage have to public and private funding entities. Many grants received in 2013 were for multiyear projects or for projects scheduled to be exhaustively worked on in 2014. Accordingly, the surplus recorded for 2013 (\$53k) should be viewed as income received but not earned in that year. These grants include one from Nevada SHPO for the production costs of the Nevada Heritage playing card series, commissioned to celebrate the 150th anniversary of statehood and not expended until spring 2014. A multiyear grant received from the BLM Carson District Office for recordation work at the High Basins and Black Mountain (Pistone) ACECs also was not begun in earnest until 2014. Likewise, a grant to develop a workshop aimed at educators that explores the archaeology of southeastern Nevada is being worked

on in 2014 and scheduled for completion in 2015.

As grant-related income is project specific, the 25% of revenue received from donors and members is burdened to meeting general operational costs as well as supporting program activities for which direct grant aid is difficult to solicit. The structure of NRAF's revenue determines annually the activities that it can undertake, stressing the importance of raising a larger proportion of income that is not directly tied to specific projects. For example, at the end of 2013 it was determined to modify public outreach projects that are largely supported from the general operating fund in the interests of mission effectiveness and reducing pressure on the general budget. For 2014, on a trial basis, NRAF is hosting public lectures on an occasional rather than a regularly scheduled basis, focusing instead on invited lectures and other events to service organizations and other nonprofits to better reach the public at large.

*continued on page 6*

# Annual Report for 2013<sub>continued</sub>

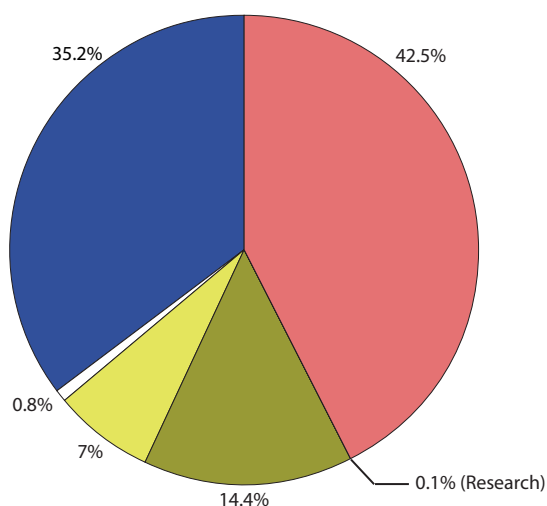
Fund expenditures in 2013 reflect the programmatic priorities of grants received, with 70% of expenses devoted to carrying out recordation and education projects. Administrative and office expenses changed little from 2012, illustrating that routine operating and regulatory costs are relatively fixed and proportional (approximately 23% of annual expenses) for an organization of NRAF's size. Promotional expenses, including public outreach and website maintenance, declined 21% compared to 2012, attributable to increased volunteer participation in outreach activities.

In 2013, NRAF continued its program of public interpretation by developing a brochure and webpages exploring the archaeology and rock art of the Mt. Irish Archaeological District, Lincoln County (LCAI Round 5 grant, administered by the BLM). Recordation work included large, complex sites at Black Point, UT (BLM) and Hawley Lake, CA (USFS), producing detailed site records for site management needs. Work on the Delamar Flat site (the Gathering), Lincoln County, was completed by the preparation of an exhaustive site record and narrative report setting the site in its broader archaeological context (LCAI Round 4 grant). NRAF also drafted site records, digital archive, and a narrative report regarding the results of its survey of approximately 60% of identified rock art sites in Lincoln County (LCAI Round 1 grant). As the latter comprises some 4,000 pages of site data, its preparation was highly labor-intensive. Work continued on developing our research database (RADAAR), refining its structure, integrating GIS, and populating the database with motif and other thematic data.

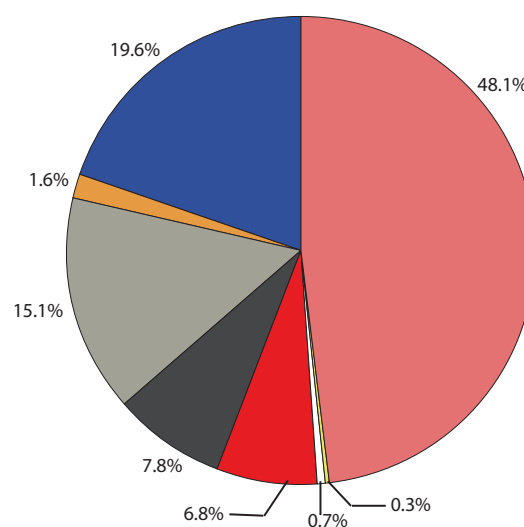
Implementing our mission relies heavily on the support received during the year from volunteers who help with the recordation activities, staffing information booths at public outreach events, processing fieldwork materials, fundraising, and administrative support. In total, volunteers contributed 2,946 hours supporting NRAF's activities in 2013, equivalent to approximately \$56k of support.

This work represents steady progress on our mission to improve archaeological knowledge of Nevada and Great Basin rock art, allowing informative public education and research to be carried out. Serving the mission has been the priority of the Foundation for the past ten years, and clear patterns emerge from that history:

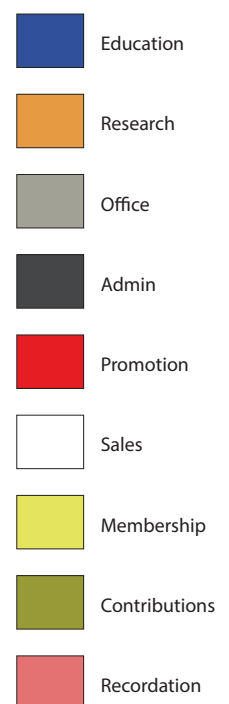
- \*the importance of rock art heritage conservation to land managing agencies;
- \*the successful relationship between land managers and the Foundation;
- \*the support and dedication of our members to our mission and to the ongoing operation of the Foundation; and
- \*the need to develop a more secure line of funding to support the administrative and research arms of the Foundation.



Income 2013



Expense 2013










## Membership Levels, Annual Dues, and Benefits

As a member of the NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION, you will become an important participant in discovering and preserving the cultural and artistic legacy of the prehistory of Nevada. Your membership will support the protection and preservation of Nevada Rock Art through programs of documentation, research, and public education.

As a member, you will receive  
**Great Basin Glyph Notes,**  
 the quarterly newsletter of the NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION  
 Special invitations to lectures, seminars and classes

### Memberships Levels

-  ☐ Spiral (Individual) \$25
- ☐ Bighorn Sheep (Family) \$50 
- ☐ Atlatl \$100+ 
-  ☐ Archer \$250+
- ☐ Weaver \$500+ 
-  ☐ Sunburst \$1000+
- ☐ Alanah Woody Field of Dots \$5,000+ 

Atlatl and above members receive complimentary registration at the Annual Meeting.  
 Archer and above members receive invitations to special events.

Please make your check payable to the Nevada Rock Art Foundation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ You have my permission to list me on the NRAF Donor Wall.

Nevada Rock Art Foundation

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 Las Vegas NV 89133

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 that 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*

### NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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