

2014 Rock Art Council Annual Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2014
Murray Hotel
Silver City, NM

Attendees

Marglyph Berrier	Las Cruces-DAAS
Carol Chamberland	ABQ-AAS
Helen Crotty	ABQ-AAS
John Guth	ABQ-AAS, ARMS
Dick Harris	ABQ-AAS
John Hayden	Estancia-TCAS
Gretchen Obenauf	ABQ-BLM
LeRoy Unglaub	Las Cruces-DAAS

Roundtable

RAC president Carol Chamberland opened the meeting with brief reports from each attendee describing their current activities. The Albuquerque Archaeological Society, Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, and Torrance County Archaeological Society are actively recording, while many affiliates are in various stages of report writing using the Archaeological Records Management Section (ARMS) standard developed over the past year by the RAC.

Carol noted that Dick Ford has been selected as Vice President, replacing Amalio Madueño who resigned last October. Also, the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project has joined ASNM as an affiliate.

John Guth reported that the decades-old rock art report backlog at ARMS has been processed and archived by the volunteers. Currently an inventory of all the rock art reports at ARMS and a finding aid are being developed (will be accessible only to registered users).

Major discussion topics included:

• **ARMS Site Location Accuracy**

Several members commented that the ARMS GPS coordinates can be “way off,” sometimes by hundreds of meters. The RAC has a desire to understand why this is the case and to improve. John Guth will work with ARMS to understand the issue and how location accuracy might be improved. He will report his findings to the RAC via email during the next year.

• **ARMS and RAC Input to American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA)**

Since New Mexico has a capable on-line archaeological resources database, and since the ASNM RAC has well-coordinated, standardized state-wide recording activities, the idea of preparing an article for the ARARA *La Pintura* newsletter was discussed. Marglyph volunteered to take the lead in developing a draft.

• **Recommended Report Contents**

The present report standard for ARMS specifies the format of the report for archiving, but does not specify its minimum informational content. We agreed to explore enhancing the standard with a list of recommended contents. Carol and Gretchen volunteered to develop a draft.

- **Tiered Membership**

Although he could not be present, Gary Hein sent a suggestion that a tiered RAC membership be considered. The idea is that only active recorders would be officers and voting members, while all others would be non-voting advisors. Due to the small level of current RAC membership further discussion was tabled until next year.

- **Public Outreach**

As planned at last year's RAC meeting, members have been active in public education about rock art. This is one way to combat the alarming increase of vandalism at our nation's archaeological sites. Carol has delivered a number of presentations, display tables, and a training session for new recorders, with more scheduled this year. Similarly LeRoy Unglaub has been active in the Alamogordo and Las Cruces areas. Mesa Prieta continues to conduct student tours and summer training sessions, and engage Native American youth.

- **Certification**

John Hayden suggested that rock art recording should be revived as a part of ASNM's certification program. The RAC agreed, and will work toward a schedule next year in Taos that will enable a member of the RAC to represent rock art recording in the Certification Committee's meeting. This means that the two meetings should not be scheduled simultaneously as they have been for the past few years.

Action Item Summary

1. John G. will work with ARMS to understand NMCRIS location accuracy issues
2. Marglyph will draft an ARMS/RAC article for the ARARA *La Pintura*
3. Carol and Gretchen will develop and review with the RAC a list of recommended contents for ARMS rock art reports
4. We will all plan for the following at the 2015 annual RAC meeting in Taos:
 - a. Two-tier membership discussion
 - b. Certification Committee participation