



UPAC NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE UTAH PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Lori Hunsaker, President

Liz Robinson, Editor

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President's Message

Lori Hunsaker, UPAC President

Greetings, friends and colleagues;

Thank you for your literal "vote" of confidence by electing me to serve again as UPAC President. I hope that I can continue to facilitate our goals and represent our organization in a manner that is appropriate.

I would like to briefly introduce UPAC and our goal to those of you who may have obtained a copy of this newsletter from the GBAC or other sources and are unfamiliar with UPAC. UPAC was established in May of 1982 to establish and promote high standards of archaeological research, reporting and management, and we promote public education and interest in the fields of archaeology and cultural resource management. UPAC represents professional archaeological interests in political and public forums and provides a mechanism for communication within the archaeological community. We also provide advice to State, Federal and other regulatory agency archaeologists upon request or as deemed appropriate and provide a mechanism for arbitrating disputes within the archaeological community. Finally we are responsible for the publication of Utah Archaeology, which encourages the publication of Utah based archaeological research. For more information, please visit our website at www.upaconline.org or please contact me with questions or comments.

Finally, I again fervently encourage all of us to seek out and participate in archaeological public outreach opportunities. I sincerely believe that this is the most important element of arc-

Join the UPAC Yahoo! Group!

All UPAC members and interested parties are invited to join the UPAC group available on Yahoo! This group requires a Yahoo! Account, which is free. Then visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UPAC/> to join.

Postings to this site include UPAC business, announcements, and other bits of archaeological interest.

Treasurer's Report

Marty Thomas

As of December 2005, UPAC has a total of \$8838 in checking and savings accounts. Since 12/30/05 there have not been any expenses. This report does not reflect income (dues) after 12/30/05.

I will be available at the February UPAC meeting to collect dues and to answer any questions you might have about dues. Please make sure I have your current addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. There has been talk about creating an Email newsletter in the future and we will need current information.

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The Daily Grind:

Current

Research in Utah

Kids and Archaeology on Antelope Island

Ronald Rood, Utah Assistant State Archaeologist

During June of 2006, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students from Escalante Elementary School in Salt Lake and Trailside Elementary School in Park City assisted the Antiquities Section at the Mushroom Springs Site on Antelope Island. Mushroom Springs is a Fremont campsite where faunal processing was the major focus. There are at least two Fremont occupations and based upon this year's work, there appears to be an Archaic component at Mushroom Springs as well.

Students, under the direction of Antiquities Section archaeologists conducted the excavations, wrote field notes, made maps and also participated in creative writing, math, photography and botany lessons.

Analysis is ongoing at the Antiquities Section with several of the students from the summer assisting in the lab. Faunal remains include highly processed, low-utility bones from antelope and deer with some bighorn sheep, mule



deer and bison remains as well. The projectile points are primarily Rose Spring types but there are two Archaic dart points from the soils below the Fremont component.

One goal of the project is to give students some real hands-on experience with science and archaeology. None of these kids had ever been to an archaeological site but after a couple of days of training, several became careful and detailed excavators. Notes were taken on special "kid friendly" note forms designed by 13 year-old Abram Sorensen, a veteran of three seasons of work at Mushroom Springs. In addition to the educational rewards, Mushroom Springs will contribute interesting information on how the Island was used by the Fremont and further, since the site represents a fairly intense bone grease production area, information on Fremont subsistence and use of large prey can be collected.

As you may know, Mushroom Springs was discovered during the monitoring of a spring development on Antelope Island by Utah State



Parks. In a cooperative agreement with the Antiquities Section, a plan to mitigate the impacts of the site through public education and public participation in the excavation was the decided course of action. To date, over 1000 volunteer hours have been charted at Mushroom Springs and 132 kids have participated in hands-on archaeology since 2001. USAS volunteers have contributed another 200 hours of effort and USAS has been instrumental in assisting with the student archaeologists.

Work is planned for the summer of 2007 at Mushroom to finish the excavation of the upper Fremont component and to further test the Archaic levels. Although working with kids has its challenges, the rewards far outweigh these minor problems. The students take ownership of this site, the contribution they are making and I never worry about these students vandalizing any archaeological site.

Site 42GR3688

Jack Pfertsh, Alpine Archaeological Consultants

In September of this year an historical archaeological site 42GR3688 was damaged during road construction for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Crescent Junction Disposal Site project in Utah. Site 42GR3688 was recorded in April of 2006 by SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) as part of their inventory of a DOE water pipeline between Thompson Springs and Crescent Junction, Utah (Nelson 2006). The site consisted of two features and a historic artifact scatter dating to the early twentieth century with materials dating into the 1950s and 1960s. Because the site was recommended as eligible during the archaeological inventory, an assessment of damages was completed by Alpine personnel on September 18, 2006 (Kinnear-Ferris 2006). The site is immediately west of an oil and gas camp/industrial locus (42GR3601) recorded by Alpine during the initial DOE inventory in June of 2005 (Pfertsh 2005). The dates arrived at for site 42GR3688 and its proximity to

42GR3601 suggest that the two sites are associated and attributable to the oil and gas activity at Crescent Junction. Oil exploration began in southeastern Utah as early as the late 1800s, but did not gain economic attention until the automotive age in the 1920s. The potential for commercial oil production at Crescent Junction began when oil was discovered in 1923. Although the strike was heralded as Utah's largest producing well, economic prospects soon waned when wells in southeastern Utah failed to meet expectations (Firmage 1999).

When Alpine first encountered site 42GR3601, the surface manifestations were commonplace with the vast majority of historic habitation sites found in the western United States. Closer examination, however, identified elements that were not consistent with habitation sites. One of the differences lies within the artifact assemblage. As with other habitation sites, the artifact assemblage consisted of cans, bottle glass, and ceramic vessels indicative of food consumption, but the difference was noted in a limited number of industrial artifacts, such as fire bricks used in high-temperature applications and lengths of wire rope. Although the artifacts indicated an industrial function, the location of three iron tie-down anchors used to secure the derrick or mast of a well were instrumental in attributing the site to oil and gas exploration. Further evidence for the function of the site was found during the post-field historic research. The research consisted of examining oil and gas lease books on file at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Office in Salt Lake City, Utah and U.S.D.I. Geological Survey, Individual Well Records on file at the BLM, Moab Field Office in Moab. Additional research was carried out through local histories and Grand County digital newspaper searches at www.lib.utah.edu/digital/unews/. The research found was that the site fell within lands leased by Vere L. McCarthy on April 27, 1921. The lease was suspended, citing a conflict with an existing lease, and was later reissued on July 5, of 1923. Once the lease was in McCarthy's possession, it was transferred to



the Incorporated Oil Company on October 1924. The same address was listed for McCarthy and the Incorporated Oil Company, indicating that McCarthy served as an agent for the oil company (BLM, Oil and Gas Lease No. 029657). As the records show, drilling began on December 30, 1924 and ceased in June of 1930 (U.S.D.I. Geological Survey, Individual Well Record, Lease No. 029657).

As evidenced by the remains of site 42GR3601, it is important to consider oil and gas exploration when attributing function to ordinary historic components.

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A Subjective List of Noteworthy Cultural Resources

Matt Seddon

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-Archaeology

One of the interesting aspects of my job is that I get to see nearly the full range of archaeology going on in Utah; and there is a lot of interesting archaeology going on in Utah. In an effort to help get some of the information about these out to the rest of the archaeological community, I offer the following totally subjective list of cultural resources that caught my eye for whatever reason. I emphasize that this particular list focuses on the coolness of the resources, not the merit of the project in general, the form/report, the agency, the consultant, the pretty pictures on the report cover, or anything other than the site(s) themselves. I freely admit that this list is completely subjective and non-systematic, consisting of sites that came to mind when I decided to compile this list (I'm going to try and be a little more systematic from here on out). I very well might have left something really wonderful off this list. If you know of other sites worthy of note, I encourage you to submit your own list to the UPAC newsletter (or to me, and I'll try and coordinate it). I have also stuck to listing projects for which our office has pretty much given a final comment (there are a number of cool sites out there that are still under consultation, or which I know will be submitted to me at some point in the future. I hope to report them later).

- The Vernon Reservoir Sage Treatment Project (U-05-FS-0705) resulted in finding a bunch of very interesting Fremont Complex sites in the Sheeprock Mountains area of the southern Rush Valley, including one with burned adobe! This is actually one of a number of interesting sites in that area, including a small historical homesteading complex. Contact Charmaine Thompson for more information on this area.
- The Gold Hill Mine Closure Project (U-04-BC-1237) resulted in detailed documentation of a very interesting and remote historic mining district out in the far hinterlands.



- The West Tavaputs Wildlife Enhancement Project (U-06-MQ-1110) completed inventory of a large contiguous area on the Tavaputs Plateau, possibly the first in the area. It yielded rather interesting data on site density and patterning.
- The U of U Telescope Array Project (U-05-MV-0077 and U-05-MV-0182) turned up a huge collection of very old sites, including Paleoindian sites, along the Old River Bed.
- The Missouri Flat Brush Management Project (U-05-BS-0395) identified a very interesting Fremont Complex structural site (42Md2039).
- The GASCO 2D Seismic Project (U-06-ST-0622) turned up a well-preserved prehistoric game drive site (42Un5296).



Comments on Current Legislation

House Bill 139 Update

As many of you may remember, last winter UPAC was embroiled in a debate concerning House Bill 139. To summarize, H.B. 139 included; 1) proposed major changes to the state archaeological permitting system, 2) proposed changes to how state agencies consider the effect of their undertakings on cultural resources, and finally 3) some interpreted the proposed changes as eliminating the position of State Archaeologist. Some members were in favor of the changes proposed by H.B. 139 and others (myself included) were opposed to these changes.

On March 17, 2006, Governor Huntsman signed H.B. 139 into law. The Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO) now oversees archaeological permitting. Ironically, PLPCO hired me to coordinate this effort. I would like to admit that I was wrong about some of the changes that resulted from the passage of H.B. 139.

On June 1, 2006 PLPCO took responsibility for state archaeological permitting. Permits are awarded to individuals rather than agencies or companies and are only assigned for the position of Principal Investigator. The position of Field Supervisor is no longer subject to a permit. Principal Investigator permits to survey are now valid for three years and the qualifications to obtain this permit have changed. A "FAQs" link is available on PLPCO's website <http://governor.utah.gov/publiclands/default.htm>, under "Archaeological Permitting." This link provides more information about these and other changes or you may contact me with questions. Archaeological survey and excavation permit applications are also available on PLPCO's webpage. PLPCO actively conducts field checks of state survey and excavation projects.

The changes that resulted to how state agencies consider the effect of their undertakings on cultural resources (Utah Code § 9-8-404) were more subtle and arguably very positive. State agencies must now provide the state historic preservation officer (SHPO) with a **written** evaluation of an expenditure's or undertaking's effect on historic properties. Written evaluations were not required in the past. If the SHPO does not concur with an agency's written evaluation, PLPCO may initiate joint analysis, which considers the cost of the undertaking, land ownership, the likelihood of the presence and the nature and type of historic properties and distinct alternatives for the identification, recovery, or excavation of historic properties, including ways to maximize the amount of information recovered and report that information at current standards of scientific rigor. Along these lines, U.C. § 63-38(d)-603(d) further states that "consistent with other statutory duties, [PLPCO] encourage[s] agencies to responsibly preserve archaeological resources."

Finally, I cannot speak to the interpretation that H.B. 139 eliminated the position of State Archaeologist. Statutory description of the position was stricken; however, the position is still intact and continues to be occupied by Dr. Kevin Jones.



Upcoming Events

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UPAC Winter Meeting

The Winter UPAC meeting will be held early 2007, so watch the UPAC website or Yahoo! group for details.

SAA Annual Meeting

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology will be held on April 25-29, 2007 in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit their website at <http://saa.org/meetings/index.html>.

UPAC/USAS Joint Convention

The 2007 joint UPAC and USAS convention will be held in Price, Utah. Check the UPAC website for more upcoming details.

Utah Prehistory Week Poster Contest

Submissions are now being accepted for the annual Utah Prehistory Week Poster Contest through January 1, 2007. Posters must be no more than 16" by 24" and should portray topics in Utah archaeology or paleontology. And of course a HUGE cash prize is awarded to the poster chosen to represent the state. For more information visit http://history.utah.gov/archaeology/public_archaeology/index.html.

For a detailed list of a variety of events related to archaeology, check out the UPAC website! Go to <http://www.upaconline.org/events.htm> for information!

Not a member of UPAC? Joining is easy! Visit www.upaconline.org to complete a membership form and online dues payment options.

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Special Thanks

Projectile point and groundstone drawings used in this newsletter were created by Shannon Arnold

You can access the UPAC website, complete with UPAC contacts and membership application at:

<http://www.upaconline.org>. Check out cool links, contents of past Utah Archaeology

UPAC News

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SUBMISSIONS

UPAC News welcomes all submissions by Utah archaeologists and others working in Utah in archaeology or related fields. Issues of relev-