



In-Situ



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Vol. 8, No. 4

Winter 2004

Dues Are Due

Although it might feel like you just wrote out your last membership dues check, it is that time of the year again. Attached to this issue of *In-Situ* is the 2005 membership form. Please fill it out and send it in with the appropriated amount of dues money: a modest dues increase is in effect starting in 2005, which will enable your Association to stay solvent, so make sure you include the correct amount. Don't forget, filling out the membership form is an important part of paying your dues, since the form is used to keep track of who has paid and everyone's current addresses. If you've already coughed up the dough and completed the paperwork for 2005 membership, pass on the form to an interested friend, relation, or coworker.

From The President

Steve Daron, NAA President

Our last Board of Directors meeting was held on Thursday, October 14, in conjunction with the Great Basin Anthropological Conference (GBAC) in Sparks, Nevada. It was well attended by eight Board members, including Alice Baldrice from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and eight additional NAA members. A summary of the minutes will be included in the next *In-Situ*. There were a couple of items on the

agenda that deserve special comment. First, Alanah Woody submitted an application from the Nevada Rock Art Foundation to become an affiliated organization with the NAA. The application was accepted by an unanimous vote of the Board and will be voted on by the general membership at the next annual business meeting to be held in Tonopah on April 16, 2005. Second, we recognized several past Board members for their many contributions to the NAA. They are Anne DuBarton, Oyvind Frock, Laurie Parry, and Wally Ward. Laurie was the only person able to attend the meeting and she was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble book store. We cornered Oyvind the next day and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation and an Honorary Lifetime membership in the NAA. Anne and Wally were unable to attend the conference, their Certificates of Appreciation and gift certificate to Barnes & Noble are being mailed to them (I hope they get them before they read this *In-Situ*).

The NAA had a table in the book room at the GBAC. We sold NAA t-shirts, mugs, and journals and had 2005 membership forms available for people to fill out. We were very successful and sold most of the leftover t-shirts and many mugs, and signed up several new and renewing members. If you have not renewed your membership yet, fill out the

form attached to this *In-Situ* or download it from the NAA web site. Remember, dues have gone up so make sure you use a 2005 form otherwise you will be receiving a phone call from our treasurer.

We continue to work on the development of a state wide site stewardship program. Darrel Wade and his dedicated group of regional coordinators continue to do a magnificent job of recruiting and training volunteer site stewards. In addition there is a tremendous amount of paper work that gets done to document site visits, record hours, and get all that information to the appropriate land managing agency. Funding is an issue; we have applied for a Historic Preservation grant from the SHPO and are working on a funding agreement with the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The design for the 2005 Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week poster is almost completed. We plan to have these printed in March so they can be distributed at the annual meeting in April. The Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week poster and brochure are partially funded by the SHPO office through a Department of Interior grant. In addition we have asked the archaeological contracting firms that work in the state to help with funding. To date we have received generous contributions from Chambers Group, Inc., Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, HRA, Inc. (Heidi Roberts), and Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc., and more contributions are on the way. If you know people that work for these companies, let them know how much you appreciate their support of the NAA.

Next Board Meeting

Steve Daron, NAA President

The next Board meeting will be in Boulder City on Saturday, January 22, at 2 pm. It will be held in the conference room at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area headquarters building located at 601 Nevada Way. The field trip before the meeting will be led by George Phillips, who will give us a tour of the Sloan petroglyph site. Arrangements for the tour have not been finalized so check the web site in a couple of weeks for more information or call Steve Daron at (702) 293-8019. There will also be a meeting of the NAA Site Steward Steering Committee on Friday, January 21, at 1 pm. at the Lost City Museum in Overton, Nevada. We encourage all NAA members to attend the meetings and join us on the tour. Places to stay in Boulder City include:

- El Rancho Boulder Motel
725 Nevada Highway
(702) 293-1085
- Flamingo Inn Boulder City
804 Nevada Highway
(702) 293-3565
- Sands Motel of Boulder City
809 Nevada Highway
(702) 293-2589
- Super 8 Motel
704 Nevada Highway
(702) 294-8888

2005 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! The 2005 NAA Annual Meeting has been scheduled for April 15-17, 2005 in historic Tonopah. This is the reason you've been waiting for to justify getting your tax filings completed early! Many of your favorite annual events are being organized, such as the Friday workshop and evening social hour;

the Saturday paper presentations, banquet, and auction; and Sunday field trip.

This year's workshop will be a presentation on Documenting Historic Buildings by State Historic Preservation Office Architectural Historians Mella Harmon and Rebecca Ossa. This will be an opportunity to learn how to complete the Nevada SHPO's Historic Resources Inventory Form. The session will include a presentation, a field exercise, and a Q&A discussion.

Saturday will once again be the day for you to present the results of your investigations to your peers. Suzan Slaughter of the Harry Reid Center is this year's program chair and will be delighted to receive your paper or poster abstract. Contact information is presented below. Susan Rigby, the local arrangements chair, is busily finalizing plans for the annual banquet, auction, and guest speaker. Things are rapidly coming together, thanks to Sue's diligent efforts, for which we all owe her many thanks.

Sunday's field trip will be a tour of the Tonopah Mining Park. Two opportunities to tour the facility will be available. Information on the conference and Tonopah and a registration form are attached.

Call for Papers, 2005 Annual Meeting

Suzan Slaughter, 2005 Program Chair

The NAA Annual Meeting will be held April 15-17, 2005 in Tonopah, Nevada. Abstracts for papers, symposia, and posters are now being accepted for the meeting. There is no theme so presentations in all fields including archaeology, history, ethnography and geology of Nevada are encouraged. Please send abstracts of 150 words or less for 20 minute presentations to Suzan Slaughter, 1208 Nelson Court, Boulder City, Nevada

89005, or e-mail to roses4@unlv.nevada.edu. Abstracts need to be received by March 1, 2005.

2004 NAA Journal Coming in 2005!

Eva Jensen and Laureen Perry, 2004 Nevada Archaeologist Editors

Papers are now being accepted for the 2004 NAA Journal. The focus is on the archaeology and history of southern Nevada. Please contact Laurie Perry at 702-293-8619, lperry@lc.usbr.gov, or Eva Jensen at 702-397-2193, eajensen@comnett.net for more information or to submit a manuscript.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

David Valentine, Editor, *In-Situ*

I would like to retire from the position of Newsletter Editor. I've held this position since the Summer of 2000. It has been a rewarding and very fun experience, but I would like to retire before it becomes a chore. If you are interested in assuming the *In-Situ* editorial duties, please contact any board member before the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Archaeological Institute of America, Southern Nevada Chapter

The Archaeological Institute of America, Southern Nevada Chapter hosted two guest speakers this fall as part of their 2004/2005 lecture season.

The first speaker was Dr. James Adovasio, who delivered a lecture entitled "What the Hell are They Doing: Some Thoughts on Paleoindian Behaviour" last October 19.

The second speaker was Elizabeth Harmon, who is a visiting professor in the University of Nevada Las Vegas' anthropology department. Her talk, held on November 3, was entitled: "Crossing

the Threshold: Stone Tools and Early Humans at Hadar, Ethiopia.”

This spring, Dr. Stuart Manning from the University of Toronto will speak on Bronze Age Cyprus. His lecture is tentatively scheduled for March. Contact Dr. Alan Simmons, UNLV Department of Anthropology, for additional information on upcoming lectures.

Archaeo-Nevada Society (ANS)

Cheryl Martin, ANS President

We would like to thank our speakers for our fall meetings, Don Hendricks (History and mystery of the Pahrump Valley and Spring Mountains) and Russ Avery (History of geographical survey in the West). In the spring our speakers are BLM archaeologist Suzanne Rowe (Evidence for Virgin Anasazi occupation in the Las Vegas Valley and adjacent areas), HRA Inc. archaeologists Heidi Roberts/Rick Ahlstrom (New archaeological information from recent surveys in the Las Vegas Valley), ANS president and UNLV grad student Cheryl Martin (Identification of contact between the Virgin Anasazi at Mt. Trumbull, Arizona and Southern Nevada through obsidian sourcing and ceramics), UNLV Ph.D. student Jane Olive (The life of Sarah Winnemucca, a Native American woman and writer in historic Nevada), and Far Western Anthropological Research Group archaeologist Amy Gilreath (Topic TBA). We continue participating in Adopt-A-Highway and preparing the artifacts from the Elwood II site for curation at the Lost City Museum. The Archaeo-Nevada Society will also have a display at the annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City this spring.

In November ANS sent letters of support for two projects proposed by the Lake Mead National Recreational Area

seeking funds from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Act: “Cutting a Wake Through Time,” which will use new technologies to conduct underwater research and “Preserve America, A Southern Nevada Interagency Heritage Resource Discovery Program: Phase 2 – Resource Protection,” to provide funding for additional personnel to protect cultural materials in Nevada. We also sent in comments in response to the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you would like more information about the Archaeo-Nevada Society, contact Helen Mortenson at (702) 876-6944 or Cheryl Martin at (702) 862-5428 or cheryl.martin@dri.edu.

Churchill County Chapter

The Churchill County Chapter is no longer alive and kicking. A meeting held last October was the ir last.

Elko County Chapter

The Elko County Chapter (ECC,NAA) continues to work on the Midas diorama. The bottom portion of the diorama was transported to Midas, where some Newmont employees helped unload it and move it into the school house. Tim Murphy is completing the narrative and display of replicated artifacts for the upper portion of the exhibit and should be done with that this winter. Hopefully it will be ready to move to Midas when the roads thaw in the spring.

The meeting place for the ECC, NAA is moving their meeting place from the Spring Creek pizza parlor to Elko. Meetings will be held on the campus of the Great Basin College. This will allow the

chapter to have access to video equipment for short presentations, and will be more accessible to college students.

The fund raising yard sale went very well this year, with most all of the donations sold (furniture and junky jewelry were the most sought after items while clothing did not sell well). They have plans to start collecting donations for next year.

Elections for officers were held – Rachel was re-elected President, Donna re-elected secretary-treasurer, newsletter editor and web site master. Rachel and Donna will be program coordinators with assistance from others as needed.

A Christmas party was held on December 4. In addition to the normal party activities was a Christmas ornament exchange.

Nevada Rock Art Foundation News

Alanah Woody, Executive Director

When it's snowing and cold up north, it's time to head south to record rock art! NRAF members completed recording a small site in the Gold Butte area, east of Las Vegas. Public usage of the Gold Butte area is increasing dramatically, so now really is the time to get those sites recorded. The next rock art recording training is scheduled for January 16 in Las Vegas, contact info@nevadarockart.org for details. And thanks to Jim Hammons and the Valley of Fire State Park, NRAF will now lead free, monthly educational tours to that wonderful place! These southern site tours will be on the second Saturday of each month from November through April. And Lost City Museum has also very generously offered a discounted entry fee to tour participants ... so if you've never been there, now's your chance and both are really well worth the short drive!

Up in the north, even though we got snowed out and choked up with smoke from fires, the Lagomarsino Canyon petroglyph recording project was well attended and lots of work got done. More than 40 NRAF members spent in excess of 800 hours both in the field and in the office on snow days! Nearly 1,000 panels have been completed to date ... so we're probably 1/10th done! We plan working at this amazing site from mid-September through mid-October in 2005.

NRAF will be starting a lecture series in February 2005 in the northern part of the state (modeled on the successful presentations of the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association). Our first speaker will be Dr. Angus Quinlan, who will speak on "The history of rock art interpretation." Dr. Quinlan has a PhD in the study of ancient religion and ritual, which means he's uniquely suited to the study of rock art. The first presentation will be in Reno at the South Valley's Library on February 23rd at 6:30. Watch the NRAF website (www.nevadarockart.org) for upcoming presentations.

And finally, NRAF member Alvin McLane was presented with a special award for his contribution to rock art research at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference in October. This award will be given at the biennial GBAC to recognize professional contributions to rock art research. But Alvin's recognition didn't stop with the NRAF award ... we even managed to get him a citation from Governor Kenny Guinn, who officially designated October 14th to be "Alvin McLane Day!"

SHPO News

Alice Baldrice, Deputy SHPO

Mark your calendars! The Oasis Conference is coming to Carson City,

April 6-7, 2005. Oasis is a meeting of our collective community of Humanities, Historic Preservation, Archaeology, Libraries, Archives, Education and Arts and hosted by the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). Workshops will be given in a variety of topics, with one track being devoted strictly to buildings and one track being strictly archaeology. DCA is attempting to attract a broad spectrum of participants: professionals, amateurs, organizations, local government staff and potential partners in projects.

Some of the topics include “National Register Nominations for Archaeologists” by Mella Harmon and Terri McBride, both from SHPO, who will present the basics of evaluating eligibility, conducting research, and nomination writing for buildings and archaeological sites. This short workshop will target archaeologists and CRM professionals. Another topic will be “Archaeological Site Inventory, Management, and Evaluation Issues in Nevada” by Pat Barker of the BLM and Rebecca Palmer of SHPO who will discuss the fine art of archaeological modeling, managing linear resources and site definition. Other workshops include a panel discussion on the “Site Stewardship Program and Volunteer Opportunities” in the State led by Eva Jensen of the Lost City Museum and “Artifact Identification and ARPA Discussion for Amateurs” by Pat Barker and Gene Hattori of the Nevada State Museum. The building track will feature management of historic cemeteries and how to research the history of a house.

Although the Oasis Conference is short, it is an opportunity to discover what others are doing in our field of study and take home some ideas for projects in your communities and jobs. You might even find other areas of interest in Arts and Humanities. For more information see the

Department of Cultural Affairs’ web site at <http://dmla.clan.lib.nv.us>.

Registration forms will be available on this site after the first of the year.

Site Steward Program

Darrell Wade, NAA Board and Nevada
Heritage Site Steward Program

Our two-year program is now your program. The Site Steward Program was assimilated into the NAA as a committee. A steering group was established consisting of our NAA president, Steve Daron, our treasurer, Eva Jensen, and myself, along with two of the regional coordinators from the site steward program. The two regional coordinators are Anne Carter and Rick Hulse. If one of them cannot attend committee meetings, either Nancy Hall or Phil Phillips will attend. Funds to operate this program are being sought from a variety of sources, and the group itself will soon begin to sell shirts and hats to aid the fund raising effort.

We now have seven regional coordinators in southern Nevada, as well as two in Reno, working with the Nevada Rock Art Foundation. Training sessions were recently held in Overton for ten new recruits, and in Las Vegas for 30 volunteers to begin monitoring the Sloan Canyon area. The total number of citizen volunteers that are trained is now 280. That is a tremendous assist to our agencies administering these public lands and their prehistoric and historic cultural sites.

Training sessions are scheduled for Overton in January (full), again in Overton on April 9th (space available). A second training session will be scheduled in the spring in Winnemucca and another in Elko. See the schedule below. For information on any of these trainings,

contact Darrell Wade at
dwade@mesquiteweb.com.

In order to make sure that new trainees get out to their assigned sites in a prompt fashion, the Site Steward Program has added five archaeological advisors. If an agency archaeologist is not available for the initial site visit, these five professionals can fill in for them and help the new trainee learn about their assignment. These five individuals are Mark Rosenzweig, Susan Murphy, and Diane Winslow in the Las Vegas area, Eva Jensen in Overton, and Bob Hafey in the Alamo area. Others may be added in the future. The addition of these pros is a real boost to our program, and helps assure that our new recruits get an initial site visit with an archaeologist. That is a huge plus for our Nevada program, and a definite advantage over existing programs in other states.

In conclusion, I am thrilled about our involvement with the NAA, and look forward to this being a real boost to the Nevada Heritage Site Steward Program. The affiliation should also result in increased membership for the NAA, as well. Thanks, NAA!

Nevada Heritage Site Steward Program Event Schedule Early 2005

January 8th---Site Steward Training Session in Overton, at the Lost City Museum. Hours are 9am till 4pm.
January 21st—Site Steward Steering Committee meeting at Lost City Museum at 1 pm.
January 22nd—NAA Board Meeting in Boulder City
February 4th—Administrative Group Meeting in the Mesquite City Hall. Hours will be 10 am until 3 pm. The meeting will be in the second floor training room.

April 9th---Site Steward Training Session in Overton, at the Lost City Museum. Hours are 9am until 4pm.

April 15-17th, 2005—NAA Annual Conference in Tonopah

Sloan Canyon Site Stewards

Bill James, Regional Coordinator for Sloan Canyon

A Site Steward program for the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) is now underway. We have 30 newly trained Stewards (Thanks Eva, Terri, and Darrell) and a small cadre of previously trained stewards signed up. During December, we will take a series of field trips to assigned sites.

Sloan Canyon is close to the Las Vegas urban area and is becoming very popular with casual visitors. We think there is a need to have frequent monitoring of the canyon. We are dividing the canyon into small zones and asking Stewards to adopt one zone, but patrol the entire canyon during their visits. Other, more remote sites will be assigned to other Stewards.

Charlie Carroll, the Bureau of Land Management manager for the Sloan Canyon NCA is very helpful and supportive of our efforts. I want to thank the Anthem Hiking Club, especially Mike Carey, for their enthusiastic participation in the program. Twenty of the new Stewards are from that group. We are optimistic that more club members will join us as the word spreads.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA)

The Southern Nevada Rock Art Association has recently had some exciting guest speakers. On November 18, Ken Hedges, of the San Diego Museum of Man, gave a talk entitled "Rock Art

Highlights," which was a discussion of rock art styles from the American west showing the diversity of Native American rock art and focusing on some of the reasons for studying it. Ken based his lecture on recording and research projects he's undertaken over the past four decades. Some styles discussed included polychrome styles of south-central California, Colorado Desert rock art at Palo Verde Point, patterned bodies north and south, birds and circles on the lower Gila, and the rock art surprises at Caborca.

On Thursday, December 16, Barron Haley, local photographer and Chairman of Cultural Resources, Red Rock Canyon gave a PowerPoint presentation on the area known as Little Red Rocks. His talk was followed up by a visit to the area on the following Saturday.

Always check the SNRAA voicemail for late breaking news: (702) 897-7878.

Three Corners Conference Announcement & Call for Papers

Mark Slaughter, Bureau of Reclamation

Archaeology in the tri-state area of Nevada, Arizona, and California has grown in scale and the orientation of archaeological research has shifted over the last decade. Due to the increase in the number and types of archaeological sites discovered, and their interpretation, there is a need for the regional researchers to present and discuss findings among professionals to promote the development of regional theory, methodologies, and management goals. To this end, the Three Corners Conference is being organized and will be held on October 15th, 2005, at the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

If you work in the area, please consider participating in the conference. Oral

presentations will be 12 minutes. Papers should cover topics and research themes within southern Nevada, southeastern California, southwestern Utah, and extreme western Arizona. Presentations may be on any research domain and time period within the region. The deadline for abstracts of 75 words or less is September 6, 2005. PowerPoint or slide presentations are highly encouraged. The conference proceedings will be published. Please send abstracts to:

threecornersconference@yahoo.com, or via snail mail:

Mark C. Slaughter/Laurie Perry
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006

Additional information can be found on the NAA website: www.nvarch.org/3corners

The conference is sponsored by UNLV, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Las Vegas Springs Preserve, Lost City Museum, Bureau of Land Management, and the U. S. Forest Service.

ATV Adventures Case Overview and Sentencing Results

Todd Swain, Special Agent in Charge, Joshua Tree National Park

In the fall of 2002, Operation Indian Rocks ARPA Task Force members learned that employees of a corporation were apparently damaging archeological sites on BLM lands. The corporation, ATV Adventures Inc, provides guided All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) tours under BLM permit near Logandale, Nevada. Based on this information, an investigation was begun with the support of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Nevada. Several Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service officers went on ATV Adventures tours as part of the

investigation. These officers' trip and additional surveillance revealed that employees of the company were taking clients to archeological sites where the guides were collecting artifacts and in some cases, encouraging clients to look for and take artifact "souvenirs." The investigation showed that the company owner and general manager were aware of this activity. In May 2003 damage assessment field work was completed which showed damage to three archaeological sites. The total damage was determined by the BLM task force archeologist to be \$41,798.53. On June 28th 2004, ATV Adventures, Inc. pled guilty to a felony ARPA count. The owner of the company, Stoney Ward, and the General Manager, Dennis Freeman, each pled guilty to one misdemeanor ARPA count. On November 17th 2004, the corporation was sentenced to two years probation, ordered to pay \$13,578 in restitution to the BLM, pay \$60,000 in community service, and assessed an \$800 penalty fee. The company also had their special use permit suspended by the BLM for 30 days. Ward and Freeman were placed on six months home confinement with electronic monitoring, two years probation, ordered to pay \$3,692.97 in restitution to the BLM and fined \$2,000 each. The sentencing judge told the defendants that what they had done was unacceptable and that they should spread the word that damaging archeological sites is a federal crime and those that conduct such activities will be prosecuted and sentenced to prison.

NAA Website

Check out <http://www.nvarch.org/>, NAA's official website, constructed and maintained by Web Master, Hal Rager.

Feel free to stop by for a visit on your next trip on the cyber highway. The website has lots of useful information, such as how to order your very own NAA mug or back issues of *Nevada Archaeologist*. It also contains links to other related web sites.

Spring Newsletter

The Spring 2005 issue of *In-Situ* is scheduled for publication in March 2005. If you have anything you want included, such as mini-reports, requests for information, announcements, letters to the editor, book reviews, etc., etc., send it to Dave Valentine by March 10, 2005, via e-mail: david_valentine@nv.blm.gov, or by snail mail to P.O. Box 1084, Winnemucca, NV 89446. Photographs are welcome. If submitting electronically, please embed jpegs in a word file, as the BLM computer security people are now deleting stand alone jpeg attachments. A diverse and interesting *In-Situ* cannot be maintained without member support and participation.

Upcoming Conferences

The 2005 Society for Historic Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology will be January 5-10, 2005 in York, England. For more information, visit the SHA website at: <http://www.sha.org>

The Society for American Archaeology will hold their 70 Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 30 through April 3, 2005. For more information, visit the SAA website at: <http://www.saa.org>

The Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs and Nevada Humanities are sponsoring the OASIS 2005 conference in Carson City, Nevada April 5-7, 2005.

“Oasis 2005 celebrates the sense of community and common purpose of those concerned with the arts, education, libraries, archives, humanities, museums, historic preservation and archaeology.” For more information, call (775) 687-8393 or visit: <http://www.nevadaculture.org/>.

The Nevada Archaeological Association’s 34th Annual conference will be held in Tonopah, April 15-17, 2005. For more information, read this newsletter and the next, or visit NAA’s website at: <http://www.nvarch.org>.

News of Nevada Archaeologists

Tom Flanigan (former U. S. Forest Service archaeologist in Ely and NAA board member) and his wife Jeanette Matovich have moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. Jeanette is now an archaeologist with the Utah BLM’s State Office, and Tom accepted an archaeology position with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Bureau of Land Management Archaeologists Tom Burke and David Valentine received the BLM “Director’s 4C Award” for their work on the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada Resource Management Plan (*We had nothing to do with picking out the name-Ed.*). The 4Cs Award is presented to BLM employees and others outside the agency whose actions exemplify in some extraordinary fashion the Department’s philosophy of “Consultation, Cooperation, and Communication in the service of Conservation.”

Peggy McGuckian received an honorable mention award from the Bureau of Land Management during the National Association for Interpretation’s annual National Interpreters Workshop held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Peggy received the award for her work on the Lovelock Cave Backcountry Byway; a drive that is well worth your time.

Replicating Cupules

Oyvind Frock

When I have been out with Alvin McLane recording petroglyph panels, often there are groups of cupules in addition to the pecked glyphs. Either they are part of the suite of petroglyphs or found alone. In any event, I’ve wondered how long it would take a person to make those depressions. To find out, I decided to make some.

A small boulder of andesite, another of granodiorite, and a third of basalt were gathered. A half-dozen quartz cobbles were picked up to use as tools. The finished items are shown in the photo below. Cupules 1 and 2 are on the left, cupule 3 is on the right, and cupule 4 is in front. I clocked the time it took to make each and measured the finished cupules. The times and sizes are listed:

Cupule	Material	Elapsed Time	Width	Depth
1	Andesite	72 minutes	5.0 mm	1.5 mm
2	Andesite	75 minutes	6.5 mm	1.2 mm
3	Granodiorite	241 minutes	10.0 mm	1.5 mm
4	Basalt	133 minutes	7.0 mm	1.3 mm

The andesite was the softest material while the granodiorite was the hardest. A combination of straight-down pounding blows and curving sideways strokes were used. It was surprising to me that the cupules were self-smoothing. As the quartz cobbles were dragged over the surface, the high points were ground away.

A variety of cobble sizes were used. Small cobbles with a point worked very well initially to circumscribe the diameter and scratch the surface. The surfaces were softer than the interiors due to weathering of the cobble. Once a minor depression was created, larger cobbles that could be held in both hands were more effective. With both hands, of course, harder blows could be struck. The denser the quartz, the better it worked; otherwise pieces kept breaking off.

I figured my current arm strength probably would be about the same as that of a young, pre-contact female and the manufacturing times would be comparable. One theory holds that the cupules were fertility/pregnancy devices so it is possible they were made by women. One thing that becomes evident quickly was that my hands were not accustomed to pounding against rock, and about each hour I needed to take a break.

The set-up was simple: I sat on my concrete steps and either put the rock on the level below on an old piece of carpet or held it on my thighs. A friend said this gave me an advantage over the natives in that I could move the rock around to get better striking angles. I countered that when working on bedrock, you could get the whole weight of your body into the blows.

WHO KNOWS?? Why not give it a try and come to your own conclusions?



Replica cupules made by Oyvind Frock. Photo courtesy of Oyvind Frock.

Book Review

Almost Adam. By Petru Popescu (New York: William Morrow & Co., 1996, fiction, available in the Washoe County Library). Reviewed by Oyvind Frock.

Imagination is a wonderful thing and this author has a strong imagination. The main plot involves *Homo sapiens*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo robustus* in a Pliocene-type environment in an out-of-the-way corner of Kenya. The *Homo sapiens* is a paleoanthropologist who finds a living *Homo habilis* boy and his related tribal members. Determined to make a name for himself, he forms a one-man expedition to observe these evolutionary survivors. Due to a series of mishaps, he loses all his equipment and ends up spending six weeks living with the Pliocene group. The *habilis* people, of course, have no language, no fire, not tools (other than hammer stones), no shelters, etc. They do walk upright, are about four feet tall, and have a brain case of about 450 cubic centimeters.

During the six weeks, our *sapiens* representative develops his rudimentary senses of smell, observation, and hearing. He finds he can survive on scavenged meat, small raw insectivores, tubers, roots, fruits, and bugs. While living in this Pliocene situation he observes developing group relationships, inquisitiveness, survival mechanisms, etc., which ultimately result in us.

The group of *robustus* hominids is still primarily brachiators and knuckle walkers while on the ground. They and the gracile *habilis* hominids fight and eat each other, but interbreeding also occurs between captors and captives. This hybridization helps the *sapiens* representative better understand the fossil skeletal materials he had been studying for years.

Two subplots are woven throughout the novel. One concerns a prominent paleoanthropologist who learns of the survivors and has two plans for them: one is to capture representatives of both groups so he can interbreed them into a new species and give the new species his name. The other subplot is civil unrest and a potential *coup d'état* in Kenya. Heavily involved in this situation is a schoolmate of our *sapiens* representative and his friend's high-ranking family who ultimately rescue the protagonist.

Imaginative? Yes, but an interesting book, especially for those who have an interest in our ancestors.

Kane Springs Fluted Point and a Short Literary Digression

Eva Jensen, Lost City Museum

Every archaeologist deserves one of those "Holy Grail" kind of moments. Not the Indiana Jones, Hollywood version, but the take your breath away 'this day can't be any better' kind. Mine came in November 2003 working with site stewards Darrell and Terri Wade, to monitor the condition and update information for a site in Lincoln County. Approaching the site on the typical terrible road that just gives you the 'no one has been here for a long time,' feeling we startled a band of wild horses with the stereotypical white stallion leading. They snorted, moved and traveled in the direction we were heading and kept well ahead of the stallion who watched and moved the band before disappearing up into a canyon.

After parking we walked the wash toward the site. Being the good archaeologists watching the ground, we were following fresh deer tracks and flushed a good size 5-point mule deer who was just as surprised as I. He bounded ahead of us and went effortlessly up a

10 foot steep side of the wash disappearing toward the site. This is the state where good luck is king, and not being one to ignore good omens, I rubbed the rabbit's foot in my pocket and told the stewards to flag any artifacts that looked like points. After walking about 400 meters through an obsidian lithic scatter that didn't quit Darrell called to me, "I think I found a piece of a point". Trying to sound encouraging for the fourth or fifth time I told him to mark where he found it and bring it to me. He put it in my hand and the moment was truly an "Oh my...!!!" And well, the rest of the story is.... real science.

26LN251, north of Kane Springs wash in Lincoln County, was initially recorded by R.F. (Chick) Perkins who called the site Iola's site. Site forms from 1967, Perkins' collection records, and a cryptic note on a quad map indicate the site as a "Clovis" site with "fluted points and others." Perkins collected points from the site and reported two fluted points in the Archaeological Survey Reporter (1967). Two site areas were identified on an initial visit to relocate the site from old forms and map plots. From original site descriptions the location of LN251 was determined and a brief description follows.

The site is a large lithic scatter that lies at the south end of an alluvial surface terminated by washes on the east and west that converge to form a roughly triangular space. At the south end of the site there is an outcrop of heavily patinated rhyolitic basalt. There is a bedrock grinding slick on the outcrop and a heavily repatinated petroglyph of bighorn sheep figures as well as less weathered images. Other artifacts noted were flat milling stone fragments and some areas of possible fire cracked stone

The lithic assemblage is dominated by obsidian. The Kane Springs Wash area is an identified obsidian source and a very extensive scatter extends across the alluvial fans and dry washes in the area. In the area identified by Perkins as LN251, two obsidian stem points were noted and plotted with using a GPS during the initial visit.

On a second visit to the site to monitor the site condition and update the site map and artifact information, a fluted point base was found. In consultation with lead archaeologist Mark Henderson, Ely District BLM, we collected the point along with an obsidian stem point, and a large rhyolite split stem point.

The fluted point fragment is obsidian and has a concave base with fluting on both faces. It measures 2.5 cm maximum width by 3.0 cm from the base to break and maximum blade thickness is .69 cm with a haft thickness of .56 cm at the break across the fluted surfaces. The point weighs 6.15 g. Lateral edges are ground and slightly convex. A single flake scar forms one flute that measures 1.0 cm wide at the base and widens to 1.4 cm at the break. The flute on the opposite side is formed by two flake scars and covers most of the point face measuring 1.6 at the base and narrowing slightly before the break. The concave base shows some evidence of rework and more recent minor damage that is visible in the hydration accumulation.

The obsidian stem point is a small, square stem point with maximum stem width of 1.6 cm and a length of 3.5 cm to the break. The maximum blade thickness is .62 cm and the weight is 5.02 g.

Both the fluted point and the stem point were submitted to Craig Skinner at Northwest Research Obsidian Studies Laboratories for X-ray fluorescence (XRF) source identification and hydration measurement. XRF analysis indicated the fluted point is from the Kane Springs source. The stem point is Delamar Mountains (formerly Kane Springs C) source material (Skinner 2004). Geologically Kane Springs is an ancient caldera and three related but distinct obsidian signatures have been identified in nodules found in secondary deposits.

Farrel Lytle and Keith Stever identified obsidian nodules in-situ while doing reconnaissance to pinpoint obsidian source material. The nodules were on the east side of the east wash adjacent to LN251. These were identified as Kane Springs C signature and that source is now listed as the Delamar Mountains source in the obsidian source library <http://www.sourcecatalog.com/> (Skinner email communication March 2004).

Because two distinct and temporally important point styles were represented in the same site area we elected to have hydration measurements taken. The measurements indicate a difference of 2.1 microns between the hydration rims of the fluted point and the stem point. The fluted point hydration measures 9 microns. Hydration measurement for the stem point is 6.9 microns (Skinner 2004).

Measurement of the fluted point was taken from the break that would have ended the use life of the point. Measurement for the stem point was taken from the base and would represent the manufacture or any subsequent rework during the use life of the point. This difference in hydration rims for the two point styles represented indicates a different use period for the point types, as expected. The points, however, are from different source signatures and may have variant hydration rates. Other stem points collected from the site will be tested and will hopefully provide the opportunity to measure same source, same site, and same environment hydration for a fluted and stem point site in the Mojave Desert.

Thomas Origer has done accelerated hydration experiments for the Kane Springs obsidian source material and has determined a possible age calibration. While this hydration dating and calibration is still somewhat of a question mark we have the style attributes of two points for comparison and “test” of the method. The age estimate for the fluted point hydration measurements when calculated using Origer’s calibration is 11,200 years BP and the stem point dates 6570 BP (Lytle personal communication Feb. 2004). The Delamar Mountains source (Kane Springs C) has not been calibrated and the age estimate for the stem point assumes a similar hydration rate for the two source materials.

Farrel Lytle has done further work in determining calibration with corrections for elevation and temperature variables. With his calculations for the 3,774 ft elevation and a recorded average annual temperature of 55.2 degrees F, the local calibration date estimate for the fluted point is 13,800 years BP although this is a new calibration and the error factor has not been calculated (Lytle personal communication 1/12/04). As noted above with more testing of stem points and other artifacts from this site these calibrations and error ranges may be refined.

In October Farrel Lytle took portable XRF measurements of the patina on petroglyphs at the outcrop at the south end of the site. These will provide age estimates for the glyphs and a possible correlation between the rock art and the projectile points. This site also provides an opportunity to compare new dating methods with points of known style and fairly well established temporal spans. Comparison of hydration, style, and XRF – exciting !!

But that is another story for later.....Stay tuned for the next exciting issue of In-Situ.

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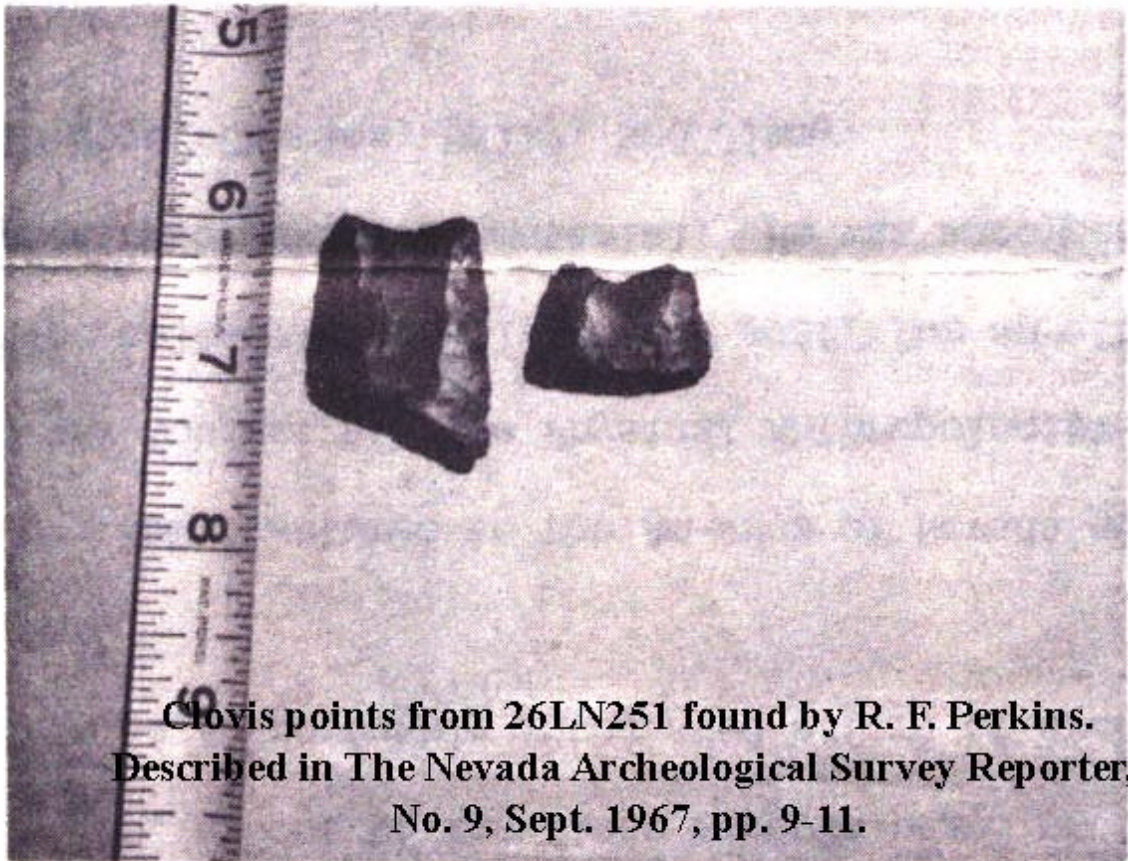
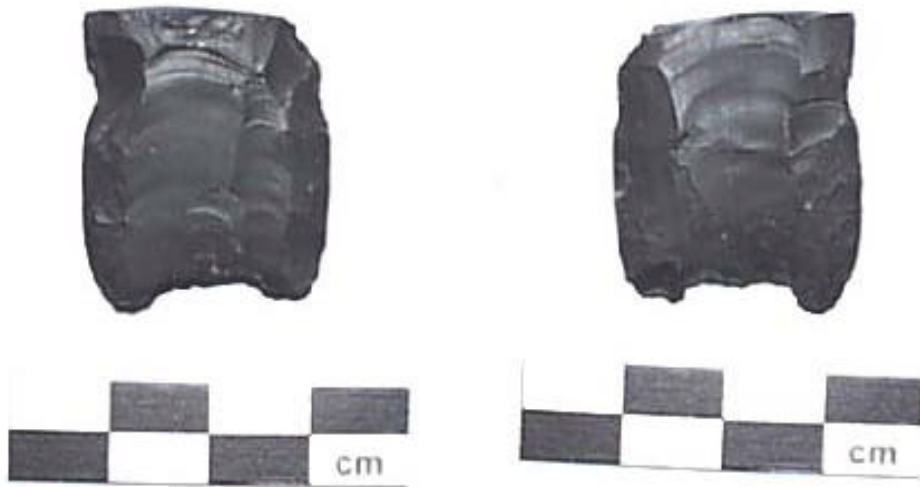


Photo courtesy of Lost City Museum.



Both sides of the point found by Darrell and collected by Eva. Photo courtesy of Eva Jensen.



Points collected from 26LN251. Photo courtesy of Eva Jensen.

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