

Kachina Shelter Pictograph

Nevada Site Stewardship Program



Kachina Shelter was discovered by European-Americans when Forest Ranger Graham Quate made an exploratory trip to the area in 1924. Governor J.G. Scrugham, an archaeological and historical enthusiast, urged M.R. Harrington of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles to visit the site, which he did with his family in 1932. Harrington, whose wife named the site, worked at Kachina Shelter through the 1930s. The shelter was again excavated in the 1950s and 1970s. Most of the artifacts recovered, as well as the multitude of red anthropomorphic pictographs, show a relationship to the agricultural Fremont Culture of central Utah. The Fremont made incursions into eastern Nevada for a few centuries prior to AD 1200. Recent studies have suggested the Fremont were most closely related to the Puebloan Cultures in the Southwest. If that is the case, then naming the shelter “Kachina” Shelter may have been an apt name since the Puebloan Tribes in Arizona and New Mexico have maintained Kachina societies for more than a millennium.

The Nevada Site Stewardship Program is a state-sponsored program consisting of volunteer citizens committed to protecting Nevada’s cultural heritage. Preservation is accomplished through educating volunteer site stewards to assist state and federal land managers in monitoring archaeological, historic, and paleontological resources across the state.

For more information on Nevada’s Site Stewardship program visit:

<http://nvshpo.org/stewards/site-steward-program.html>

For more information on Nevada’s significant rock art and to join the effort to protect these resources visit:

<http://www.nvrockart.org/>

