

2015 ASNM Rock Art Council Annual Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2015
Sagebrush Inn
Taos, NM

Attendees

Carol Chamberland	ABQ-AAS
Helen Crotty	ABQ-AAS
Gary Grief	Taos-TAS
John Guth	ABQ-AAS, ARMS
John Hayden	Estancia-TCAS
Janet MacKenzie	Velarde-MPPP
Norm Nelson	NM SiteWatch, HPD
Gretchen Obenauf	ABQ-BLM

Elections

Helen Crotty reported results of the odd-year Rock Art Council (RAC) officer elections for two-year terms, ending with the 2017 ASNM annual conference:

Chair	Gretchen Obenauf
Vice Chair	Gary Grief
Secretary	John Guth

Council members thanked Carol Chamberland for her leadership of the RAC the past two years. Gretchen Obenauf assumed facilitation of the Council meeting, and informed the Council that Carol will receive a BLM national award and a NM Historic Preservation Division Individual Achievement Heritage Preservation Award for her contributions.

Member Reports

After introductions and brief biographies, each member summarized their rock art activities for the past year.

- Helen Crotty, who has extensive past experience with the Rock Art Field Schools, welcomes status reports and articles about rock art recording for the ASNM newsletter, *La Jornada*.
- Norm Nelson described a New Mexico SiteWatch success in working with the BLM to identify, apprehend, and convict a person engaged in illegal activities near Chimayo.
- John Guth noted the progress being made by volunteers at ARMS in inventorying and filing unprocessed records. Only a few rock art photographic files remain to be processed. All new rock art reports received in the past year met the ARMS archiving standard and were promptly processed, enabling the volunteers to work on a broader range of orphan archaeological survey records. Observed deterioration of records more than 30 years old demonstrates how important it is to follow the archival standard. In the past year professional reports have been received from Gary Grief, Marglyph Berrier, Carol Chamberland, and Larry Loendorf. These are truly works of art.
- Janet MacKenzie described the large-scale recording effort at Mesa Prieta. Thirty six trained recorders, organized into twelve teams, are out in the field year-round. Training of new recorders is ongoing (full day class plus five field sessions). The Mesa Prieta data base has been enhanced with offsite archival storage and ability to click on map sites to display data. A streamlined scheme for

assigning NMCRIS Activity and LA Site numbers has been developed with ARMS. Janet will receive a Heritage Preservation Award this May from the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division.

- John Hayden reported that just three recorders are typically active with TCAS. They are currently working in the Abo National Monument, and are considering use of a drone. John also reported on potential “butt rubs” in that area. Carol will provide John with a rock art report sample.
- Gary Grief noted that TAS is involved in recording over a wide area with three crews – Lower Hondo, Abiquiu, and Galisteo. They intend to survey the northern part of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in the next year. They have already found a Scotts Bluff projectile point. TAS should finish three to four reports this summer. Interesting note – Carol found another point during the Sunday field trip to Vista Verde.
- Carol Chamberland is engaged in a number of outreach activities, including teaching a rock art class at UNM Continuing Education, participating in presentations and Meet the Experts Day at the Natural History Museum, and encouraging/training new crew members and leaders. She and the BLM team have submitted an impressive fourteen reports to ARMS. Two large ones remain to be developed this fall. The local BLM office is moving, which will impact team logistics.

Carol also reported on the activities of those who could not attend the meeting:

- Dick Harris continues to focus on the Andrews and Headcut sites. Productivity of the BLM team has been impacted more than usual by weather, member health, and family death issues this winter and spring.
- Marglyph Berrier and Leroy Unglaub are focusing on fully recording previously identified sites using the RAC methodology. They are also looking for Apache features and rock art, and have been consulting with an Apache elder in the field. And still hope to recruit more crew members.
- Gary Hein reported there has been no change since his last report to the Council. He did suggest that we discuss how the RAC could add value to the rock art community, which we added to the agenda.

RAC Bylaws

Article III, Section 7 of our current bylaws states “...member may be removed by the Board of Trustees if the member misses more than three (3) consecutive meetings ...” Changing this to “... member may be removed by the Board of Trustees if the member does not vote in every two-year election cycle...” was discussed and approved unanimously. Gretchen submitted this proposal to the full ASNM Trustee meeting on May 2, where it was unanimously approved.

RAC Value Added

We discussed how to add value to the members as suggested by Gary Hein. We already have important guidelines on the ASNM web site about recording and reporting, but could add more, such as the Mesa Prieta recorder training slides. And we could be more assertive in presenting papers at the annual meeting and publishing in the annual volume. This year is a good example - Janet presented a paper on Mesa Prieta trail recording and there were three Sunday field trips with rock art content. It was suggested that next year a solar calendar paper could be presented or published. It was noted that the affiliates already feature occasional rock art presentations by regional experts at their monthly meetings.

Rock Art Survey/Recording Certification

The RAC arranged to participate in the Certification Committee meeting, where a chart with rock art survey/recording certification requirements was discussed. Basically eight hours of training and recording of five sites is suggested. There was considerable discussion about the field component, particularly site size and complexity, difficulty of identifying suitable sites, and desirability of rotating team members through all tasks. While there was agreement on the concept, what is needed to move forward is to develop a detailed outline of the seminar contents and firm up the field work strategy. And to get several people approved by the Certification Council to train rock art recorders. It was suggested that Gretchen and Janet provide sufficient information for the Certification Council to certify Carol Chamberland and Candie Borduin as rock art instructors so that they can qualify the BLM, TCAS, and MPPP crews.

Action Item Summary

1. Carol will provide John H. with a rock art report example. Done!
2. Gretchen and Janet will provide appropriate information to the Certification Council to enable them to list Carol Chamberland and Candie Borduin as certified rock art instructors. This will probably involve resumes and seminar/field work outlines.
3. Janet will arrange to add the Mesa Prieta recorder training slides to the ASNM web site RAC tab.
4. John Guth will work with Carolyn (CJ) Johnson to update the RAC bylaws on the ASNM web site to specify members must vote in every two-year election to remain in good standing.

Submitted by:
John Guth, RAC Secretary
June 3, 2015