



The Uncompahgre Journal

September 2016

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 33 Issue 7

Mark Your Calendar

Sept 10-18: Field trip to Mesa Verde, Canyon of the Ancients, Ute Mountain Tribal Park, and more. Contact Karen Kinnear for info or to sign up (kinnear.rockies@gmail.com).

Sept 16: Movie Fundraiser (\$25), *Waking the Mammoth*, with discussion by Craig Childs and Four Corners area scholars. Sunflower Theater, Cortez, CO, 7 pm. For details, see <https://sunflowertheatre.org/>.

Sept 20: CAS-GJ Monthly Meeting. Paul Reed on Chaco Canyon, GJ City Hall Council Chambers, 250 N. 5th St. west side entrance, 7:00 pm.

Sept 21: Chipeta Chapter. John Pitts on fulgurites (*right*). United Methodist Church, 1st and Park, Montrose. 7:00 pm.

Oct 7-10: CAS Annual Conference & Meeting, hosted by CAS-GJ, Student Center Ballroom, CMU, 1100 North Avenue, GJ. Details at <http://cas-gj.weebly.com/>.

Oct 25-29: Society for Cultural Astronomy in the American Southwest Conference at Crow Canyon, CO. For membership and registration information visit <http://scaas.org/>

John Pitts - When Lightning Strikes Twice: Correlating Lightning Strikes and Rock Art Imagery

Lightning strikes are one of the most visual elements found in nature and it is not surprising that Native Americans have been captivated for eons by the power of lightning. Evidence of that is seen in the frequent depictions of lightning in rock art images, as well as the role lightning plays in many of the stories of those ancient cultures. Mr. Pitts has studied the phenomenon of lightning bolt tracks on rock/cliff surfaces, called rock fulgurites, for years. His research has raised a number of questions pertaining to the frequency of those strikes, the dating of them, and the possible connection to the associated rock art. Since little has been established scientifically in relation to lightning bolt strikes to date, the field is wide open. Mr. Pitts will present certain theories concerning the relationship between the rock fulgurites and rock art imagery portraying nature and human survival.

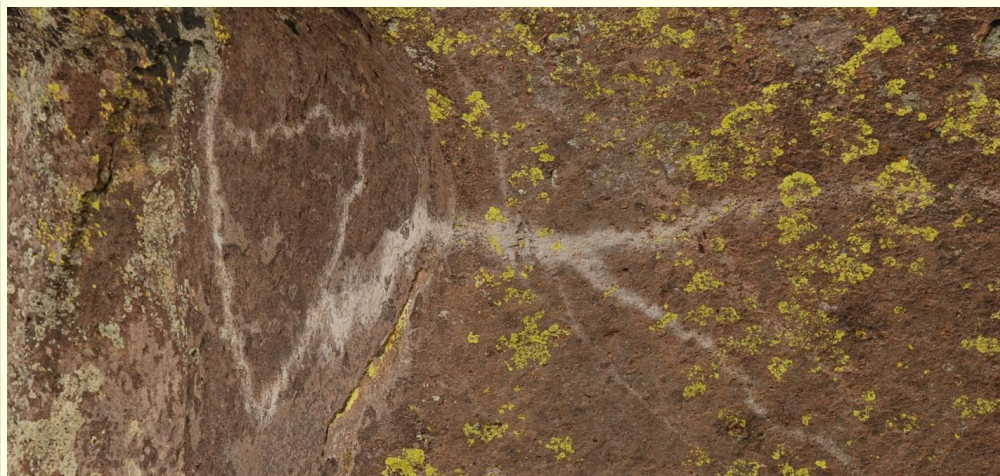


Photo by John Pitts

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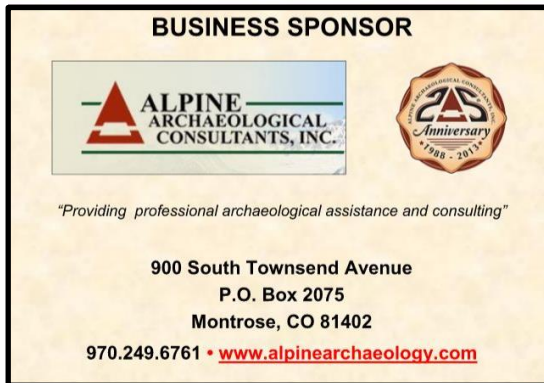
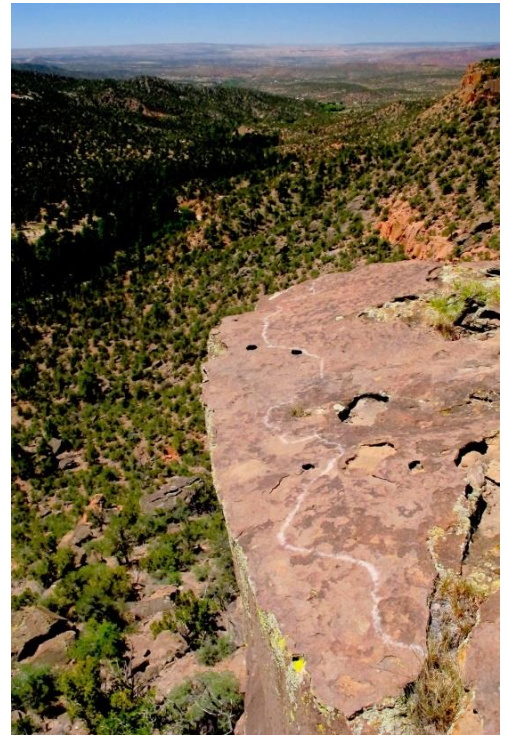
P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81402

Submissions for publication may be emailed to: Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu

This Month's Speaker

Mr. Pitts was educated at Princeton University (BA, 1967) and Johns Hopkins University (MA, 1969) and served in the U.S. Foreign Service for 28 years before retiring to Santa Fe to pursue archaeological studies. His primary focus has been on the conservation and preservation of rock art sites throughout the Southwest. He has conducted major rock art recording projects in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, including long-term recording/surveying with the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project (Leyden, NM) and the Sears Point BLM Recording Project (Arizona). Most recently he headed a team which recorded rock art in the expanded areas of the Petrified Forest National Park (Holbrook, AZ) as part of the Centennial Celebration of the Park System. Mr. Pitts is associated with the New Mexico Museum of Indian Art and Culture and serves as a Site Steward with the Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, Bandelier National Monument and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Photo by John Pitts



The Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship

Created in honor of Chipeta Chapter founding member Carlyle "Squint" Moore and his wife, the scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving high school senior or college student intending to enroll or already enrolled in an Anthropology or Archaeology program. Students can apply online at [collegeXpress](http://collegeXpress.com). Note that the deadline is April 1.

The scholarship is managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. If you wish to donate, please send your tax deductible donations to the Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402.

In Memorium

Florence Cline Lister died Sunday afternoon, September 4, at her home in Mancos, Colorado. She was 96. Florence's career in archaeology began with a chance encounter with an Ancestral Pueblo corrugated jar in the late 1930s, which in turn led her to move from California, transfer to the University of New Mexico, and change her major to anthropology in 1939. Florence went on to a distinguished career, publishing important technical studies of Spanish and Mexican Majolica and Ancestral Pueblo pottery and becoming widely known for her many popular books on

Southwestern archaeology, some of which have remained in print for decades. She also led innumerable public tours and programs for the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and other organizations. Despite declining eyesight and mobility, Florence continued to be an active writer and lecturer until her passing. Many of her earlier publications were co-authored with her husband, prominent Southwestern archaeologist Robert H. Lister, who died in 1990. She is survived by two sons, Frank, in Mancos, and Gary, in Estes Park, Colorado, and by several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Cochetopa Park Field Trip

Words and photos by Leigh Ann Hunt

The two-day Cochetopa Park field trip in July was a good time that took in four or five points of interest in the area surrounding Cochetopa Dome in eastern Gunnison County. This area is located south of Highway 50 and 114 next to the Continental Divide, at about 9,000 feet in elevation. The field trip camp was located southwest of the Dome, on a flat that turned out to have numerous peeled ponderosa pines all around it.

Leigh Ann Hunt, retired Forest Service archaeologist, led ten chapter members to view the GMUG National Forest excavation site at the old Barlow and Sanderson Stage Stop (1870s) located near the Old Los Pinos Ute Agency on an old toll road to Lake City. She was able to describe what was found



Historic Barlow & Sanderson Stage Station chimney (2009 Photo)

in each of the features when they were excavated by the Forest Service in 2009, along with showing photographs of such un-

sual artifacts as a brass epaulet, child's

marbles, and arrowheads that were found at the bottom of the stone lined well. The excavation confirmed that this was an overnight station on the toll road that served the San Juan mountain area before the railroad was built.

The group also stopped at the Old Agency, which was where the Los Pinos Indian agency was originally located in 1869, prior to being moved to the Uncompahgre valley a few years later. Leigh Ann had a copy of a photograph taken by W.H. Jackson in 1869 at that same spot to compare while

she told of the events that took place there, including the arrival of infamous cannibal Alferd Packer in 1874.



George Decker is tempted to taste the scrapings off a (non-modified) ponderosa pine

Although rain prevented us from making the drive up to view the Razor Creek Dome Game Drive fence, we looked at some of the dozens of Culturally Modified

Ponderosa pine trees (CMT's) in the area, where Utes of long

ago had peeled off bark to get at the edible cambium layer, and we even tasted some pine cambium to decide if you could live on it (you could). After visiting a small prehistoric circular stone hunting blind above a small runoff pond to the west of the Old Agency work center, the grand finale was to visit the "Ute Fortified Site", a stacked stone wall outlining several "rooms" on the narrow fin of a ridge south of the work center. Although there is no clear indication the "fort" is Ute, it does appear defensive and there used to be CMT's within it, suggesting Ute presence. Few artifacts were found here when the Denver CAS Chapter test excavated it in the early 1970s, so it remains a mystery even though it

is one of the most architectural sites in the area. It has a stupendous view of the entire park.



Group descends from the Ute Fortified Site.

While returning from the hikes, the group stopped to look for natural obsidian pebbles called Apache Tears on the slopes near Dome Lakes, which are easy to find once you know what to look for. The volcanic glass form

this source was rarely used by the prehistoric people though.

From the Editor
Alferd Packer in the News from 1883



You may have noticed Alferd Packer's name in Leigh Ann's article about the field trip to Cochetopa Park. Carol Patterson sent me a copy of a news article about Alferd from the Friday, March 23, 1883, edition of the *Saguache Chronicle*, serving "Saguache County and Southwestern Colorado." While it's too long to reproduce here, it was reprinted in its entirety in the *Saguache Crescent* ("You've Got to Have the Crescent to Get the News") on February 6, 1919. A facsimile of that day's paper can be found at <http://sag.stparchive.com/Archive/SAG/SAG02061919P01.php>.

Packer is a person of some fascination for Coloradans, and apparently many others around the country. Interestingly, all the legal documents concerning Packer have his name spelled as Alfred, but he signed them as Alferd. Back in the late 1980s a grave was discovered near Lake San Cristobal which contained the skeletons of five men. An archaeological team excavated that grave in 1989 and the bones were analyzed by a team of forensic anthropologists. The forensic analysis of the bodies documents extensive blunt and sharp force trauma from both ends of a hatchet, allowing for no doubt that the men were murdered. Further, it is clear from the distribution of cut marks on the bones that meat was removed and presumably eaten (Rautman and Fenton 2005). Packer himself admitted eating the dead men, but denied all but one of the killings. He claimed that one of the party, Shannon Bell, had killed the other four men with a hatchet while Packer was out scouting the route. When he returned, Bell came after him, so Packer shot him "through the belly" and finished him off with Bell's own hatchet. The forensic evidence provides no way to disprove his claims, but the analysis from the 1989 research found no evidence of gunshot wounds. Prominent holes in the hipbones of four of the skeletons were thought to be consistent with grizzly bear damage.

Around the turn of the millennium, David Bailey, Curator of History at the Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, assembled a team of scientists from CMU to test soil samples and artifacts which had been taken and curated by the 1989 investigation. Bailey reasoned that if they could identify lead in the soil under Bell's body, it would partly corroborate Packer's version of events. Since he knew that Skeleton A had a hole in its hip bone, he requested the samples from under Skeleton A and passed them on to scientists at CMU. In fact, they did find fragments of lead, and were even able to match the chemical signature of the lead to bullets still remaining in a pistol thought by some to be the very one that Packer had carried. Finally, the team identified gunshot residue in a bit of wool from Skeleton A's clothing. Bailey was convinced by this apparent corroboration of Packer's story, that he was not guilty of the murder of his companions, although he certainly partook of their flesh (Bailey 2003).

A major problem for Bailey's account is that in fact there were holes in the hips of four of the skeletons, not just Bell's. Other historical archaeologists point out the widespread use of lead for all kinds of things in the late 1800s, including belt buckles and buttons. On the other hand, the presence of gunshot residue on Bell's clothing is certainly interesting. Still, though evidence may point in different directions, the physical remains of the past will never suffice to erase all the questions about Packer. We do know that Packer went to prison for some time, was paroled by the governor in 1901, and died a poor but respected man in 1907. It's very interesting how passionate people get about local history, but we'll probably never know for sure what happened that winter.

Bailey, David P. 2003 Solving the West's Greatest Mystery: Was Alferd Packer Innocent of Murder? *Pathways*, 2003, Issue I. <https://www.museumofwesternco.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/pathways-article.pdf>. Accessed 9/8/2016.

Rautman, Alison E. and Fenton, Todd W.

2005 A Case of Historic Canibalism in the American West: Implications for Southwestern Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 70(2):321-341.



Announcing a new book by Montrose's own Steven G. Baker, close on the heels of his other new book, *Juan Rivera's Colorado: 1765*, published just last winter.

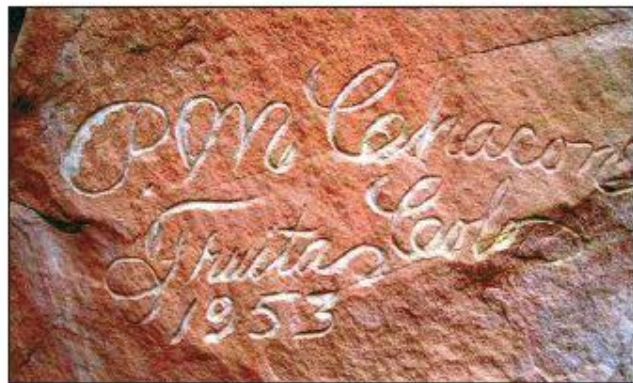
MY NAME IS PACOMIO

The Life and Works of Colorado's Sheepherder and Master Artist of Nature's Canvases

By **Steven G. Baker**

Sheepherders' carvings are now a dying art, and many authorities feel that the now deceased Pacomio Martinez Chacon was the grandmaster of aspen tree and cliff drawings. "Paco" Chacon has been designated as a "master" folk artist by the Colorado Council for the Arts, the Museum of Western Colorado, and the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the U. S. Forest Service. This book is the story of both the man and his work, as well as the story of aspen carvings by sheepherders in the American West. This art is unique, because Paco had to carve in a way where he could visualize his work after the wound scarred and the tree healed. With his cliff drawings he had to plan for erosion and fading.

The cover of *My Name is Pacomio* shows Paco (1916-2009) and the head of one of his classic "pin-up style" nudes, as well as another good example of his artistic merit. His, as well as most other sheepherder's art, is so rapidly disappearing that today most of what remains has to be viewed in a few private collections or in remote rural areas of western Colorado and eastern Utah. The author, Steven G. Baker, has been a historian, anthropologist, and archaeologist for over fifty years; but even more important to this book, and to him, he was a good friend of Paco for the last twenty-five years of Pacomio's life. This close friendship that they shared shows through clearly in this book, and allowed Baker to gain many details of Chacon's life, Mexican-American culture, and the lonely but special life of a sheepherder.



An early cursive rock art signature of Paco Chacon from Cottonwood Canyon, Utah. (Courtesy of Jim Truesdale, Laramie, Wyoming).

Leigh Ann Hunt, U.S. Forest Service (Retired) writes in the Foreword:

Steve Baker's book captures and preserves Chacon's biography and artistic legacy with sensitivity and affectionate detail, and displays many examples that are extinct today. Pacomio's carvings were a gift to us, and this book will let them endure for perpetuity in the annals of Western history.

This book is dedicated by the author "With many tears for my good friend, Pacomio Chacon, professor of the sheep and master artist of the trees and cliffs."

Price: \$29.95, 146 Pages, ISBN 978-1-937851-14-9, Over 175 photographs, Photos, 7" x 10", Full Color

Available from

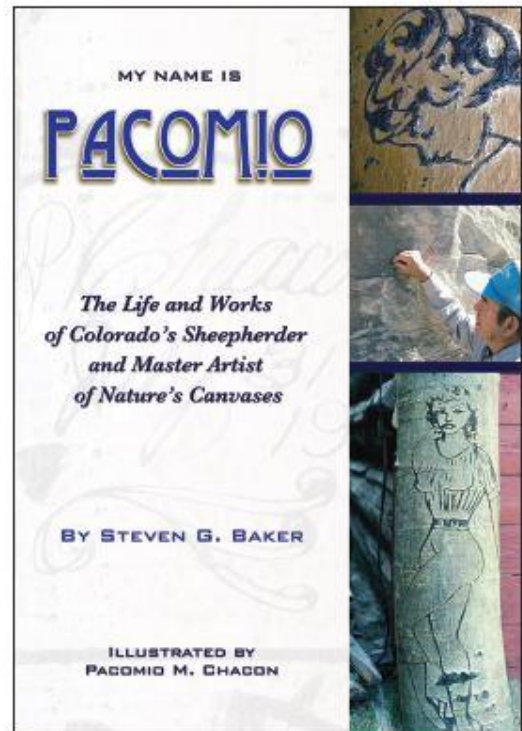


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COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2016 RAFFLE

to benefit the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund

"Zebra Sentinel"

Decorative Raku Art Pot



An original ceramic pot made especially for CAS!

"Zebra Sentinel" stands 32" tall, featuring African porcupine quills, by Colorado Springs artist Jerry Rhodes. Value estimate \$900++



Jerry Rhodes is a ceramic artist living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. His work has appeared in numerous juried shows and competitions. He currently exhibits in galleries in Colorado, Santa Fe and Taos (NM), Hastings-on-Hudson (NY), Charleston (SC), Georgetown (DC), and Bethlehem (PA), and has many pieces in private collections internationally.



Jerry likes to combine seemingly disparate elements drawn from a global, temporal, and cultural palate to form a composition. Some pieces may blend science with antiquity; Einstein's equations for Special Relativity carved around the rim of a classic Greek form, for instance, while others may represent a cultural fusion; African and Polynesian tribal components combined into a loosely symbolic presentation. Often he will use traditional style glazes and classic post firing reduction techniques, but other times he'll use plant food, steel wool, and horsehair during the firing, and add African porcupine quills to complete a composition. The results are usually very dramatic.

www.jerryrhodespottery.com

Raffle ticket prices:

\$3 each or 4 for \$10

For additional info, contact Terri Hoff 970-882-2191

tthoff@hotmail.com

www.coloradoarchaeology.org



Silent Auction Donation Items Needed!
Colorado Archaeological Society 2016 Annual Conference
October 7 - 9, 2016

Every year at our annual CAS Conference and Meeting, the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee sponsors a Raffle and a Silent Auction to fill the coffers for the next round of scholarship awards to be presented in the spring. This is the major fundraising event for the year! We can't do this without your contributions.

To support this effort, please search your collections, libraries, closets and pantries for interesting items to donate. Consider things like books and reports about archaeology, paintings and photography of sites and rock art. Topo maps? How about earrings and other jewelry, even Native American pawn, that you really don't wear anymore? Gently-used clothing items with an arch'y logo or rock art motif? People appreciate a wine basket, or home-canned goods. Handy hiking gear is always popular. We have pottery-makers and other crafters in the group who can promote their talents. Business cards are welcome.

Bring items Saturday morning, fill out a bid sheet and put the items on display.
Not able to attend in person? Find out who else is going and send your items with them.

The Auction closes just after the Saturday banquet, and your new treasures can be paid for and retrieved after the keynote speaker.

Conference Hours:

Friday, October 7th: 5 pm - 9 pm
Saturday, October 8th: 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday & Monday, October 9th-10th: Field trips

Contact Information: Questions should be directed to the Auction Coordinator, Sharon Brennan scubaski15@hotmail.com 970-260-2703 **or** Conference Coordinator, Doug Van Etten, CASGJinfo@gmail.com.

CAS-GJ Website: More info about the conference: www.cas-gj.weebly.com

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



Date: _____

Membership Application

Name: _____

Street or RR Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

(email required to receive Chipeta & CAS newsletters & field trip info)

Check One:

☐ New
☐ Renewal

Check One: **Annual Dues** (includes state CAS dues)

☐ Family with Southwest Lore* \$40
☐ Individual with Southwest Lore* \$35
☐ Senior no Southwest Lore \$25

(Family = 2 or more members, same household)

**Southwest Lore* is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is mailed quarterly. Most of our members elect to subscribe, and it helps support CAS.



Code of Ethics

photos by Dennis DeVore

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

- Uphold local, state, and federal antiquities laws.
- Respect the property rights of landowners.
- Report vandalism to appropriate authorities.
- Support only scientifically and legally conducted archaeological activities.
- Conduct field and/or laboratory activities using professionally accepted standards.
- Not condone the sale, exchange, or purchase of artifacts obtained from illegal activities.
- Be sensitive to the cultural histories and spiritual practices of groups that are the subject of archaeological investigation.
- Accept the responsibility, if serving as principal investigator, to publish the results and make the collection available for further study.

Signature: _____ Other Family Signature: _____

Make checks payable to "Chipeta Chapter CAS" and mail the signed application to:

Dennis DeVore
353 Dakota Circle
Grand Junction, CO 81507

CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

- **President:** This position is open. Please contact a board member if you are interested in volunteering.
- **Vice Pres:** Dan Elsner, elsner.dan@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Annette Butts, annettebutts63@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, mtncpa@montrose.net
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, nrard@bresnan.net

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- **Membership:** Dennis DeVore, ddv48@mac.com
- **BLM Liason:** Bill Harris, trlgpa@skybeam.com
- **Library:** Linda Manske, cc-manske2@bresnan.net

OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Bill Manske, trlgpa@skybeam.com

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

There will be no PAAC course this fall due to remodeling of the BLM facility that provides the meeting room. A spring PAAC course is planned.

PAAC Contacts

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PAAC Coordinator
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Beverly Kolkman

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Chipeta PAAC Coordinator
970.250.8893

Want More?

[Archaeology Southwest](#)
is a great link to find out
about current issues and
events relating to
Southwest Archaeology.

Chipeta October Speaker

Mark Mitchell will be our guest next month,
speaking about the Archeaeology of the San Juan
high country.

Field Trip Committee

George Decker - gdeckercc@gmail.com
Ed Horton - horted@gmail.com
Carol Patterson – Urracapro@aol.com
Bill Harris - trlgpa@skybeam.com,

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader

All unattributed photos are by the editor except those on pp. 5 and 6.