

2017 ASNM Rock Art Council Annual Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2017

Moriarty Civic Center

Moriarty, NM

Attendees

Ann Batum	MPPP	abatum@earthlink.net
Margaret Berrier	JRI	marglyph@msn.com
Gregory Busse	--	g_busse@hotmail.com
Carol Chamberland	AAS	pictografix@comcast.net
Helen Crotty	AAS	jhcrotty947@gmail.com
Marilyn Guida	EPAS	mrg52muse@elp.rr.com
John Guth, secretary	AAS, ARMS	jrguth4140@gmail.com
Dick Harris	AAS	rah122540@comcast.net
John Hayden	TCAS	misterjohnhayden@live.com
CJ Johnson	ASNM	cjj721@q.com
Janet MacKenzie	MPPP	jmackenzie@windstream.net
Roger Moore	ASNM	maraztec@sisna.com
Gretchen Obenauf, president	AAS, BLM	gobenauf@blm.gov
Teddy Stickney	ASNM, Midland	thedorn_53@yahoo.com

Award

President Gretchen Obenauf called the 2017 Rock Art Council annual meeting to order at 3:15pm. She announced that Marglyph Berrier received the ARARA Castleton Award for one of her recording project reports, accompanied by a \$1000 prize to spend on future recording:

Looking at an Old Dog with New Tricks

Thousands of petroglyphs are found on the heavily patinated surfaces of the Cox sandstone in far west Texas but pictographs are rare. Jaguar Cave, the largest rockshelter at the Diablo Dam site (41HZ375), is a painted site that has been documented several times in the past. Using more recent technology (DStretch and 3-D modeling) along with careful observation, I created tracings to clarify the images and their relationships with one another. All three techniques were necessary to document the shelter completely.

Affiliates Roundtable

In order to have more time to focus on technical topics at this meeting, Gretchen had the affiliates submit their reports in writing and just provide very brief highlights during the opening roundtable. Significant rock art recording projects continue in Taos, Mesa Prieta, Albuquerque BLM, Torrance County, and Doña Anna. The written summaries are reproduced in the Attachment.

ASNM Certification Program for Rock Art Recording

Roger reported that Carol has been certified, and that Marglyph would be next.

Emeritus Honor Roll on Website

As approved at the 2016 RAC annual meeting, we created for the ASNM RAC website an initial list of the outstanding retired ASNM rock art recorders going all the way back to the Field School days, as listed here along with the nominators:

Jim & Nan Bain – Gretchen & Helen Sheila Brewer – Gretchen Jerry & Jean Brody – Carol Helen & Jay Crotty –Carol Milford Fletcher – John G. & Gretchen Jack & Anne Francis – Gary H.	Ruth Holmes – Gary H. Maynard Merkt – John G. & Gretchen Polly Schaafsma -- Helen Katherine Wells – Janet George Wessler – Gary H. Dick Yeck – Carol
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Action: Listed nominators will provide Gretchen with brief rock art biographies for each of their nominees.

Website Upgrades

Gretchen requested that pages under the RAC tab be easy to find without having to hover over the RAC tab. CJ said she would change that. **Done!**

The Recording Guidelines is still marked draft. We requested that CJ remove “Draft.” **Done!**

And Marglyph requested that more examples of reports be shown on the website. Currently only the redacted *Galisteo Basin Rock Art Recording Project, LA104821 NMCRIS 113736* by Gary Hein is provided. Janet, Marglyph, and John will identify some additional representative examples for possible inclusion (narrative only, no confidential site data).

Design Element Changes/Additions

Much of our meeting was spent discussing potential design element changes or additions. Each proposal received considerable discussion and was voted upon (by RAC members only). Some folks favored creating finer grained unique elements, while others preferred to “lump” glyphs into the existing major categories. We all agreed a guiding principle should be usability to future researchers, and generally voted to make existing categories more general/inclusive and encourage the use of more notes to describe any unique properties. Decisions are as follows:

1. Notched Edges – NO new element, use Special Feature S2 Enhancement of rock edge along with notes.
2. Dual Limbs – NO new element, include in Anthropomorphic Partial Human 4I Human limb, arm, leg along with notes.
3. Interlocking Scrolls – NO new element, use Geometric Lines, Open 1N Rectilinear scroll with copious notes.
4. Amoeba – NO new element, record as Miscellaneous 12A Unident form with notes.
5. Animal Flute Player – NO new element, record as Ceremonial/Mythological Figures 4J Flute player/cloud blower along with notes.

6. Churches – **YES, new element agreed upon.** Add new general category of Structure – temporary or permanent, 13P, to Historic Subjects. Use for churches, teepees, etc.
7. Male Genitalia – NO new element, enhance existing 3CC Vulva form by renaming as Human Genitalia and moving to the Partial Human category. Note if female or male.
8. Knife Wings – NO new element, use existing Zoomorphic Bird 5I Thunderbird/knife-wing element with notes.
9. Heraldic Lions – **YES, new element agreed upon.** Add new Historic Subjects category 13Q (check 13K first) Heraldic lion. And change Zoomorphic Mammal 5D from Mountain lion to Feline, use notes to describe mountain lions and other cat forms.
10. Tailed Disk – NO new element, use existing Geometric Lines Curved, Closed 3E Tailed circle and describe degree of infill in notes.
11. Isolated Dot – NO new element. Since there are so many isolated dots in rock art we decided to include individual pecks under Miscellaneous 12G Misc. pecking and describe as isolated in notes. And we decided to characterize multiple pecks forming dots as Geometric Lines Curved, Closed 3B Infilled dot, circle, oval, sun, moon with details in notes.
12. Modern Pictographs – NO new element. Modern pictographs are those less than 50 years old and sometimes illustrate fanciful creatures such as super rabbit or super deer. We agreed that if these are recorded (not all projects record historic items) they should use the existing elements (deer, rabbit, etc.) with notes.

Our time spend on discussion of design elements resulted in a really good exchange of ideas across the spectrum of recording projects. As can be seen, the affiliates leaned toward “clumping” glyphs into the existing Hierarchical Design Elements Inventory Key. We discussed data use and recognize that we cannot anticipate all the questions that future researchers might have, so our job is to accurately record rock art with drawings, photos, and notes so researchers make their own interpretations.

A strong desire emerged from our discussions to bring back the old Design Element Inventory (alpha-numeric order) to supplement the current Hierarchical Design Element Inventory Key. We desire both to be on the RAC website.

Design Element Changes/Additions continued

Actions: Carol will coordinate with Gary Hein the following updates resulting from the above discussions and votes.

1. Create two versions of the category list
 - a) Alpha-numeric order
 - b) Hierarchical order
2. Update Element Categories as follows

<u>Discussion Item</u>	<u>Element</u>	<u>Change</u>
11	3B	change text to read “infilled dot, circle, oval, sun, moon”
7	3CC	change text from “vulva form” to “human genitalia”, include drawing of vulva form and phallic form, move this element to Partial Human category
10	3E	tailed circle – add drawing of infilled circle with tail
9	5D	change text from “mountain lion” to “feline”
6	13P	add new category for “structure – temporary or permanent”, include drawings of teepee and church , add to Historic Subjects category
9	13Q	add “heraldic lion” to Historic Subjects category include drawing of heraldic lion

Other Business

Helen reminded us that there is \$3603.73 available in the ASNM rock art account to pay for equipment or supplies should that need arise.

Our meeting adjourned at about 5:30pm after a brief discussion of how to become involved in the current National Monument designation reviews. This was well covered in the general ASNM meeting and then in subsequent emails.

Submitted by:
John Guth, RAC Secretary
June 1, 2017

AFFILIATE REPORTS APPENDIX

Midland, Teddy Stickney

The folks in Midland recorded a late archaic site, with about 100 meters of glyphs, over a period of four Saturdays.

Torrance County Archaeological Society (TCAS), John Hayden

The Rock Art Recording Crew continues (3rd year) field recording of the Cliff Top RA Site; Abo Unit of the Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument. We should complete field work this summer. TCAS is monitoring three rock art sites on the Cibola N.F.

NM Archaeological Records Management Section (ARMS), John Guth

John continues to volunteer weekly at ARMS, inventorying and archiving legacy archaeological records to make them available for students, CRM contractors, and researchers. During the past 12 months three very professional site survey reports, two with imbedded rock art forms, have been received from Taos as described below. These are currently waiting validation at ARMS. Requests for Lab of Anthropology (LA) site numbers continue to be received. Sites with geometric shape files show up very accurately in the New Mexico Cultural Resources Inventory System (NMCRIS), compared to the basic point and circle location. A circle is fine for simple sites, but it is strongly recommended that recording teams learn how to develop and input shape files for complex sites, such as long linear escarpments and cliff faces.

Taos Archaeological Society, Gary Grief

Some of the projects completed and started:

LA185768 – “Two Archaeological Surveys of Chiflo Playa No.1”, turned in to the Lab. We have permission to do 2cm coring, under the direction of Dr. Tom Dillihay, as soon as the water in the playa goes down.

LA182105 – “The AJ Site in Arroyo Hondo”, turned in to the Lab.

LA144009 – “Site Update”, turned into the Lab and The Carson Nat. forest.

“Survey of the La Segita Peaks and Wissmath Craters”, turned into BLM.

“Recon of the Pinabetoso Peaks”, turned into the BLM and will start a survey this summer.

LA162892 – “The Big Foot Site”, Carson Reservoir Project, not turned in yet to the Lab.

Started a recording project at “Embudo Valley Organics.” An LA number has not been applied for. The estimated time to finish the project is 3 years. The glyphs run along the Rio Grande for about three miles. We will break the project down in areas after a discussion with the folks down at the Lab.

Doña Ana Archaeological Society (DAAS), Marglyph Berrier

The Doña Ana Rock Art recording team continues to work on sites and correction of data for RA sites in Southern New Mexico. Currently we have completed field work on five new sites and are working on the documentation.

I am working towards getting summaries of some of our reports published or out on Academia so people with proper research designs can inquire about the full reports. Our major projection last year was the documentation of the Apache Flats area. I presented a summary of that project at the Mogollon Conference and the paper was published in the proceedings this April.

The rock art team, along with a few other members of DAAS, was a terrific help in putting together the highly successful American Rock Art Research Association Symposium. We brought over 300 people to Las Cruces, NM and were able to help with nominations for awards for rock art related activities and individuals. Helene Crotty received the Frank and A.J. Bock Award for Extraordinary Achievement. She was honored at the opening of the new visitor's center at Three Rivers. I helped with the first exhibit at the new visitor's center and we hope to work with the BLM on a new management plan. I also nominated the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and the Friends of the Organ Mountain Desert Peaks Monument for the ARARA conservation award.

The Green Chamber of Commerce of Las Cruces celebrated the largest convention yet to come to Las Cruces because of the monument. They featured photographs of the winners of the conservation award and highlights from our field trips on the monument.

As part of my on-going studies of rock art I wrote an article about the Diablo Dam Cave in Texas with comparisons to rock art in New Mexico. The paper was submitted for the ARARA Castleton Award and was accepted. The prize is \$1000 which I plan to spend on recording materials.

Our team is small and includes LeRoy Unglaub with occasional help from Paul Bardwell, Mark Wille. We are working with professors at NMSU to see if we can get some students interested.

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project (MPPP),

Candie Borduin, Recording Coordinator & Janet MacKenzie, Project Director

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project began in 1999. Our mission is to record all of the petroglyphs and other archaeological features on Mesa Prieta, to educate local children and others about them, and to protect this cultural landscape as far as possible. We are not a membership organization but have about 100 volunteers. We have a Board of Directors and a paid Project Director, Janet MacKenzie, and Project Administrator, Jennifer Goyette. Esta Gutierrez is our part-time contract Education Coordinator.

Fundraising to support the project is conducted through grant applications, donations and active fundraising. A promotional video has just been completed depicting the many activities of the project. The Project Director continues to build relationships with other organizations. Recently an agreement

with the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area allows MPPP to hold multiple functions at Heritage Center in the former Oñate Center on Highway 68 north of Española.

A spring petroglyph recorder training added six new volunteer recorders to the 35 recorders working in ten teams on the mesa. Mentoring for the six new recorders will continue through the summer until each has completed a minimum of five mentored field days. MPPP recorders commit to recording at least 12 times a year for a minimum of a year. Volunteer recorder retention is very high, many staying with the program more than five years and some for ten or more.

Recording is conducted on two large parcels of land totaling 6800 acres. In addition, a half dozen smaller-parcel land owners on the mesa have requested their land to be documented as well. Land Owner reports featuring the finest of the images as well as an archaeological report are provided to each land owner upon completion.

To date we have recorded more than 55,000 petroglyphs and estimate a total of at least 100,000 on the mesa. All recorded information is going into our Geographic-Information-System-linked data base, with more than 15,000 records created to date. There is a backlog of many more to do. All data are uploaded to three professionally staffed servers across the US where files are monitored for bit-rot and other damage. A project to photocopy all 1993-2016 recording paperwork onto acid-free paper is almost complete and was funded by the NM Historical Records Advisory Board. Acid-free paper is used this year ongoing.

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)-based Summer Youth Intern Program is in its 16th year and won a national award in 2011. Each summer we teach a dozen or so teens from local Pueblos and Hispano communities to record in the same scientific way as our adult recorders. We work with them on the mesa for two weeks where they record petroglyphs that could have been made by their own ancestors. Environmental studies are included in the field work; this year geological studies will be introduced. Each youth receives a stipend thanks to the support of a local landowner. Our 4th to 7th grade STEM-based curriculum, *Discovering Mesa Prieta*, is a 400 page bilingual tome that covers both Puebloan and Hispano culture, reflecting the petroglyphs on the mesa and the local population. After classroom academic activity each class comes to the mesa for a "Field Work Day." Many kids, we've discovered, have never had a real encounter with the natural world or seen a petroglyph. The curriculum can be downloaded from our website free of charge. Teachers attend a free training workshop annually.

The docent-led tour program on the Wells Petroglyph Preserve continues to thrive with over 1200 tours being given in 2016. Thanks to a feature article in the May 2016 New Mexico magazine, interest in the project has surged. MPPP holds an annual Docent Training with follow-up mentoring on the tour trails. Project members consider the tour program to have significant impact on teaching preservation ethics to guests. Terrain management is conducted by volunteers twice a year on the six tour trails; erosion control methods are installed under the supervision of a retired Forest biologist.

A monthly eNewsletter is sent out to our mailing list of about 2000 addresses. A new education-related eNewsletter is being sent out to 100 educators twice a year. As an outreach to the community, Petroglyph Pláticas are held monthly March to October at the NRGHA. In March Mark MacKenzie, State Chief Conservator, presented on multispectral imaging of an important Colonial period artifact in the collection of the Palace of the Governors. Ron Barber presented his research on Ringing Rocks in April.

A comprehensive website is maintained, describing all of the project’s activities and features on-line registration forms for tours and events and fillable applications for volunteers, recorders and docents. Please visit the website at www.mesaprietapetroglyphs.org

Project leaders have been working with the BLM and private landowners over the years to facilitate parts of the mesa eventually becoming a National Monument.

Albuquerque Archaeological Society (AAS) BLM Rio Puerco Field Office Rock Art Team , Carol Chamberland & Dick Harris

The Rio Puerco BLM crew continued to record at various sites in the Central Rio Grande Valley. We trained three new team leaders to supplement Dick Harris and Carol Chamberland. We were awarded BLM's first ever Heritage Heroes award for our eight years of volunteer service. We go to the field on Tuesdays, weather permitting.

The following table summarizes activities during the past year. Because of the agreement we have with BLM, we cannot include the name of the sites, hence the A, B, C, ... entries in the first column.

AAS BLM Recording Crew Activities Summary, since last meeting

<u>Sites</u>	<u>Scouted</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>
A	x	x	x		x		
B			x	x	x		
C	x	x	x	x	x		
D	x	x	x	x	x		
E			x	x	x		
F	x	x			x		
G	x						x
H	x	x			x		
I	x	x				x	
J	x				x		
K	x		x			x	
L	x	x	x				x
Total	10	7	7	4	8	2	2

- 10 sites were scouted during the past year, with scouting completed for 7 sites (additional trips needed for 3 sites)
- Scouting continues for 3 sites
- Recording was started and completed for 4 sites (all small sites).
- Recording continues for 3 sites
- Recording has not started at 3 sites with completed scouting this past year
- Recording has not started for 5 sites with scouting completed in past years

- Of the sites listed in the above table, the size breakout is:
 - Small Sites (1 to 99 elements) - 8
 - Medium Sites (100 to 499 elements) - 2
 - Large Sites (greater than 500 elements) – 2

Reports

- 4 draft reports in the review process.
- 1 draft report is ready for the review process
- 3 additional draft reports are at various stages of completeness