

2019 ASNM Rock Art Council Annual Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2019

Toad Creek Brewery, Silver City, NM

Attendees

Bob Berglund	TCAS	berglund@plateautel.net
Helen Crotty	AAS	jhcrotty947@gmail.com
John Guth, secretary	AAS	jrguth4140@gmail.com
Martin Gutoski	TAS	mardeb@gci.net
Siobhan Hancock	MPPP	sbhancock33@gmail.com
Dick Harris	AAS/BLM	rah122540@comcast.net
Pat Harris	AAS/BLM	PatParHar@comcast.net
Gretchen Obenauf, chair	AAS/BLM	gobenauf@blm.gov
John Pitts	MPPP, TAS	serenepix@comcast.net

SUMMARY

Chair Gretchen Obenauf called the 2019 Rock Art Council annual meeting to order at 2:15pm, and we met for about an hour.

Our major accomplishment was a discussion and unanimous vote to support an ARMS rock art research internship sometime in the future with the RAC funds in the ASNM savings account. We have about \$3600 available from Rock Art Field School income and the Jay Crotty legacy donation. Last year's vote to apply this money to a rock art scholarship was canceled as part of this internship motion.

An internship is needed because ARMS no longer has a volunteer program. Their budget does not have enough money for their staff to supervise volunteers, and their archive certification under MICA requires qualified archivists for access to their paper record files. Previously volunteers could examine the LA site and Activity report paper files, but now staff has to pull the files to let researchers to look at them, and then refile them. Interns receive archival training and would be able to examine the paper files for us, under our direction.

The AAS Board has discussed and approved obtaining a state-wide inventory of rock art sites at ARMS, for use by all the ASNM affiliates and the various government agencies we work with. Gretchen Obenauf and John Guth met with Program Manager Derek Pierce on February 8 at ARMS to discuss our potential project plan (project plan and meeting summary included at end of this report). Derek and his staff were supportive of this idea. Initial inventories from the ARMS database NMCRIS many years ago by Helen Crotty and John Guth showed how incomplete the rock art data fields are, so we all understand that considerable examination of the original paper files will be needed to achieve a reasonably usable inventory, or to understand that the rock art data in NMCRIS is simply very incomplete. Since ASNM volunteers can no longer do this and the ARMS staff have no time to do it, we agreed that interns could be used if ASNM could help pay for them. The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has an existing intern program. Some ASNM members would be needed to guide the interns in our rock art inventory needs and answer questions.

ROCK ART ACTIVITY REPORTS

We had a brief roundtable to share recent ASNM Affiliate rock art activities:

MPPP

Director Janet MacKenzie will retire April 30, she and husband Mark are moving to Vancouver Island, Canada this summer. Janet will be replaced by Chester Liwosz, PhD. Janet will present an MPPP lecture on April 30 covering their Remote Area Recording Project, and will receive a 2019 ASNM Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Excellence.

Katherine Wells will receive the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Meem Auditorium in Santa Fe on May 17:

Katherine Wells, Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project— Since 1992, Katherine Wells has been inextricably linked to the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Site located an hour north of Santa Fe. With her partner Dennis she built a small straw-bale house on 188 acres and soon discovered she was literally surrounded by thousands of petroglyphs dating to the Archaic, Puebloan, and Historic periods. Described in her memoir *Life on the Rocks*, Wells beautifully recaptures her efforts to safeguard the site, eventually donating 156 acres to the Archaeological Conservancy to establish the Wells Petroglyph Reserve. By 1999, Wells had established the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project with over 100 volunteers to help preserve one of the most significant cultural sites in New Mexico. An extensive MPPP annual report is attached at the end of these minutes.

TCAS

John Hayden and team are almost done with recording the Abo site. They are writing up the report.

AAS/BLM

The AAS/BLM team continued this winter to record a large site south of Albuquerque. They continue to work on reports, seven currently. And Tom Windes has been going out with them to help assess archaeological features.

Carol Chamberland made a rock art presentation to Site Watch and conducted two rock art recording seminars, including a field session, for AAS members. This resulted in six new volunteers for the AAS/BLM recording team. More detailed information about AAS activities is in the attached report.

Bureau of Land Management Rio Puerco Field Office Rock Art Team Summary of Activities
4/26/2019

Carol Chamberland & Dick Harris

During the past year our team continued to work at a large site where we've recorded off and on for two years. We're not even close to finishing this site. When it gets too hot there, we move to some of our northern sites.

Recording continued at two large northern sites and will continue during the coming year. Recording was completed at two other small sites (one northern and one western area) during the year. Last fall we scouted a small site west of Cuba that still needs to be recorded. We were hampered by inclement weather during November and December and were unable to work during the government shutdown in January.

Report writing work continues. Seven reports are in draft stage. Reports are nearing completion for two sites. Recording has been completed for four small sites and two large sites for which reports have not been started.

Tom Windes has come out to visit a large site we completed a few years ago. During recording, we found archaeological features that should be professionally surveyed, and Tom seems interested in the project. He's a busy man, though. At another large site further north, Dave Phillips has volunteered to be our archaeologist. We've had one field excursion with him so far, with more expected as the weather warms up.

Earlier this year Carol Chamberland conducted a presentation on rock art for the Site Watch program in Santa Fe. Given the audience, Carol focused on how to document a site to intelligently report it to landowners. The dozen or so site stewards in attendance now know better how to report their discoveries in a helpful way. When we get their reports, we should be able to find the rock art more easily than in the past.

This spring Carol Chamberland, under AAS sponsorship, conducted a 2-day member seminar on rock art recording: day one was in the classroom and concentrated on the paperwork and overall process, day two was in the field. In this way, we determined which people would be most suitable for the work we do. Six survived the process and have become BLM volunteers. They are now being integrated into the AAS/BLM recording team. Our seasoned crew is helping in the field with their on-the-job training.

AAS New Mexico Rock Art Inventory Project Plan

Draft 2/8/2019

Purpose: Create a list of identified New Mexico rock art sites, including data about location, ownership, approximate number of petroglyphs, and completeness of petroglyph recording. Understand how to protect site data confidentially and identify sites that may need additional recording or reviews by avocational archaeologists.

1. **Develop a custom NMCRIS query for an Excel file of LA sites containing rock art, using NMCRIS data fields:**
 - a. **Feature type – petroglyph, pictograph**
 - b. **LA number**
 - c. **Site name**
 - d. **Site ownership – private, BLM, FS, SLO, tribal, etc.**
 - e. **Activity number, if any**
 - f. **Recorder - person, society, company, agency, etc.**
 - g. **County – NMCRIS county number**
 - h. **UTM Coordinates – for ARMS and agency copies only, not for public distribution**
 - i. **Topographic location – cliff, talus slope, rock shelter, etc.**
 - j. **Cultural affiliation**
 - k. **Number observed - # petroglyphs, # pictographs**
2. **Enhance NMCRIS list with unreported avocational surveys**
 - a. **ASNM Affiliates – AAS, TAS, SFAS, DAAS, GCAS, MPPP, etc.**
3. **Create rock art LA site location dot map for New Mexico (“measles map”)**
4. **Create an ARMS confidentially statement for the rock art data**
 - a. **Determine what can be published**
 - b. **Determine what can be presented in professional and Affiliate talks**
 - c. **Determine with whom and in what situations location UTM’s can be shared**
 - d. **ASNM, Affiliates and researchers sign user agreement with ARMS**
5. **Analyze data**
 - a. **Number of LA sites**
 - b. **Percentage and number of sites with incomplete NMCRIS data elements**
 - c. **Develop assignments and instructions for ARMS interns to check archive files**
 - i. **Check LA and Activity files for missing data in NMCRIS data entries**
 - ii. **Check for use of rock art recording forms, sketches & photographs**
 - iii. **Check for petroglyph counts, classifications and written summaries**
 - d. **Identify sites with incomplete data in NMCRIS or that did not use rock art recording sketches, photographs or image classifications**
 - e. **Identify sites with possible access for updating incomplete recording information, or simply to tour**
 - f. **Sort sites by county and share with appropriate Affiliates to decide what could/should be done**

AAS Interface with ARMS, 2/8/19 Meeting

Derek Pierce, Kendal McGowan, Gretchen Obenauf, John Guth

Data Confidentiality – Site locations cannot be made public. Locations by county and a statewide dot map are acceptable. Two spreadsheets can be created; one without location coordinates for our use and one with coordinates for agency use (ARMS, BLM, FS, SLO, etc.).

Photographs with private land owner or Native American restrictions cannot be shared. Other data is acceptable to be presented at our society meetings and published in our Newsletters or Annual Volumes.

NMCRIS Query – Kendal McGowan at ARMS will create a custom query of the NMCRIS database based on our desired data elements for petroglyphs and pictographs. John Guth and Gretchen Obenauf will work with the AAS Board, Rock Art Council, and ARMS to finalize the element list.

The result will be an Excel spreadsheet. The NMCRIS software is being updated at this time so the query will likely not be developed for 6 months or more, late in 2019.

Records Access – Only staff members can access the paper records now, volunteers are no longer allowed in the archives. So Bridget Barela would have to pull the files for us to view at ARMS in cases where we need additional information for the inventory spreadsheet. This would be free for small groups of a few dozen files at a time. Larger quantities of files at a time would cost us \$75 per hour.

This led to a discussion of student help from UNM, NMSU, ENMU, etc. Derek indicated that the easiest way would be for AAS and ASNM to support student interns. They have ten week tours and are trained to have access to the archives. We could contribute to their cost, about \$3K per tour plus some support for room & board. This would be ideal for the ASNM approximately \$3600 Rock Art Council funding we have been seeking a good project for. And at AAS we have plenty of funds to help.

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project- Affiliate Report to the New Mexico Rock Art Council

Janet MacKenzie, April 14, 2019

2018 was a busy year again for MPPP. On the 6800 acre Cook properties, begun in 2009, eight 20 acre proveniences and a 2 acre section of the Cook mine area were completed. One of these (059) took 3 ½ years to complete with more than 600 loci recorded. Thirty-two recorders on nine teams and four surveyors on one team worked year-round, coordinated by Candie Borduin, MPPP Recording Coordinator. Our oldest recorder, Jan Stone, turned 90 in 2018. The annual training took place in March.

Four smaller private properties were also completed, totaling 73 acres. Other properties are underway.

Overall totals for 2018: 1281 loci, 2383 photos of those loci, 7286 elements, 152 outstanding panels, 926 Cultural Landscape features including artifacts, structures, trails, and other features. So far, 31% of the entire 20,000 acre mesa has been recorded.

Highlights of the year included the Remote Area Recording Project (RARP), supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. Three proveniences on the remote south end of Mesa Prieta were completed. Lots of cougar tracks out there. Evidence was found that more than one cultural group is represented by the petroglyphs of Mesa Prieta. Other notable finds included “ringing rocks” associated with cupules, Christian crosses and ceremonial pounding. We are beginning to feel confident enough to tentatively identify two scratched images and at least one cupule as Paleo-Indian, along with several lithic finds confirming their presence.

Changes are afoot at MPPP. Archaeologist Janet MacKenzie is retiring at the end of April 2019 and returning to Canada, with regret. Recording Coordinator Candie Borduin will be reducing her field activities soon. She will continue to do preliminary processing of the data. A new Project Archaeologist, Chester Liwosz, PhD, has been hired and is training now and will take over all archaeological activities beginning in May 2019. He brings to MPPP a solid background in iconography, database management, and geospatial reasoning to build on MPPP's legacy. Using currently emerging methods of digital archaeology, he will expand the scope of research at Mesa Prieta. He began his career in archaeology as a student participant on a long-established archaeological project studying Classic Period settlements of Honduras in 2008. In 2009, he earned a B.A. with honors in Anthropology from Kenyon College. He attended the University of California, Santa Cruz for graduate school, from which he received his M.A. in Anthropology in 2014 and Ph.D. in the same field in 2018. Dr. Liwosz's experiences are diverse, spanning Mesoamerica, the Mojave Desert and Great Basin, and Polynesian Hawai'i. He has supported an array of public and non-profit bodies as an archaeologist, including California State Parks, the National Park Service, and the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research. His current research interests focus on acoustics of rock art landscapes and archaeological applications of 3D computerized models and virtual reality.

A new part time Education Coordinator, Sandy Romero, has been hired. Jennifer Goyette, Project Director, and Amanda Fox, Tours and Outreach Coordinator, continue their work.

Katherine Wells is receiving a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award from SHPO/Cultural Properties Review Committee in May 2019. Janet MacKenzie is very grateful for an ASNM Richard A. Bice Award and appreciates the support and encouragement of the ASNM and the Rock Art Council over the years. Candie and Janet are writing a detailed MPPP data management manual which will be made available to ARMS, the ASNM and the Rock Art Council this spring. Also, all MPPP reports will have been made to ARMS by the end of Janet's tenure.