



Friends of Sierra Rock Art

P. O. Box 1409, Nevada City, CA 95959

www.sierrarockart.org

Newsletter Vol. 16 No. 3

November 2008

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy Holidays!

It's that time again ... time to cast your ballot for FSRA Board members for the coming year. When operating at full capacity, the Board of Directors should consist of seven (7) members but it can be comprised of less than 7 members. Terms of office is the calendar year, Jan.1 to Dec. 31, with no term limits. A new Board is elected each year. The newly elected Board will meet as soon as possible after the first of the year to select officers from among their membership. Included in this newsletter is a ballot containing a slate of candidates for the Board. Please take a moment to vote. Write-in candidates are welcome (as long as they're an FSRA member). And you certainly may write in your own name if you'd like to join the Board. All ballots properly marked and received at the FSRA PO Box on or before January 12th will be counted.

Please consider sending in your dues along with your ballot.



It's also the closing of 2007, which has been a good year for FSRA in many ways. Our field trip to Bishop was a great success, and plans are in the works for a field trip to the Coso Range on China Lake AFB next fall. The Cosos have some of the finest rock art in the world and it will definitely be a trip to remember! Watch your newsletter for more details as they're ironed out.

During 2007, FSRA had its monitoring program in place (and please consider joining our site monitors in 2008 – many rock art sites on the Tahoe National Forest don't get visited every year because there are more sites than there are monitors).

FSRA members worked to protect Wabena from possible future vandalism by blocking off OHV trail leading to the site. FSRA is also working towards the goal of having the Hawley Lake rock art site recorded professionally (the site has never been recorded with the level of accuracy that it deserves.)

The annual FSRA pot luck will be held in the first part of 2008, as is traditional. This year we're having a photo contest! Send in your photos of rock art – they will be available at the pot luck, and we'll vote on them there. The winners (1st, 2nd & 3rd place) will win a rock art-oriented prize, and all the photos will be published in the next newsletter. Date, time and place of the potluck to be announced by separate flyer.

I'd like to wish each and every one of you a happy, prosperous and healthy holiday season. And I hope to see each and every one of you at an FSRA function in 2008!

Kate Harper
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008 FSRA Annual Pot Luck, date, time and place of the potluck to be announced by separate flyer.

2008 Society for California Archaeology, Annual Meetings in Burbank CA, April 17th–20th.

2008 American Rock Art Research Association Annual Meeting in Farmington, NM, May 23 - 26 (35th Anniversary of ARARA).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON'T FORGET! RENEW YOUR FSRA MEMBERSHIP AND VOTE FOR BOARD MEMBERS!

All memberships expire at the end of December, so PLEASE **renew yours today and tell a friend!** Please renew your membership and fill out the committees/activities list so we can update our files. After you have filled out your membership form, please vote for the 2008 Board Members. You are important to us and to the preservation of Sierra Rock Art! We don't want to lose you! The work of FSRA is possible only through the contributions and participation of our members. Even if you might not be able to attend any events this coming year you can still show your support for protecting Sierra Rock Art by renewing your FSRA membership. If you have already renewed, we thank you for your continued support! Your continued support and participation helps makes this organization go and grow!! Do you know someone who might support the goals of FSRA? Encourage them to join today. Please return your membership and board ballot by Jan. 12, 2008.

2008 OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

Outings and activities will follow in subsequent newsletters.

ARTICLES

MONITORS PROTECT SIERRA ROCK ART SITES

By Ross Galia

FSRA site monitors were busy visiting rock art sites this summer, checking their condition for any changes. Unfortunately, each year we observe more scratching and pecking by thoughtless individual on rock art panels.

Jane Punneo and Jan Culbert documented new vandalism at their site. Someone had pecked a new image onto the rock. Jane and Jan photographed and drew the vandalism and submitted the material to **Bill Slater**, TNF archaeologist. **Robert Chesney and Gayle Russell** also noted new "scratching" at their site. **Kyle Ross and Michael Baldrice** reported new graffiti at sites.

On the positive side, **Agnes Walker and Karen Ostergard** noted that the large boulders placed to block OHV access to their site, remain in place. **Jay Schuff and Ann Reisenauer** worked with other FSRA members to protect their site by placing an informational, sign-in box. They organized a field trip with ten FSRA members to work with **TNF archaeologist Carrie Smith** camouflaging the access trail (see story page 4).

Jeff and Diane Thelen and Ann Higgins diligently photographed past graffiti at two of our largest petroglyph sites. **Joel and Theresa Houtman** located their newly assigned, and very hard to find sites and noted no signs of visitation.

For next season we're developing new ideas to get site monitors out to sites. Some require long drives on rough roads and/or a two to four mile hike in. Perhaps group monitoring and record updating trips will be organized.

WANT TO JOIN THIS SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM ?

It's enjoyable to visit these spectacular mountain vistas, while helping preserve Rock Art.

Call Forest Service Archaeologists for more information

Bill Slater 478-6287 or Nolan Smith 367-2224 .

Or Call FSRA Monitor Coordinator Ross Gralia at 265-6607.

FIELD TRIP OUTING – TOQUIMA CAVE

By Agnes Walker

Our May field trip took place on Memorial weekend near Austin, Nevada. Our group included Robert Chesney, wife Gayle Russell and daughter Thea, Jan Culbert, Agnes Walker, and ex FSRA member Pat Fitzgerald (now of Tooele, Utah). They joined members of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation and the USFS for this outing. Thank you to both organizations for letting us accompany you!



This archaeological site is a deep rockshelter (volcanic) covered with over 300 recorded images painted thousands of years ago. The unique pictographs which cover the walls and ceiling are in vivid colors (as you will see if you get email!) and in pristine condition.

Minerals were used for the

pigments: Gypsum for the white; Hematite and Geothite (iron oxides) for the red and yellow; and charcoal were used for black. Dots, circles, lines, squiggles (some very complex) adorn Toquima. This is a very special and sacred place.

So go with reverence – enjoy the cave and ponder the meanings of the paintings and the lives of the artists. Other serendipities include – tranquility, solitude, company with astounding night skies, wildlife, nearly hot springs, beautiful mountains – and shopping for turquoise in Austin.

WABENA ROCK ART SITE PROTECTED

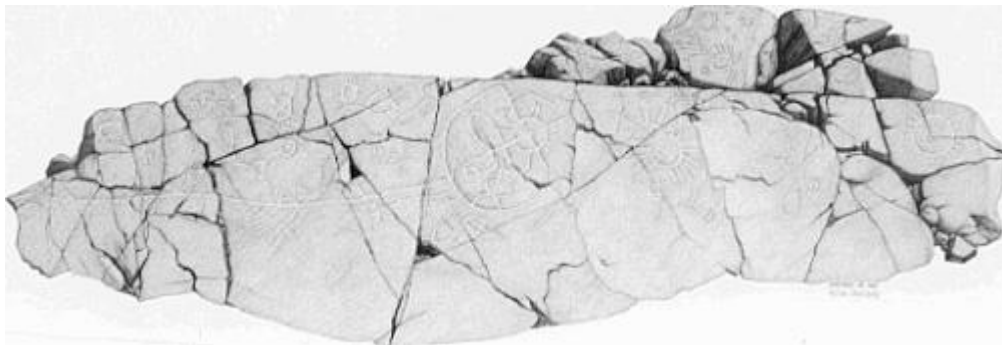
Jay Schuff, site monitor

August 19, 2007 was an FSRA work party, and FSRA members Peter Anick, Ross & Maiya Gralia, Kate Harper, Judy Husted, Jay Schuff and his daughter Sophie, Anne Risenauer, and Agnes Walker were joined by Carrie Smith, Tahoe National Forest Archaeologist to help protect a rock art treasure in the Sierra Nevada near Truckee.

Tree slash was placed on a 200 yard section of trail to provide a barrier to keep off road vehicles from approaching the site, and to disguise the dirt road leading to the site to make it less conspicuous. A site visitor box was placed near the petroglyphs. The box contains educational materials explaining the need to protect our heritage and also a place for visitors to sign their names. A good time was had by all and we all left with an immense feeling of accomplishment.

Wabena is very special to FSRA – Friends of Sierra Rock Art was founded in 1990 specifically to address threats to this magnificent rock art site. In 2003, it was clear that Wabena and other high Sierra Rock art sites still desperately needed help (Wabena sustained minor vandalism that was discovered by Bill Drake, an FSRA site monitor). Carrie Smith said then: “With the tremendous increases in vandalism occurring on the TNF, I would like to see more monitoring at the TNF sites. We district archaeologists do not have the time nor the funding for such work. We really do need your help.”

FSRA’s help is still very much needed, as vandalism hasn’t gone away. The Wabena site has been visited by OHVs, and we suspect that some of them drove directly over the rock art panel. Hopefully the slash and tree limbs will make it too difficult for vehicles to drive to the point. The site is still accessible to foot traffic, so that people can walk out to the point, enjoy the incredible views and appreciate the rock art.



John Bett's drawing of the Wabena petroglyphs



Jay Schuff, Sophie, Agnes Walker, Judy Husted, Ross Gralia, Anne Risenaue and Maiya Graila getting ready to start work.



Slash across the OHV trail

Newsletter Article On Old Soda Springs

by Robert Chesney

A small group of hardy individuals met at the Ice Lakes Lodge late in the afternoon of August 23, 2007. We regrouped and carpoled down the dusty county road to the private land at Old Soda Springs. We were welcomed by the landowner, who allowed all who wished a sample of the water from the soda spring. He gave an interesting talk on the history of the property, and then led us up to the petroglyph site on the granitic slopes that house the fairly extensive glyphs. The property owner is a responsible land steward and keeps watch over this site. The glyphs were most visible after the sun had set. After we had photographed and gazed at the glyphs we headed back to the valley floor, and to our cars. When we arrived back at Ice Lakes, most of us elected to have an enjoyable supper at the Lodge. Participants on this trip were Peter and Sue Graf, Agnes Walker, Jim Evans, Karen Ostergard, Ann Reisenauer, Gayle Russell, and Robert Chesney. We were once again feeling very fortunate to be allowed access to this site on private property.

2008 BOARD NOMINATIONS

As the Nominations Committee Chairman I have the honor of nominating the following FSRA members to the Board: Kate Harper, Robert Chesney, Joel Houtman, Jan Culbert, Agnes Walker, and Jane Punneo.

FSRA NEWSLETTER

Articles to the newsletter may be submitted to Nolan Smith via email at ndksmith@theunion.net or snail mail at 128 Celesta Drive, Grass Valley, CA, 95945. Please use **Times New Roman font, 12 point, no spacing, and no indentations**. All articles are the responsibility of the author and should be complete and ready to be included in the newsletter with little or no editing. Authors are also responsible for the content and accuracy of their articles. All articles reflect the opinion of the authors and not necessarily the FSRA. Graphics such as digital photos, sketches, etc. can also be included with their locations included in the text of the article. If necessary, the Editor can scan photos and sketches.

In 2008 we will be sending member's newsletter via email, those of you who do not have email will be receiving their newsletter via snail mail. What are the advantages of email? 1. It saves time and FSRA expense (last year we saved over \$50, by using email) over snail mailing your newsletter, 2. You get it almost immediately and 3. You get it in color. 4. If you wish to get yours by email, contact Nolan, see email address above.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE DATE IS: JANUARY 30th, 2008.

FSRA 2007 OFFICERS/ CHAIRPERSONS

Board Members

President	Kate Harper 916-218-6087 ghostdancer@comcast.net
Vice President	Robert Chesney 916.663.2575 penrynpalms@mybluelight.com
Treasurer	Jane Punneo York 265-2103 npunneo@aol.com
Secretary	Maiya Gralia 530.265.6607 gralia@nccn.net
Members at Large	Agnes Walker 530.432.0950 Jan Culbert jeculbert@sbcglobal.net

Special Events/Committee Chairs

Archives/Library	Nolan & Dee Smith
Bylaws	Ross and Maiya Gralia Kyle Ross
Historian	Agnes Walker 530.432.0950
May Events	Ross and Maiya Gralia
Newsletter	Nolan Smith
Outings/Membership	Kate Harper
Site Advocacy	Jay Schuff
Site Monitoring	Nolan Smith, Bill Slater, Ross Gralia
Website	Kyle Ross KJ3Ross@directcon.net



FRIENDS OF SIERRA ROCK ART

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<http://www.sierrarockart.org>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Date: _____ DUES: _____ \$15.00 INDIVIDUAL _____ \$25.00

FAMILY/COUPLE

Name(s)

LAST _____ FIRST _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____

LAST _____ FIRST _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Email _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FSRA. Dues are for the calendar year. FSRA is not for profit. All proceeds are used to cover expenses and contributions to rock art projects. For anyone who joins after June, the dues will be reduced by 50%.

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN FSRA COMMITTEES.

EDUCATION___ SITE MONITORING ___ SITE RECORDING ___ MEMBERSHIP ___ WEB SITE ___

OUTINGS___ SITE ADVOCACY ___ PUBLIC OUTREACH ___ MAY EVENTS___ OTHER _____

All FSRA members are expected to read and agree to the FSRA Code of Ethics and sign a release of liability.

2008 BOARD BALLOT (vote for seven):

Kate Harper _____ Robert Chesney _____ Jan Culbert _____ Joel Houtman _____

Agnes Walker _____ Jane Panneo _____ Write In _____

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