

The Uncompahgre Journal

October 2017

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 34 Issue 8

Mark Your Calendar

Oct 3: CMU Montrose speaker. Dr. John Seebach will speak on Paleoindian lifeways (see page 5). 6:30 p.m. in the Montrose Library Community Room, 6:30 pm.

Oct 3: Hisatsinom Chapter CAS monthly meeting, Michelle Hegmon on Archaeology of the Human Experience. Sunflower Theater, 8 E. Main St, Cortez, CO, 7:00 pm.

Oct 4: Montrose County Historical Society presents Karl Schaeffer on the "Steam Locomotive RGS 36" project. Montrose County Fairgrounds Pioneer Room, 7:00 pm.

Oct 9: CAS-GJ monthly meeting, Sally Crum on the Ute Ethnobotany and Learning Garden projects. Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, GJ, 6:30 pm.

Oct 18: Chipeta Chapter meeting, with Mark Stiger speaking of the Mountaineer site (*right*). United Methodist Church, S. 1st and Park, Montrose. 7:00 pm.

October 27-29: CAS Annual Meeting, Michael Waters keynote speaker. History Colorado Museum, 1200 Broadway Street in Downtown Denver, [Denver Chapter hosting](#).

The Mountaineer Site.

This important site was first recorded in 1994 as a lithic scatter on the top of Tenderfoot mountain next to Gunnison. In 2000, Dr. Mark Stiger recorded it and discovered that it was considerably larger than previously thought, and also that it contained numerous Folsom projectile points. It has proved to be an extremely important site that has revolutionized our interpretation of Paleoindian adaptations in a number of ways.

First, the site is located in the middle of the Colorado Rockies, at high elevation, whereas Paleoindian sites had traditionally been associated with the plains. Second, it proved to have been occupied in the winter, in a location that receives considerable snow. Third, there is evidence of structures, which had heretofore been completely unknown from Paleoindian sites.

In this talk, Dr. Stiger will bring us up to date on the latest analyses and interpretations of the Mountaineer Site.



Western State Colorado University publicity photo.



This Month's Speaker, Dr. Mark Stiger

Dr. Stiger is an archaeologist and professor of Anthropology in the Natural & Environmental Sciences Department at Western State Colorado University. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Colorado, and his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in 1986. He has worked in the western United States for more than thirty-five years, specializing in hunter-gatherer archaeology in the mountains and Southwest. Since coming to WSCU, he has concentrated his research efforts on the western Colorado mountains. Having recognized the importance of the Mountaineer Site to our understanding of Folsom lifeways, Stiger returned to the site repeatedly since 2000. He has also collaborated on excavations at the site with other archaeologists, such as David Meltzer (Southern Methodist University) and Laurie Weinstein (Western Connecticut State University).



CAS annual meeting Silent Auction for Alice Hamilton Fund

An important part of the CAS annual meeting at the end of October will be a silent auction. The money earned from the auction will be used by the Alice Hamilton Fund for scholarships to college students in archaeological fields. It is important that there be as many items as possible and your donation will make a difference. The event is at History Colorado at 1200 Broadway. Bring donations there on Saturday morning, October 28, or to 1961 S Marion St, Denver (near Downing and Evans) on Friday evening, the 27th. You can call Betsy at 303-722-1656 for more information. Small or large, anything is appreciated. Archaeological items are welcome such as pottery, items with rock art designs, books etc. Other donations are welcome too. One idea might be to lead a great field trip that people could bid on. Please have an idea of the value or the amount you think a starting bid should be. If you cannot deliver the items, a way will be found to get them to the museum. And be sure to plan on bidding on many other exciting items. Thanks so much.

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Site Stewardship, Field Trips, and Other Random Notes

by Bill Harris

Chipeta Chapter Does the Middle Fork

The Middle Fork of Escalante Creek has been the focus of the chapter's activity lately. Before I detail the fun stuff we've been doing, there's a back story to that focus. Tucked away in the chapter's site information I found a copy of an old Forest Service map that had been marked up identifying locations of archaeological sites around Montrose. Also present was a key with numbers that corresponded to numbers on the map. Number 6 marked on the map was along the Middle Fork of Escalante Creek. The key said, "stone blinds – hunting circles".

The cryptic notation really piqued my interest since in recent years I have taken a big interest in the rock features scattered across the West End. That research led me to the investigations done by Harold and Betty Huscher in western Colorado over 70 years ago. In the Huschers' 1943 "South-western Lore" article they focus their attention on 9 western Colorado architectural sites they believed were hogans built by a migrating Athabascan group who eventually ended up in the Four Corners area to become the people we know as Navajo. Four or five of the Huschers' sites are in the Escalante drainages.

With the help of archaeologists Steve Baker and Rand Greubel I was able to track down the Huschers' notes from their visits to these sites. As it turned out, one of the sites, labeled by the Huschers' as HMF, is in the Middle Fork drainage. It is in the same area that site #6 is in. So, it was time to have a looksee. I invited Rand to join me along with Forest Service archaeologist Brian Haas, since the site is on Forest Service land.

It was a hot summer day, but we persevered, and found 2 stone circles that the Huschers' investigated. As it happens so often when looking for long-

lost sites, there's always a twist. We had found only part of the site. After carefully re-reading the Huschers' notes, Rand returned to the area and found the other 2 stone circles that make up HMF.

In early September I led a field trip for CAS members to visit the site along with 2 nearby rock art sites, thanks to Glenn and Margaret Stone. Coach Miller, Monica Carey, Jim Liewer, Dave Upchurch and Chuck Dorius joined Glenn, Margaret and I for a full day of hiking and bushwhacking.

On September 25th archaeologist, Leigh Ann Hunt, Mike Ward, Russ Barr, guest archaeologist, Sunny Shelton and I returned to finish recording the site. We mapped, measured and photographed HMF. The Huschers' referred to the site as one entity, but there are 2 sets of stone circles separated by 150

meters of thick brush. It was a fun day in a wild, beautiful setting.

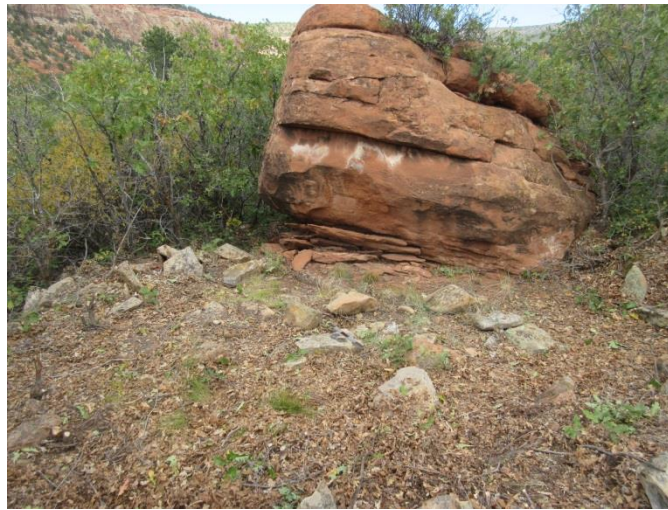
We are now busy finalizing the site forms, and the sites have official site numbers, 5ME21948 and 5MS22100 - a fun project contributing valuable information about our cultural resources.

Epilogue: The stone circles we recorded aren't "hogans" as the Huschers' believed. They are most-likely associated with the Gateway Tradition that is found along the

lower San Miguel River drainages.

Site Steward Program

During fiscal year 2017, the site stewardship program tallied 315 volunteer hours. 34 stewards, most of them Chipeta Chapter members, visited 50 sites. BLM archaeologist Glade Hadden is super impressed with the stewards' efforts and dedication to protecting our cultural resources. The program covers five counties on BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands. Our site stewardship program is a true model for those looking to protect and monitor fragile archaeological sites.



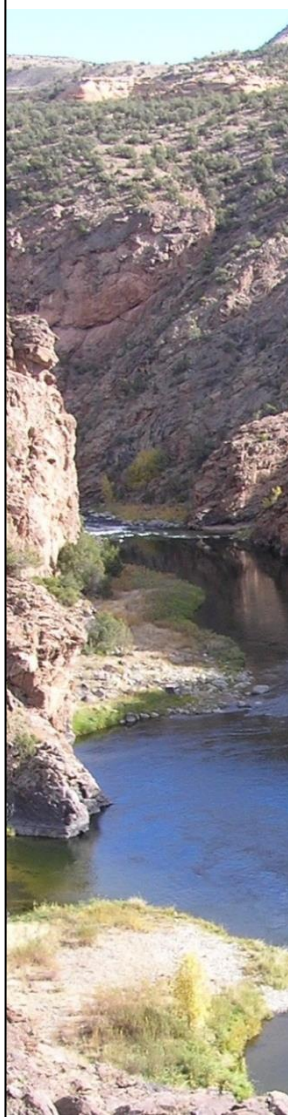
One of the stone circles from HMF. Photo by Bill Harris.



Site Stewards and Sunny Shelton recording the HMF Site. Photo by Leigh Ann Hunt.



From the editor



Mystery Artifact

Last spring I commented on a rock arrangement that I called a medicine-wheel-like feature. Turns out I had blundered into a little mystery. This month, Leigh Ann Hunt sent these two photos of a ground stone object found on Black Mesa that she says is unlike anything ever found around here. It's shaped, ground, and polished, and quite large. It's way too big for a one-hand mano, and the wrong shape for a two-hand mano. Perhaps it's from a time when giants walked the earth. Comments are welcome.

Escalante Game Drive Project

Chipeta Chapter Treasurer Jim Douras met in September with Matt Landt of Alpine Archaeological Consultants and Breanna

Nugent and Katherine Amtzen from the Colorado State Historical Fund. They reviewed all the contract forms and related documents required for status reports, etc., for the Escalante Game Drive Project. All the contracts have been signed and the project can proceed.

With all the legalities finalized, six to eight Chipeta Chapter volunteers will be working with Alpine Archaeological Consultants to re-record the Escalante Game Drive site on Tuesday, October 3.

Matt Landt reports that the site is located on the exposed eastern rim of the Gunnison Canyon, north of Delta. Participants will spend the day defining the site boundaries and relocating and mapping features such as drive lines and hunting blinds. There will be a lot of hiking on hill slopes and a full day in the sun.

Mammoth for Dinner Again? What we know about Paleoindian Life in North America

John Seebach, Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Colorado Mesa University, will be speaking on Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Montrose Library. His lecture is open to the public and free. Professor Seebach specializes in the prehistory of the western United States with particular interest in the Paleoindian era (ca. 12,500 – 8,000 years before present). In his presentation, Professor Seebach will detail what we know about Paleoindian life and highlight how our romantic ideas about these First Americans are only half of the story.

Dr. Seebach has an extensive and varied background as an archaeologist. His work in archaeology has ranged from serving as a project archaeologist at the Center for Big Bend Studies in Texas to participating in an archaeological survey of the Rosebud Battlefield in Montana where 2,000 Indian warriors and U.S. Army soldiers fought in 1876. At Colorado Mesa University, he is currently engaged in research in the Late Formative prehistory (ca. 900 -1300 AD) of the Western Slope.



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](#)—and 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.

Chipeta Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 593
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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
(Family = 2 or more members, same household)
____ Individual with Southwest Lore* \$35
____ Student with Southwest Lore* \$25
____ Senior/Disabled** no Southwest Lore \$25

**Southwest Lore* is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is mailed quarterly.

** *Senior* is any person who is at least 65 years of age; *Disabled* is any person who is permanently disabled.



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

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CHIPETA CHAPTER WEBSITE

- www.chipetachaptercas.org

Want More?

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

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

19 people attended last month's PAAC class on Colorado Archaeology. There is no word on future PAAC classes here.

PAAC Contacts

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Chipeta November Speaker

Kari Schleher, Laboratory Manager at Crow Canyon, will be speaking about recent research in Southwestern pottery with two case studies from Colorado and New Mexico.



Field Trip Committee

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Ed Horton - horted@gmail.com
Carol Patterson – Urracapro@aol.com
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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.