

The Uncompahgre Journal

November 2015

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY

Volume 32 Issue 9

Mark Your Calendar

November 5 – Rock art
Recording in Negro Gulch with
Bill Harris and Leigh Ann Hunt

November 18, Chipeta
Monthly Meeting,
David Primus; *Beneath Blue
Mesa*. 7 pm

December 15 Christmas Party
Two Rascals Brewery, 147 N.
1st Street. 6:00 pm?

PAAC meetings. November 6,
7 Ceramics Identification
Dolores, Colorado.

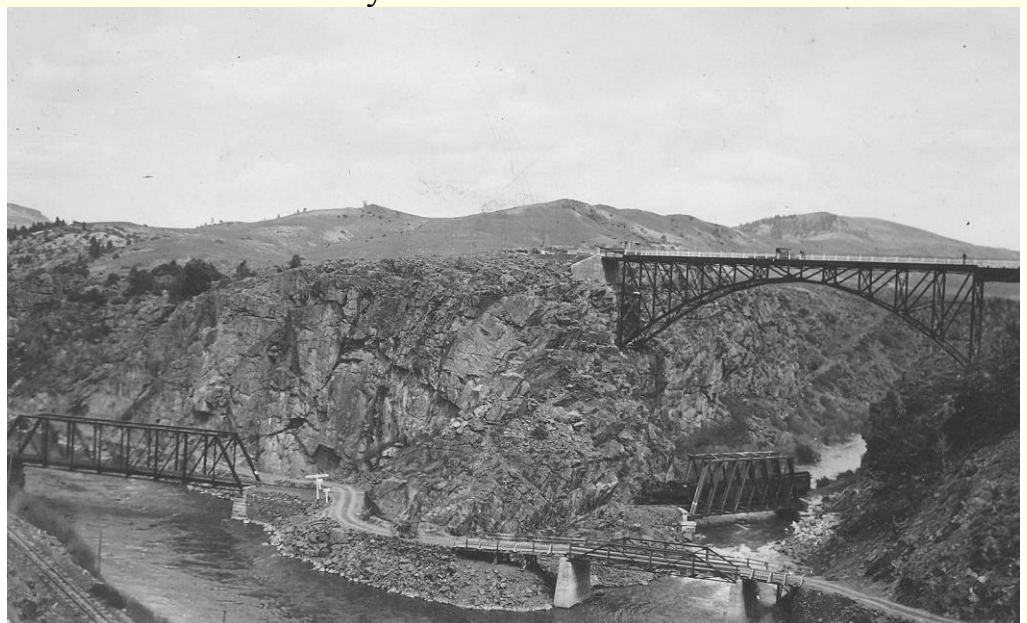
December 1st – Grand Junction
“The History of Shavano
Valley,” with Alma Evans and
Carol Patterson. G. J. City Hall.
7pm.

Curtis Martin’s new book:
*Ephemeral Bounty: Wickiups,
Trade Goods, and the Final
Years of the Autonomous
Ute*. Lots of photos, maps, field
techniques, etc.
Due out in February

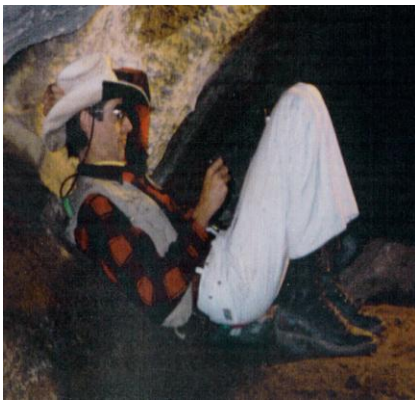
November Presentation: By David Primus

Beneath Blue Mesa: The Gunnison River Before Blue Mesa Reservoir

A slide show of the Gunnison River Valley before Blue Mesa Reservoir was completed in 1965. You will see fishing resorts, ranches, towns, and the narrow gauge railroad that now lie beneath the reservoir as remembered by local residents. Primus has lived in Gunnison since 1978. As a third generation Coloradoan, he has researched the history of the American West throughout his life. He is the chairperson of the Gunnison County Historic Preservation Commission and on the board of the Denver, South Park, and Pacific Historical Society.



Santarelli_Four bridges at Sapinero with train (photo courtesy of Rikki)



President's Corner

Hi All,

This will be my last President's Corner. I'll try to be brief. Although I don't know what will be happening with the board in the coming years, I can say categorically that the present officers and board appointees will continue to do a magnificent job to keep the club going, keep it solvent, and most importantly, keep it active and making a difference. I'd like to thank Annette Butts, Jim Douras, Nick Ard, Bill Harris, Dennis DeVore, Beverly Kolkman, and Linda Manske for all the help and support they have given me in the past two years. It's been great getting to know you all, and I really appreciate the interest you show in this club and in the archaeology of the region. I've learned a lot since I got here, and especially in my short tenure as president. I've enjoyed all the field trips I've been on, and I really appreciate the effort that Bill Harris, Ed Horton, George Decker and others have made to share their knowledge of the regional landscape with the rest of us. I think the speaker program here is one of the best I've ever encountered, and the depth and breadth of talent in this valley and beyond is absolutely remarkable. We are really lucky to be here.

There are a couple of people I'd like to single out for their knowledge of the chapter's recent history. First is Bill Harris, whose enthusiasm and vision for the club is unparalleled. He was and is the go-to guy when trying to figure out which of several possible paths is best for the club. His deep history with the club has been invaluable. Dennis DeVore has also been a trusted advisor, for his historical perspective and level-headed approach to problem solving.

Finally, I'd like to thank our Vice President, Speaker/Program Chair, and friend, our own private international rock art expert, Carol Patterson, for her tireless and continuing work on behalf of the Chipeta Chapter for many many years, and for the invaluable help and support she provided me. You will be missed, Carol, but I'm sure you will also continue to be an active member of the club.

In this month's presentation, David Primus will update us on what he has learned about the Blue Mesa Reservoir and what's below it, archaeologically and historically. I hope to see you there, Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 pm.

Thank you all for your good humor and patience during the last two years.

Dave Batten

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Submissions for publication
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Carol Patterson,
Urraca2fly@gmail.com



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NEW CALENDARS

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George Decker



Rock Art Rendezvous

On October 16th ten chapter members and site stewards visited two rock art sites west of Montrose. The first site on the itinerary was the Windy Gap Panel. Recent road closures and fading memories made relocation of the site more difficult, but provided for a nice hike on a sunny, warm day. The site is along the northwest rim of Shavano Valley just east of a break in the rimrock called Windy Gap. The panel

consists of 6 pecked, horned anthropomorphs that appear to be dancing, and a single pecked cross and circle. This panel came to light in 1985, then recorded by chapter members. Viewing this panel is difficult due to a juniper tree, unless standing right in front of it, and its exposure away from the canyon rim. The difficult aspect may explain its “hidden” nature until relatively recent times. The site’s location provides a commanding view of Shavano Valley. The rock art has been given a Ute affiliation.

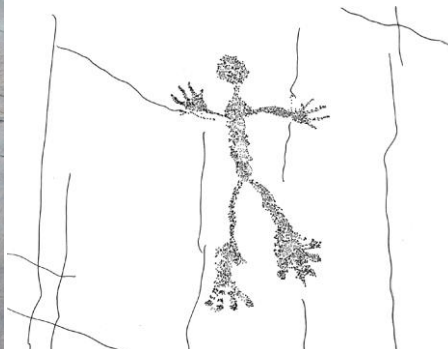
The second rock art site visited was a rimrock panel along the east rim of Dry Creek. The rock art site is of particular interest due to its unusual aspect. The pecked glyphs are on a horizontal plane – a rare exposure in western Colorado. The glyphs are difficult to see due to heavy patination that may also suggest great antiquity. The glyphs consist of anthropomorphs, a spiral, several footprints and a pecked line. Carol Patterson has thoroughly recorded the site, and it has been adopted by site stewards Susan Dougherty and Annette Butts. Susan was a member of the field trip, so gave the group a detailed tour of the site. Several interesting observations have been made about the site. The single pecked line has a north/south orientation that was confirmed with a compass. Another was that a split in the adjacent rimrock lines up due west of the rock art grouping, and may have a summer solstice orientation. Returning to the site at sundown just before the solstice and during the solstice may reveal additional alignments.

As participants hiked back to the vehicles we found several prehistoric surface campsites littered with flakes, ashen-stained soil, ground stone and a few expedient tools – not an uncommon find on the Uncompahgre. The heat of mid-day was upon the group so we called it a day.



View scape over Dry Creek

Clifford Duncan, Ute elder use to say that this figure represents ‘*pudo*’ or “*Dudum*” a little man that lives in the cracks and is very powerful. We actually made offerings to him at this site. He is always situated where there is a great view. If you are not respectful, he will stab you in the foot or ankle as you step by.



Ute mythical little man that looks out over the country



Windy Gap anthropomorphic figures.

Field Trip with Ed Horton: On Wednesday October 28, 19

Chapter members met in Crawford for visits to two unusual North Fork sites. Joe Oglesby regaled the traveling group with local historical tales by radio, stopping to point out the failed early 1900s vintage flume across the Smith fork, its long abandoned feeder canal's beginning and ending points, as well as its stonework in the cliff at the north end overlooking the road twisting up out of the canyon. Joe shared a picture of the original flume, with a horse drawn wagon by the metal banded wooden pipe.

Ranch manager Roger Church generously led the group along the Red Canyon Ranch's collection of Ute rock art and to the historic Rice alabaster mine's entrance, restored buildings, kiln and original rock work of unknown purpose. The final product was hauled to Hotchkiss on mules, used to plaster many of the town's original buildings.



Wikiup leaner poles and bedding floor

Chipeta member Betty Houseweart and her husband Bill led the group up the old Coal mine road above Hotchkiss to its end at the western edge of the Wakefield fire. She shared a Ute wickiup, newly rediscovered by LeighAnn Hunt and Betty, and Bill Houseweart pointed out the location and shared original pictures of two other wickiups burned in the fire.



The final destination was a stone circle with a huge mass of fallen rocks surrounding it on a point overlooking the entire valley. Betty pointed out many lithics still remaining. Member Glenn Stone compared it to the similar excavated circle below Grand Mesa, dated at over 4000 years old.

The field trip the previous week with Leigh Ann Hunt, Ed Horton and Joe Olgby included a look at a private collection that was pretty impressive:



Shoshone Knife



possibly a Navaho *style* "head pounder",



and a beautiful hafted adz

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 \$20
(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

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:** David Batten 970.417.4416
david.batten@enmu.edu
- **Vice Pres.:** Carol Patterson 970.252.8679
UrracaPro@aol.com
- **Secretary:** Annette Butts 970.318.0128
annettebutts63@gmail.com
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ddv48@mac.com
- Library: Linda Manske 970.209.6232 cc-
manske2@bresnan.net
- BLM Liason: Bill Harris 970.249.8055
trlgpa@skybeam.com
- Field Trip Committee
 - George Decker - gdeckercc@gmail.com,
 - Ed Horton - horted@gmail.com,
 - Carol Patterson – Urracapro@aol.com
 - Bill Harris - trlgpa@skybeam.com,

OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- Scholarship Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Bill Manske
trlgpa@skybeam.com
- PAAC: Beverly Kolkman 970.835.4109
bk7753@msn.com

PAAC CONTACTS

Kevin Black

kevin.black@state.co.us

Assistant State

Archaeologist / PAAC Coordinator
303.866.4671

Beverly Kolkman

bk7753@msn.com

Chipeta PAAC

Coordinator

970.835.4109

Moore Scholarship Fund

The end of the year is a popular time for people to make tax deductible charitable contributions, so please consider a donation to the Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship Fund.

Donations can be sent to the Montrose Community Foundation, c/o Moore Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402