

The Uncompahgre Journal



CHIPETA CHAPTER
COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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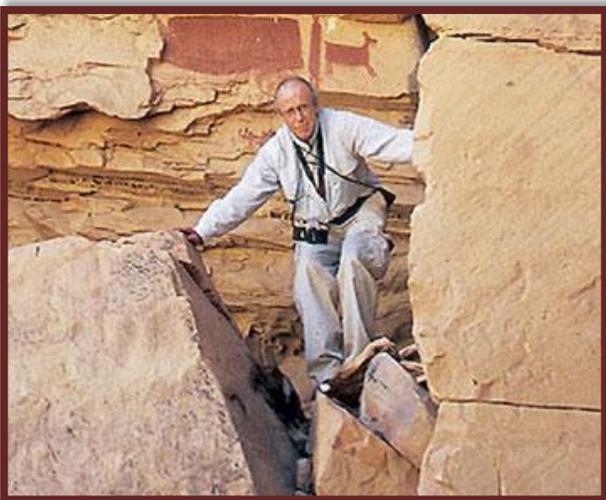
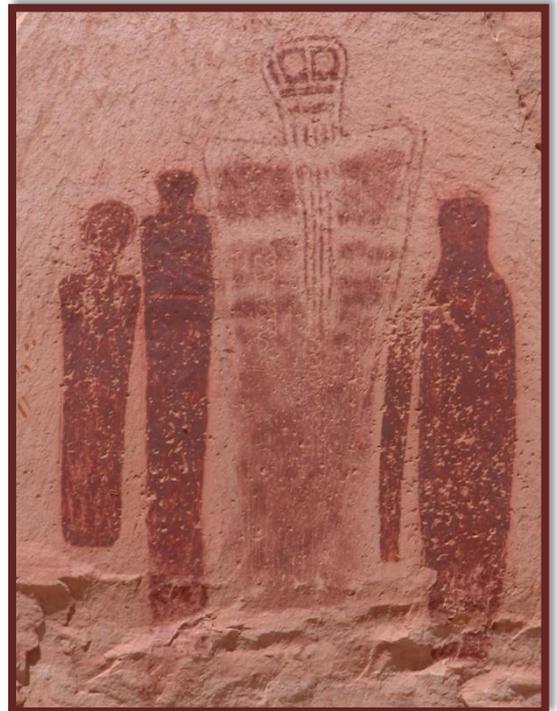
Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 7 p.m., Baldrige Hall, Montrose United Methodist Church, South 1st St. and Park Avenue.

Program: "BARRIER CANYON STYLE ROCK ART PROJECT" Presented by David Sucec

David Sucec has been putting his Master of Fine Arts degree to work documenting and photographing Barrier Canyon Style rock art. His background as an artist, author, college professor, curator, and special investigator of Utah's ancient arts has given him a special appreciation of this southwestern rock art.

In 1991 David Sucec and Craig Law began documentation of Barrier Canyon Style (BCS) rock art. By March of 2009 they had photographed 348 sites. The objectives of the BCS PROJECT is to record and photograph all Barrier Canyon style rock art images with a large-format camera for maximum clarity and detail; produce archival photographic prints (gelatin-silver and ultra-stable color processes) for viewing and study; to create a complete inventory of the documented sites; and to generate a scholarly description and analysis of the style's imagery.



There are a variety of opinions regarding the age of the Barrier Canyon Style. However Alan Watchman of the Australian National University indicates radiocarbon analysis dates some of them to the Early Archaic period, from approximately 7430 B.C. to 5260 B.C.

The BCS PROJECT, including inventory and interpretation, is expected to be completed by 2016 and housed in the Special Collections Division of the Marriott Library, University of Utah as a record and resource for scholars/interested public in the study of the Barrier Canyon style and Utah prehistoric rock art. A symposium focusing on the Barrier Canyon style is tentatively planned for 2015.

In addition, the BCS PROJECT has also undertaken a public

outreach program. The goal of this program is, through lectures, exhibitions, and publications, to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of prehistoric rock art and to encourage ethical and respectful behavior towards the rock art panels. The preservation of these irreplaceable prehistoric images depends, above all, on appropriate human interaction—an individual can, in less than fifteen minutes, do more damage to a rock art panel than three or four thousand years of natural weathering.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

November, 2009

Recently, while cruising around the Internet, I happened upon a link to something called “The Archaeology Channel”. At first, I dismissed it as just another misnamed site on the web, but curiosity prevailed, and I had to check it out. If you're looking for a site where you can find short videos dealing with archaeology worldwide, this is the place to go. It has links to many videos on a wide variety of archaeological topics; some just a few minutes long while others can be as long as 30+ minutes. I found the site most interesting. If you didn't know about it, consider yourself informed. If you already knew about it, consider yourself re-informed. <http://www.archaeologychannel.org>

Also, we are still searching for someone to serve as CAS Rep. The main duty of a CAS Rep is to represent Chipeta Chapter at quarterly CAS meetings. If interested, let me know, and I'll pass the info along to the Nominating Committee.

Bill Manske billmcc9@gmail.com Ph. 970-417-9014

BUSINESS SPONSOR: We greatly appreciate the interest in and support for the Chipeta Chapter from: **Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.**

~~~providing professional archaeological assistance and consulting~~~

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**Phone:** (970) 249-6761

**E-mail:** [alpine@alpinearchaeology.com](mailto:alpine@alpinearchaeology.com).

## OCTOBER PROGRAM REPORT

ROCK ART OF THE GREATER SOUTHWEST

By Allen Dart

At Chipeta Chapter's October 2009 meeting, Allen Dart of Tucson gave an illustrated talk on rock art of the Greater Southwest. Allen Dart, a professional archaeologist, gives educational presentations throughout his state under the sponsorship of the Arizona Humanities Council. Dart's overview of Southwestern rock art helped the Chipeta audience identify the various styles of images used over time by groups of Native Americans.

Dart said an easy way to visualize the Greater Southwest cultural boundary is to think of present-day cities: from Las Vegas, Nevada east to Las Vegas, New Mexico; and from Durango, Colorado south across the border to Durango, Mexico. The prehistoric agricultural southwest incorporates three cultural regions: Anasazi, Hohokam, and Mogollon, each having distinctive rock art styles. Besides reviewing the more familiar rock art

of the Four Corners region, Dart included some lesser known regional rock art, such as Western Arizona's Patayan style, and the southern Trincheras style.

The Chipeta Chapter sends a hearty thank you to Allen Dart and to program coordinator Dr. Carol Patterson for bringing us this excellent Program. Chipeta members are encouraged to participate in rock art field trips sponsored by the Chapter.

## NEW MEXICO FIELD TRIP

Morning on Mesa Prieta

Article by Herb Probasco

Photos by Elaine Probasco

Northern New Mexico in mid-October is a rhapsody in blue and gold. Thousands enjoy it every year, but few go behind the scenes to places like the Wells Petroglyph Preserve.

That boulder-to-boulder gallery of protected rock art -- as protected as a site near a public road can be -- was the first stop on the mid-October Chipeta Chapter field trip organized by Carol Patterson and Ed Horton.



Images in lava above the Rio Grande: An October view from Wells Petroglyph Preserve.



One panel after another: Traipsing through Wells Petroglyph Preserve.

not so long ago left any of these boulders unpecked? Yes, but we never seemed to move but a few feet before another display appeared. As juniper has sprouted and grown over the centuries, it makes the hunt all the more intriguing. What's on that rock, once spotlighted by the sun, but now shaded into obscurity? New to some of us were the many cupules found on the lava rock -- pecked or ground circular depressions whose significance

We knew in advance that we were a privileged group. The 156-acre preserve is open only four times a year to the public. However, private tours can be arranged, and that was how 14 of us -- divided into four groups -- were able to spend a Friday morning north of Espanola, N.M., on the slopes of Mesa Prieta, a 1,000-foot-high escarpment that rises above an intoxicatingly beautiful valley bordering the Rio Grande.

Guiding us through the cactus and the rocks were four of the dedicated volunteers who have been recording the site's thousands of images -- from Archaic to Historic. Shields, serpents, flute players, birds, hands, circles, circles within circles, corn stalks, Zia symbols, mountain sheep, crosses, fertility scenes, horses, big cats.

Had the image-makers from long ago and

remains open to interpretation.

As recently as 2004, Mesa Prieta was listed among the "most endangered places in New Mexico." It was nominated to that list by Katherine Wells, an artist who moved to the area in the early 1990s, purchasing land on the mesa. Two years ago, Wells donated 156 acres, all but a 3-acre home site, to the Archaeological Conservancy. Her donation and other recent developments suggest that Mesa Prieta is less endangered today. (Our group briefly encountered Katherine Wells as we were concluding our tour.)

Back in Colorado, it became a priority to read Wells' just-published memoir: "Life on the Rocks." A moving and absorbing tale, it might be best read after one has visited Wells' beloved land. Being there offered surprises, but reading afterward about Katherine Wells' exhausting struggle to make a home and protect a resource brought revelations that were all the more rich for having had a morning on Mesa Prieta.

Note: Self-guided tours of the Wells Petroglyph Preserve can be arranged. Call Vecinos del Rio, the nonprofit organization that supports the preserve: 505-852-1351

## CHIPETANS TOUR NEW MEXICO ROCK ART SITES

Article by Laurie Labak

Fourteen Chipeta members traveled to northern New Mexico for a field trip October 15-20, 2009. They scrambled up boulder-strewn slopes to see extraordinary rock art panels.

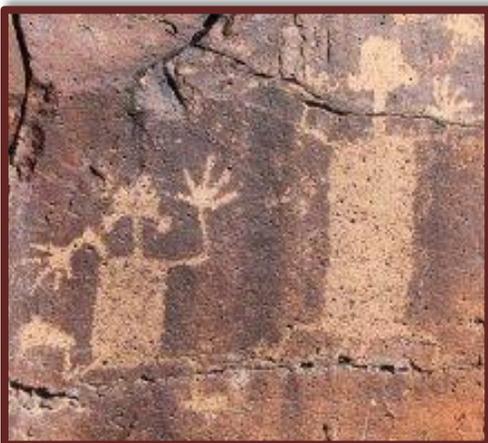
New Mexico's mild climate attracted Paleo-Indian and Archaic hunter-gatherers followed by two thousand years of farming, trading, raiding, and migrating. The historical period brought three successive colonial governments. The blending of cultures over many centuries is reflected in rock art styles of New Mexico.

Volunteer docents led the Chipeta group to the rock art of Mesa Prieta, near Velarde, New Mexico. Local residents there have undertaken a rock art recording project to document the more than 20,000 petroglyphs on the mesa. Most of the petroglyphs are Rio Grande style, created between 1300 and 1600 A.D. by the ancestors of the present day Pueblo people.



POSSIBLE BIRTHING SCENE by Laurie Labak

At another Rio Grande style rock art site near Espanola, Dr. Carol Patterson related the true story of the



Navajo warrior known to Puebloans as Head Pounder. After Puebloans captured and killed Head Pounder, they created a song and a rock art panel to honor his bravery. Carol pointed out elements of the petroglyph that told the story of the great warrior. Later the group toured Nambe Pueblo's narrow lanes and its central plaza with ceremonial kiva. When Carol lived in Nambe as a young woman, the Puebloan people she met inspired her studies and research in southwestern anthropology and rock art cryptology.

One day the group toured a cliff face high above the ruin mound of La Cienega Pueblo near Santa Fe. The pristine rock art panels are fiercely protected by the landowner, who is also a site steward for

the BLM. The Cienega site is featured in Carol Patterson’s book *Petroglyphs and Pueblo Myths of the Rio Grande*. In her book, Carol states, “The myths are written on the rocks and one can interpret much of what is there. ...There are multiple meanings, multiple variations of oral traditions and multiple levels of interpretation.” Chipeta members listened intently as Carol told the Puebloan stories of Water Jar Boy, the sisters Uretsete and Naotsete, their mother Spider Woman and her corn fetish Iariko. Carol demonstrated how elements of these origin stories are represented on Cienega rock art panels and are central to the mythology of the Eastern pueblos.

David Manley led an afternoon tour of the cliffside rock art panels of La Cieneguilla, near Santa Fe. David’s fine photography of rock art of the southwest was featured at Chipeta Chapter’s April 2009 program.



Gobernador Style pictographs by Ed Horton

For their last two days, the group explored the land of the Dinetah with David Casey, Chipeta Chapter member from Aztec, New Mexico. David’s group hiked and climbed to Rosa style Puebloan petroglyphs and Navajo-style panels in Gobernador and Largo canyons east of Blanco, New Mexico. At one site they discovered a finely serrated stone knife and a massive, hundred-foot petrified tree trunk. Both items were photographed and left in place. To better understand the many Navajo ye’i figures portrayed in rock art, David recommends reading Gladys Reichard’s book *Navajo Religion*. The New Mexico tour ended with a festive Thai dinner in Aztec with David Casey.

Ed Horton, field trip coordinator, secured permission for touring Mesa Prieta and La Cienega sites as both have highly restricted access. Field trip participants are extremely grateful to Ed, Dr. Carol Patterson, David Manley, David Casey, the volunteer docents of Mesa Prieta, and the La Cienega site steward. Chipeta Chapter sponsors one-day and multi-day archaeological field trips. Contact Ed Horton for details, lace up your hiking boots and join your fellow Chipetans on their next expedition.



David Casey – possible Night Chant ceremony



**Editors Notes:** Thank you to Ed Horton for including this disturbing picture where a panel of rock art has been removed. It illustrates the problems facing the preservation of antiquities.

There will be no newsletter or program in December. However, there will be a Christmas party at the Museum of the Mountain West on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Please mark you calendars and watch your inbox or mailbox for additional information. Many thanks to Rich and Carol Fike for their generous offering of the museum again this year for our gathering!

**Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship**-Please consider a donation to the Carlyle (Squint) and Juanita Moore Scholarship Fund. The fund supports college students in the field of archaeology. The fund now provides one scholarship, and the goal is to support two scholarships. Checks can be made out to "Montrose Community Foundation"-in the check memo section note "Moore Scholarship". Please do not make them out to Chipeta Chapter. Funds should be mailed to Montrose Community Foundation, P.O. Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402. Please note that the check payee and mailing address represent changes from previous scholarship information.



**2009 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

|                                |                            |                             |                                         |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>               | Bill Manske (417-9014)     | <b>CAS Representative</b>   | Chuck Richey (249-1751)                 |
| <b>Vice President/Programs</b> | Carol Patterson (252-8679) | <b>Professional Advisor</b> | Carol Patterson                         |
| <b>Secretary</b>               | Marcia Coman (249-3479)    | <b>Appointed Members</b>    | Dick Drake, Ed Horton,<br>Herb Probasco |
| <b>Treasurer</b>               | Linda Manske (209-6232)    |                             |                                         |

**Standing committees (per by-laws)**

**Field Trips:** Ed Horton, chairperson (874-5142); Chuck Richey  
**Publicity:** Herb Probasco, chairperson (252-0918)  
**Newsletter:** John & Carla Sanborn (874-8586), Laurie Labak  
**Nominating:** (Appointed in the fall) **Library:** Elizabeth Binder, chairperson (249-9647)

**Other committees and posts**

**Refreshments:** Joan Richey  
**Scholarship:** Hal Manhart, chairperson (249-2017); Jon Horn, Bill Harris  
**Membership/Hospitality:** Chairperson needed; Elizabeth Binder  
**PAAC:** Laurie Labak (970-712-8121)

**\*\*Membership Renewal Alert\*\***

A gentle reminder, the following membership renewals are due or overdue. Please contact Linda Manske, chapter treasurer, at 209-6232, if you have any questions or corrections.

|                                 |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| C. Wesley & Wanda Allen         | Norling & Lisa Anderson         | Marcia Corman       |
| Arleen Friedman & Duane Thaxton | Leigh Ann Hunt                  | Alex & Laurie Labak |
| John & Linda Lowitz             | Allan & Barb Schneider          | David Wilson        |
|                                 | Carol Patterson & Alan Watchman |                     |

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Chipeta Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

*Payment of dues is considered affirmation of consent to abide by the Code of Ethics of CAS*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check one  Renewal  New Member Are you a member of another CAS chapter?  Yes  No

Check membership category. Dues include membership in Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS)

Individual (\$23)  Family (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual\* (\$15)  Family\* (\$20) Supporting contribution: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\*Does not receive Southwestern Lore, the CAS journal

I want to receive *The Uncompahgre Journal*, the Chipeta Chapter newsletter, via:  E-mail or  U.S. Mail

I want to receive *The Surveyor*, the state newsletter via:  E-mail or  U.S. Mail

Contact information about our members is never disclosed unless approved in advance by members.

(We) give CAS permission to:

Yes  No  disclose phone numbers to other CAS members

Yes  No  publish name/contact information in chapter directory

Yes  No  publish name in newsletter (which may be sent to other chapters, etc.)

## CODE OF ETHICS

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge:

- To uphold state and federal antiquities laws.
- To support policies and educational programs designed to protect our cultural heritage and our state's antiquities.
- To encourage protection and discourage exploitation of archaeological resources.
- To encourage the study and recording of Colorado's archaeology and cultural history. To take an active part by participating in field and laboratory work for the purpose of developing new and significant information about the past.
- To respect the property rights of landowners.
- To assist whenever possible in locating, mapping and recording archaeological sites within Colorado, using State Site Survey forms.
- To respect the dignity of peoples whose cultural histories and spiritual practices are the subject of any investigation.
- To support only scientifically conducted activities and never participate in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit or misrepresentation about archaeological matters.
- To report vandalism.
- To remember that cultural resources are non-renewable and do not belong to you or me, but are ours to respect, to study and to enjoy.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form, with signature(s), to Chipeta Chapter of CAS, P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81402

Chipeta Chapter  
Colorado Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 593  
Montrose, CO 81402



*Please recycle*

**Researchers Report on Major Clovis Discovery in Sonora:** Scientists have discovered a site containing the most extensive evidence seen so far in Mexico for the Clovis culture. The find extends the range of America's oldest identifiable culture, which roamed North America about 13,000 years ago. The bed of artifacts in the state of Sonora in northwest Mexico also includes the bones of an extinct cousin of the mastodon called a "gomphotherium". The beast was probably hunted and killed by the Clovis people, known for their distinctive spear points, who mysteriously disappeared within about 500 years of leaving their first archeological traces.  
[http://www.nature.com/news/2009/091021/full/news.2009.1034.html?s=news\\_rss](http://www.nature.com/news/2009/091021/full/news.2009.1034.html?s=news_rss)

**Ohio Art Professor Studies Achaean Astronomy Links to Ancient Kivas in Southeastern Utah:** Jim Krehbiel was up past midnight making a piece of art by layering maps and field notes onto photos he had taken of an ancient ritual site high on a cliff ledge in the desert Southwest. He looked at the image of the kiva and remembered how the ruins were nearly inaccessible. Krehbiel had to lower himself on a rope to reach them. Why, he wondered that night in the fall of 2007, would anyone build something so important in such a remote spot among the canyons and mesas?  
<http://tinyurl.com/yl4xeaz> - Ohio Dispatch