

The Uncompahgre Journal

April 2022 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Volume 39 Issue 4

Our April Presentation

Mark Your Calendar

Apr 6: [Montrose Historical Society](#) monthly meeting with Gail Saunders detailing the exploits of significant women in the Uncompahgre River valley. Pioneer Room at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, 1001 N. 2nd St, 7:00 pm.

Apr 13: San Juan Basin Archaeological Society monthly Zoom meeting, with Alexis O'Donnell on what teeth can tell us about life and mobility in 11th and 12th-century New Mexico. Go [here](#) for specifics. 7:00 p.m.

Apr 20: [Chipeta Chapter](#) monthly meeting with Zebulon Miracle on the Sinbad Valley (*right*). United Methodist Church, Park Avenue and S 1st Street, Montrose, 7:00 pm.

Each Thursday: Check out [Crow Canyon's weekly webinars](#), 4:00-5:00. They are free, but require registration. The April 7 edition is with Patricia Crown describing the results of her historic 2013 re-excavation of Room 28 in Chaco Canyon.



Collapse, Cattle, and Copper: The Geology and History of Sinbad Valley

by Zebulon Miracle

Spanning Mesa and Montrose counties is the isolated but extremely beautiful Sinbad Valley. Learn more about the geologic story and ranching and mining history from one of Colorado's lesser explored areas. Was the local rancher baron also a murderer? How close did miners come to striking it rich? And how in the world did the valley get formed in the first place?



Our April Speaker: Zebulon Miracle

Zebulon Miracle is the Executive Director of United Way of Mesa County and a local historian. A western Colorado native, Zeb has a passion for connecting people to the places and landscapes that have shaped who we are today. Zeb has served on a number of local nonprofit boards including Visit Grand Junction, Community Food Bank, Grand Junction Historic Preservation, and Colorado Canyons Association. He can often be found with his young son and trusty golden retriever on the trails in our local National Conservation Areas.

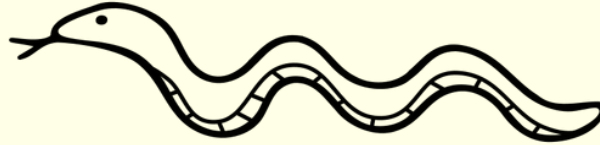


Photo courtesy of Zeb Miracle

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Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu

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. Applications are closed now, and this year's recipient will be determined soon.

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. Please put "Moore Scholarship" in the memo line.

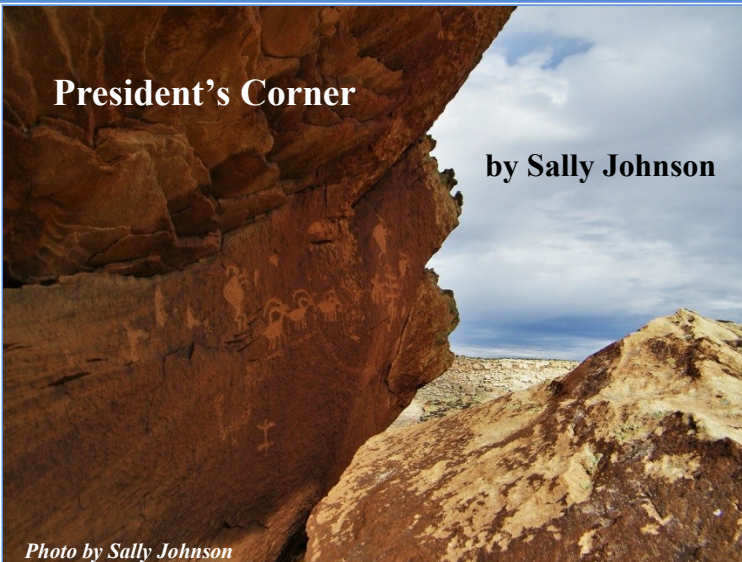
President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

Well, it has continued to be a slow year of getting on track again, but the board decided to look over the Constitution and update it from the last 10 years or so. We have included it in this month's journal. As you are able to see, not much has changed. We have highlighted (deletions in red and additions in green) and marked out the changes that the board discussed. Remember kindly that we did not correct some sentence structures, we do know that some needed to have correct English writing but not at this time. **We will be voting on the revision at the next meeting, so please glance over the changes and let me know if you have any questions.** See you at the next meeting.

Sally

Photo by Sally Johnson



Constitution of the Chipeta Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society

Revised: February 16, 2022

ARTICLE I -- Name

The Name of this society shall be the Chipeta Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society.

ARTICLE II -- Objectives

The objectives of the Chipeta Chapter shall be:

- a. To foster interest in archaeology.
- b. To protect archaeological antiquities.
- c. To discourage exploitation of archaeological resources.
- d. To cooperate with the Colorado state archaeologist, the Colorado Archaeological Society officers, local chapters of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and other persons and agencies concerned.
- e. To cooperate in the statewide comprehensive mapping of archaeological sites together with a catalogue artifacts of each site.
- f. To encourage avocational members to take part in the statewide Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification-PAAC.
- g. To promote archaeological publications.
- h. To encourage all members to adhere to a Standard of Society Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Section 1. Any person, business, or institution interested in archaeology shall be admitted upon application without discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, or marital status upon payment of annual dues.

Section 2. The following classes of membership are authorized:

Individual membership is for adults age 18 and over. An individual member can select membership with or without a subscription to *Southwestern Lore*.

Family membership is for a husband and wife and all named members of their family or two adults living in the same home: Family memberships can select a membership with or without a subscription to *Southwestern Lore*.

Chipeta chapter will recognize all other levels of CAS membership (honorary, secondary, and life members), but said members must pay annual local dues to have full voting rights in Chipeta Chapter.

Section 3. Each member of Chipeta Chapter must be a member of CAS.

Section 4. Dues shall be on an annual basis and shall be due for each membership in the anniversary month of admission into membership.

Constitution of the Chipeta Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society

Article IV –Supporting Contributions

The executive board may establish supporting and business levels of contributions. The board may also establish a dollar amount for each of these levels. Supporting and business contributors will receive recognition by level of contribution in the chapter's newsletter.

Article V – Officers

Section 1. The elected officers of the Chipeta Chapter shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and CAS representative.

Section 2. Nominations for officers shall be held at the October meeting each year.

Section 3. The officers shall be elected at the November meeting of each year and shall begin duties with the fiscal year, January 1 through December 31. Each office is held for the period of one year.

Section 4. A professional archaeological advisor will be appointed by the president annually.

Article VI – Duties of Officers

Section1. The president shall preside at monthly meetings and perform such duties as ordinarily pertain to his/her office. The president shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors of CAS. The president shall appoint committees as needed.

Section 2. The vice-president shall have the duty to preside at all meetings in the absence of the president and to perform such duties as ordinarily pertain to his/her office. The vice-president shall serve as the program chairman.

Section 3. The secretary shall ~~have the duties of recording meeting attendance and must~~ record and preserve the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Chipeta Chapter ~~and announce chapter meetings, field trips and all other chapter meetings by appropriate means.~~

Section 4. The treasurer shall have the ~~duties of keeping records of chapter membership, provide CAS state officers with required reports and funds, and have~~ custody of all funds accountable to same to the ~~chapter~~ Board of Directors at each meeting.

Section 5. The CAS representative serves as a chapter representative to the State Board of Directors and the State Archaeological Advisory Committee.

Section 6. The professional advisor shall counsel the Executive Board in archaeological matters and shall serve as a member of the Executive Board.

Constitution of the Chipeta Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society

ARTICLE VII – Elections

Elections of the officers shall be held annually at the November meeting. Any member in good standing is eligible to hold office.

ARTICLE VIII- Executive Board

Section 1. The five elected officers and the professional advisor shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2. The president shall appoint additional members to serve on the Executive Board as deemed necessary.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet when deemed necessary by the call of the president.

ARTICLE IX – Meetings

Section 1. Meetings shall be held monthly or at any other time selected ~~by those present at the previous monthly meeting upon a majority vote or at a time set~~ by the officers, with notice given to the membership by letter or phone. ~~or public notice in the Montrose Daily Press.~~

Section 2. A quorum shall be ten members present.

ARTICLE X –Vacancies

The vice-president shall take office as president in the event the president leaves his/her office. Offices shall be filled in the event of a vacancy by a special election. Vacancies in appointed positions shall be ~~filled~~ **ap-
pointed** by the president.

ARTICLE XI – Committees

Committees shall be appointed by the president with the approval of a majority of the members present at any monthly meeting in order to accomplish the business of Chipeta Chapter.

Section 1. Standing committees shall be Field Trips, Publications, Nominations, Chapter Library, **and Schol-
arship.**

Section 2. All publications shall be presented to the publications chairman who has the right to edit all materials. The publication chairman must approve all news releases under Chipeta Chapter byline.

Constitution of the Chipeta Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society

ARTICLE XII – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Colorado Archaeological Society by a vote of the membership, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all of the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society exclusively for the purposes of the Society in such a manner to such an appropriate archaeological organization or organizations within the State of Colorado organized and operated exclusively for purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) as the Board shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE XII – Compliance

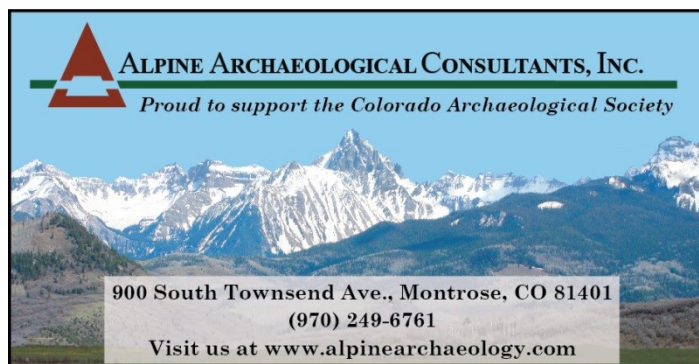
No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section I of Article II. No substantial part of the activities of the society shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Society shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate of public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law), or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

ARTICLE XIV – Amendments

The Constitution of Chipeta Chapter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership attending the meeting. Proposed constitutional amendment shall be published in the chapter newsletter one month prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE XV- Code of Ethics

Members of the Chipeta Chapter agree to follow the Code of Ethics as stated in the Constitution of the Colorado Archaeological Society.



Visiting Verde Valley: Our March Chipeta Chapter Trip

by Leigh Ann Hunt

In March, four adventurous Chipeta Chapter members joined me, the trip planner, for two days touring sites in central Arizona with local guides Rob Elliott of Camp Verde and Pam Kalish of Phoenix. They are both Regional Coordinators for the Arizona Site Steward program and were energetic and knowledgeable trip leaders. Rob and other docents for the Camp Verde area can be reached through the VVAC (Verde Valley Archaeological Center) in its brand-new museum in Camp Verde. Pam can be reached through the Friends of Agua Fria National Monument.

There are few places in the Southwest that are quite as rich in archaeology to the north, south, east and west as Verde Valley, Arizona. Its abundant



streams, mild middle elevations and biological ecotones attracted ancient people for thousands of years, and many of those later farming peoples left plenty of ruins, rock art, and artifacts to see today.

Basically, there are several Formative cultural traditions (agricultural, pottery and masonry-using, semi-sedentary people, dating more or less from AD 650 to 1350) that meet in the center of Arizona in the Verde River area (Map 1). All of them had features and trade goods also found in neighboring areas and groups across Arizona, suggesting lots of social interaction among them. The pottery is much more complex than that found here in Formative sites, for instance. The Sinagua heyday of large town building was from 1150 to 1350, nearly a century after the Pueblo folks had left Colorado and Utah. Sinagua had stone houses



Group with Rob Elliott in Cottonwood, Arizona. Oak Creek Pueblo.

with ceremonial rooms, pottery that includes painted redware, late yellow ware, and polychrome styles. There was also black-on-white pottery from the northern regions, Mogollon pottery from the eastern Rim country, seashells, parrots, and cotton spun with ceramic spindle whorls. They even had ball courts, a hallmark of the Hohokam in southern Arizona. Sinagua period rock art is concentrated in a few areas, such as the one at V Bar V ranch on the Coconino National Forest, which we toured in 2019 when Chipeta Chapter was last here.



Artifacts spotted in the Sinagua pueblos



◀ *Members peruse the pottery midden at Thoeny Pueblo ruin*

On our first day we saw multi-story, hill-top pueblos, named Atkeson and Thoeny pueblo, in the towns of Cottonwood and Lake Montezuma. Both are owned by the Archaeological Conservancy and carefully monitored. The VVAC takes care of them and partners with the Arizona State Stewards to monitor them. The VVAC is happy to take visitors on guided tours to them on request, and has also carried out erosion control, fencing, signs posting, and other protective actions.

The interesting thing about the sites is that they still have a lot of pottery present to examine when you visit. Many of the hilltops

are intervisible, one to another, on little isolated mesas overlooking streams that are present all over the valley. Many of the larger sites had dozens of rooms and probably had hundreds of residents. The Sinagua also often utilized the “cavates,” natural cave openings in the soft limestone, for living and storage spaces. Later, we got a fascinating tour of the brand-new museum and its wonderful Dyke Cave artifact and art collection.

Alma checks out a meteorite from many thousands of years ago, found by the Sinagua people who wrapped it in a blanket and placed it inside a niche in their village. It was then collected by settlers in 1915, later identified as a meteorite, and now is on display at the Verde Valley Archaeological Center. ▶

On the second day we headed for Agua Fria National Monument about 20 miles south of Camp Verde, at a lower elevation. We met with our guide Pam, a member of Friends of Agua Fria and a site steward there. The area is next to Sunset Point, an offramp I have passed on Interstate 17 dozens of times without any idea what lies just a half mile away. The Monument area is mainly a flat, open grassland, named Perry Mesa, on volcanic rocks, cut by flowing streams in shallow canyons and gulches. Agua Fria Monument was set aside in 2000 and contains one of the largest archaeological districts on the National Register of Historic Places. It contains dozens of 40- and 50-room pueblos that were built between 1200 and 1450 AD by a farming/trading people known simply as the “Perry Mesa Tradition.” Like our Utah-Colorado “Gateway tradition,” it sits on a border, blending traits from several other cultures including the Sinagua, Salado, Prescott, and later Yavapai.

View of a spring-fed pool in Arrastra Gulch in Agua Fria Monument ▶

In Arrastra Gulch within earshot of the freeway, Archaic and later people made oval bedrock metate grind-



ing features and petroglyphs on boulders and rock faces along the gulch and its rocky spring-fed tanks and terraces. And they didn't just make a few, there are *hundreds* of grinding features and petroglyphs. Pam just encourages you to wander at will to ponder and photograph. Among lava boulders, with grass, mesquite and cactus, there is also an old sheep corral of piled boulders and a historic sheepherder camp. You can't imagine what all the grinding basins were for. I saw very few artifacts in Arrastra Gulch, although once in a while a mano, pottery sherd, or flake can be seen. Pam indicated that similar metate features and petroglyphs are found all though the Monument, though not as concentrated.

◀ *Grinding features found by the dozens in the gulch, along with a spiral image*

A cupule petroglyph that was incorporated into the historic corral.



◀ *Typical grouping of rock images in the gulch.*



*Members exploring rock art at a pour-off in the gulch.
(Photo by Joe Oglesby)*

Next, we went about 10 miles east to La Plata Pueblo, where Friends of Agua Fria have placed signage and a trail leading through a many-room stone ruin. It is not restored, but a few rooms have been cleared out, and again there are thousands of pottery sherds because visitors have not stolen them all. The views from the Pueblo are vast across the mesa tops with no modern intrusions.



◀ *La Plata Pueblo, Agua Fria National Monument*

It is surrounded by ancient farm fields and agave roasting oven features (which look like oval rock piles). One can access the stream in the canyon of Silver Creek below. Approaching the habitation mound from the

canyon side there is a single, obvious petroglyph in front of it that reminded me of a “Welcome to La Plata Town” sign.



Ceramics seen at La Plata site ▶



◀ Ancient “Entrance Sign” at La Plata Pueblo

If you go to Agua Fria Monument, do it in the winter, as shade is non-existent on top of the mesa and all the rock is black. The roads are open to the public, but they are bumpy, so higher clearance is easier on your vehicle. There are maps at the entrances, though Arrastra Gulch is not on them. The VVAC can help you find Sinagua sites to tours, even if you have already enjoyed Montezuma’s Castle & Well, Tuzigoot, Palatki, and V Bar V rock art, which are easily visited. Alma, Joe, Larry, Ken, and I agree, Central Arizona has a lot to check out! I can provide more information on specific locations on request.



Larry Scarborough, Ken Dolezal, Leigh Ann, our guide Pam Kalish, and Joe Oglesby at Agua Fria. Photo by Alma Evans.

Links for more information:

Verde Valley Archaeological Center: <https://www.verdevalleyarchaeology.org/>

Book on *The Prehistory of Perry Mesa, Arizona*: https://www.amazon.com/Prehistory-Perry-Mesa-D-Archaeologist/dp/0939071754/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&q

Atkeson Pueblo history and Drone 3D Modeling Photography: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:a170a251-fe6b-4b9b-80a3-0419cc8d43ab#pageNum=1>

From the Editor

Let's talk about excavation. As you know, excavation has gotten a lot more expensive, more time-consuming, more detailed, and more meticulous (some might say more tedious) over the last 150 years. Last month I read about an advance that will help us decide whether an excavation is justified or not.

Those of us who are used to the slow pace and the narrow focus of modern archaeology find the speed of excavations in the early days somewhat mind-boggling. As an example, Nels Nelson, one of the pioneers of archaeology in the Southwest, excavated many protohistoric sites in the Galisteo Basin south-east of Santa Fe, between 1912 and 1917. He moved a lot of dirt in those years. In 1912 alone, he and his crew excavated 239 rooms at San Cristobal, one of the largest of the sites. Jiminy! A lot gets overlooked when you excavate that fast. With Nelson in 1912 there must have been very little of horizontal and vertical provenience: the object was to find the floor and see what kind of features were present and how the walls were built. Although he did much to advance archaeology in America, our generation is not particularly happy with Nelson. By excavating so much so quickly, he left little for modern archaeologists to excavate in some sites. We can only imagine what we might be able to learn if more rooms had been left intact, and if we were able to excavate them now.

We understand now what would not have been obvious to Nelson. Archaeological sites are a limited and valuable resource, and excavation is not always the most ethical way to learn about the past. Excavation is a destructive process. As we dig, we destroy the resource that we are trying to understand. Hence the caution and the care—and the tedium. Once we dig a room or a feature, it can never be dug again, so we want to make sure we extract all the information we can imagine—in that one pass through the sediment. It'd be nice if we could just pass a magic beam through the ground and derive a 3D map of the architecture, features, and suspended trash that make up a prehistoric site. Leaving the resource untouched would then allow future researchers with new questions and methods to re-map the same site. What an advance that would be.

To that end, remote sensing has gotten a lot of attention and use as technology has improved over the last thirty years or so. There are many techniques, including ground penetrating radar, magnetometry, and electrical resistivity, all of which have some capacity

to see beneath the surface, and which differ in what can be seen in different subsurface environments. Add to this list a quantum gravity gradiometer. I'll call it a QGG.

The prototype QGG was developed and tested by a team from the University of Birmingham, U.K. Quantum mechanics wasn't in the archaeology curriculum when I went to school, so I'll just tell you what they did without being able to explain how it works. With a resolution of half a meter, they were able to use very sensitive measures of gravity to find a tunnel buried by a meter of dirt capped by asphalt. Apparently, they've been trying to do this sort of thing for some time but measuring the varying strength of gravity underground was hindered by vibrational noise. This project managed to circumvent that problem by using what they call quantum gravity: the team is now confident that the equipment can be made inexpensively, and it is relatively simple to use. They predict that a 10-100-fold improvement in accuracy "will be achieved in practical instruments within the next 5-10 years."¹ If so, the technique could revolutionize the mapping of subsurface architectural sites. The project team and other observers are pretty excited about this, going so far as to call it an "Edison moment." It's not a magic beam, but it could be a very helpful new remote sensing tool.

Lycett, Mark
2008 "Galisteo Basin Pueblos." In *Archaeology in America: An Encyclopedia. Volume 3, Southwest and Great Basin/Plateau*, edited by Francis McManamon, Linda S. Cordell, Kent Lightfoot, George Milner, pp. 186-189.

Stray, B., Lamb, A., Kaushik, A. et al.
2022 "Quantum sensing for gravity cartography." *Nature* **602**, pp 590-594.
DOI: [10.1038/s41586-021-04315-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04315-3)

¹University of Birmingham
2022 "Sensor breakthrough paves way for groundbreaking map of world under Earth surface." *ScienceDaily*, 23 February 2022, <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/02/2022023111238.htm>.



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



Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street or RR Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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

Check One:

_____ New

_____ Renewal

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

_____ Family (2 or more members same household)\$40

_____ Individual\$35

_____ Student (Circle if Individual or Family)\$25

_____ Secondary (Circle one) Individual (\$10) or Family... (\$15)

_____ Opt out of printed *Southwest Lore*

**Southwest Lore* is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society: print copies are mailed quarterly, and a .pdf is posted to Member365 for download.

Photos by Dennis DeVore



Code of Ethics

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 "Colorado Archaeological Society" and mail the signed application to:

Chipeta Chapter
P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81402

CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

- **President:** Sally Johnson, president@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Vice Pres:** Leigh Ann Hunt, vp@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Secretary:** Susan Henderson, secretary@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, treasurer@chipetachaptercas.org
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- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, membership@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Site Steward Coordinator (acting):** Leigh Ann Hunt, sitestewards@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Library:** Linda Manske, library@chipetachaptercas.org

OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris / Fred Henderson, scholarships@chipetachaptercas.org

CHIPETA CHAPTER WEBSITE

- <https://www.chipetachaptercas.org>

TO JOIN OR RENEW:

- Go to the Chipeta Chapter website and follow the membership links.

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

For information on On-Demand PAAC courses, visit:

<https://www.historycolorado/paac-event-schedule>.

PAAC Contacts

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303-866-4671

Dave Upchurch

PAAC Coordinator
paac@chipetachaptercas.org

Want More?

Archaeology Southwest is a great link to find out about current issues and events relating to Southwest Archaeology.

Field Trip Committee

Leigh Ann Hunt, Joe Oglesby, and George Decker

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

Masthead photo courtesy of Carol Patterson. All other unattributed photos are by the editor.