



UPAC NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE UTAH PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Kelly Beck, President

Kenny Wintch, Editor

Winter 2009

President's Message

Kelly Beck

The UPAC Winter Meeting is just around the corner! We have on tap an excellent set of research presentations with topics spanning the range of Utah's fascinating spatial and temporal prehistoric variation. Thanks everyone who has agreed to share their research with the rest of us. We also have in store the ever so entertaining UPAC business meeting. Last year UPAC provided a set of guidelines designed to simplify and make consistent the process of recording and evaluating linear sites. This year we'll hear from a few folks who have made extensive use of these guidelines as a first-pass evaluation of their actual utility in the field and to managers.

The meeting is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 27 – 28 and will be held in the fourth floor conference room at the Salt Lake City Public Library. The library is located at 210 East 400 South in downtown Salt Lake City. We'll have research presentations beginning at 9:00 Friday morning, the UPAC Business Meeting Friday afternoon, and research presentations beginning 9:00 Saturday morning.

See you all there!

Government Affairs Report

Betsy Skinner

These last three months have been busy with concerns over projects. In November, UTA announced proposed alternatives for FrontRunner stations in Draper and Bluffdale. One of the proposed locations (13500 South) was on top of site 42SL186, which is an Archaic-age site that was recorded in 1991 for the West Valley Highway II project, now known as Bangerter Highway. Limited excavations were conducted by the Antiquities Section of the Utah Division of State History in 2007. These excavations resulted in the discovery two habitation structures and a roasting pit, a possible activity area, and the recovery of nearly 30,000 prehistoric artifacts. Radiocarbon estimates and diagnostic artifacts indicate occupations that began sometime before 3000 years ago and continued to roughly 1600 years ago. The presence of structures and the age of the site make this one of the most important sites remaining in the Salt Lake Valley. Another of UTA's alternatives is north of site 42SL186 on private property (12800 South). Although this property has not been surveyed, the setting and context is very similar to the parcel to the south, and there is every reason to expect that sites of

similar age and nature are present. UPAC sent a letter to UTA expressing concerns with these two proposed station locations. We did not receive a response. As of this writing, UTA is planning to move forward with the 13500 South location, swapping that parcel with the private parcel to the north to have that parcel be the protected land. This will require legislative action.

Also in November, UPAC members were hearing rumors that the BLM was categorically denying any requests to be a consulting party in the Section 106 process for any project. To test this out, the BLM Environmental Notification Bulletin Board was searched for projects in each field office that appeared to have the potential to affect historic properties. At least one letter was sent to each field office (most received two), with the exception of Kanab, Richfield, and St. George, requesting Section 106 consulting party status for UPAC. Most of the projects are what the BLM consider "routine" and are evaluated with a NEPA document classified as either a Categorical Exclusion (CE) or a small Environmental Assessment (EA) with very little or no NEPA public involvement and no Section 106 public involvement. The letter campaign created quite a stir and the field offices referred the matter to the state office as a policy issue. It was apparently discussed at the top levels of BLM management, resulting in UPAC being invited to a meeting with Byron Loosle, BLM Deputy Preservation Officer. The meeting was attended by Byron Loosle, Suzanne Garcia, BLM Branch Chief, and Kelly Beck and Betsy Skinner, UPAC. The state office questioned why we were requesting consulting party status on these routine projects and recommended that we do so on the larger projects, such as the West Tavaputs Plateau EIS. We explained that we were interested in how the Section 106 process was being implemented in each field office, whether the projects were being handled appropriately under the protocol and whether there was opportunity for public involvement as required under the protocol, as well as under 36 CFR § 800. We pointed out that the ENBB is the only means UPAC has to find out about projects, but there was usually too little information to be able to assess the potential for effects to historic properties. BLM requested that UPAC develop criteria for the kinds of projects we are interested in and the archaeologists in each field office would be asked to contact UPAC if any of the criteria for projects were met. The Executive Committee is working on developing the criteria. The BLM also offered UPAC the opportunity to review each field office's quarterly reports for appropriateness under the protocol and/or review the files at each field office. Ms. Garcia offered to look at the ENBB and determine if there is a way to add more detail about the potential for historic properties and the nature of the proposed project activities.

UPAC has recently been invited to be a Section 106 consulting party on two BLM projects: the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan EIS out of the Price Field Office and the Recapture Canyon ROW project, Monticello Field Office.

Prehistory Week 2009

May 2nd through May 9th, 2009 is **UTAH PREHISTORY WEEK**. During this time the professional and avocational archaeological communities in Utah come together to highlight Utah's rich and varied archaeological and paleontological past. This is a great opportunity to provide tours, public talks, lectures and other events to share your professional knowledge with the public. The public at large has a deep respect for these resources and they want to know more. Utah Prehistory Week is the time for this to happen.

This year we would like to see Utah Prehistory Week events all over Utah. We can help you advertise and promote your event through our website. We would love to see Prehistory Week events in Moab, Vernal, St. George, Price, Ogden, Provo, Blanding, Boulder, Logan in addition to those in Salt Lake.

Archaeology is a publically funded endeavor here in the United States. Through direct governmental monies or through public consumption of goods (gas, water, electricity, etc), the public is paying our way. I always remember a little bit of the money I send to Questar every month went to fund archaeological work someplace out here in the west. Utah Prehistory Week is but one way to give a bit back to the public.

If you can host a tour, lecture or a "on-site" public visit, let us know the details and we can help you promote it. If you want to set up a space for the May 2nd, State History Open House to showcase some of the archaeological fieldwork your outfit has done, that would be great. Just let us know. On May 2nd, 2009, we'll have an open house at the Rio Grande Depot in Salt Lake with lots of things going on for kids and adults.

If you or your company would like to donate monies to help support Utah Prehistory Week and be acknowledged on the 2009 Prehistory Week Poster, please send your contribution to Ron Rood or Renae Weder at the Utah Division of State History, 300 Rio Grande, SLC, UT 84101. (Make your check payable to Utah Division of State History" with Prehistory Week in the memo). Contribute what you can. So far we've received a generous contribution from SWCA Environmental Consultants.

We have received over 70 poster contest entries and our winner is being selected as I write this note.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 801-533-3564 or via email at rrood@utah.gov.

Ron Rood
Utah Assistant State Archaeologist

Treasurer's Report

Marty Thomas

As of December 31, 2008 there was \$5,072.68 in the savings account and \$6,188.62 in the checking account. It cost UPAC \$538.35 to publish the 2006 UPAC journal. Some funds were saved from delivering some journals without the use of the US postal service.

2009 UPAC dues are now due!! You may pay your dues with Paypal on the UPAC website (www.upaconline.org) or you may send me a check at 3371 B Honeycut Road, Salt Lake City, UT 84106. We have received 14 memberships for 2009 so far. Please contact me at crmfilesearch@msn.com if you have a question about your dues status. I will happily tell you your membership status for 2009 or earlier years.

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SUBMISSIONS

The *UPAC News* welcomes all submissions by Utah archaeologists and others working in Utah in archaeology or related fields. Issues of relevance to *UPAC News* readers include ongoing research, education and preservation efforts, ARPA investigations, biographies, new hires, conferences and symposia, etc. Please contact the newsletter editor if you would like to submit something for inclusion in the next newsletter. The *UPAC News* is presented quarterly.