

To: Gordon Smith  
Sub: Shaman's Gallery  
Date: March 2, 2008  
From: Jack Sprague (ARARA)

Dear Mr. Smith:

My name is Jack Sprague and I am the chairperson of the Conservation and Preservation Committee for the American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA). The reason that I am writing you is in regards to the rock art site named Shaman's Gallery.

It has been brought to my attention that you have blatantly posted a detailed map on your website of directions to this important and very fragile archaeological site. Further, you have totally misrepresented yourself on your website by stating that you discovered this site and therefore had the right to rename it after yourself. In fact, this site was first documented in 1911, and lastly in 1986, when it was meticulously recorded by professional archaeologists Polly and Curt Schaafsma, a project that you were hired on to pack in supplies. But these misrepresentations are just the result of your misplaced ego, and not of true concern to the archaeological community.

What is of concern is the detailed map you have posted with directions to Shaman's Gallery. This action is wrong on so many levels I don't know where to begin. First, I know, it is not illegal for you to post that information on the website. It is morally and ethically wrong, but technically you are not breaking the law. However, there is definitely the potential that your posted directional information could fall into the hands of someone who would be inclined to vandalize this site, and therefore you could be liable as an accessory under an ARPA conviction.

Gordon, what you have done by posting this information on the Internet it to guarantee that this very fragile and extremely valuable archaeological site will be destroyed by the uneducated, or criminal visitor, and the knowledge contained within this site and those surrounding it will be lost forever. This is something that will impact you and future generations of Smith's because when this information is destroyed, we have lost a valuable piece of prehistory. If you love this site enough to rename it after yourself, Gordon's Panel, then please help us protect this site by taking all directional information to Shaman's Gallery off your web site, and by contacting the Grand Canyon National Park archaeologist and asking what you can do to help them maintain the integrity of this, and other archaeological sites, in the park. That would be a legacy your family would be proud of.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Jack Sprague  
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Conservation and Preservation Committee  
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