

The Uncompahgre Journal

January 2024 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Volume 41 Issue 1

Mark Your Calendar

Jan 10: [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with John Kappelman talking about Lucy, the 3.2 million-year-old fossil hominin. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm. **This will also be a zoom meeting.**

Jan 17: Chipeta Chapter monthly meeting with John Seebach on newest developments of Ice Age archaeology in North America (**right**). United Methodist Church, 19 S. Park Avenue, Montrose, 7:00 pm.

Our January Presentation

What's New in the Ice Age? 2023 Edition

by John D. Seebach

The initial colonization of North America is one of the most contentious topics in world archaeology. Scholars have argued for almost 100 years about the timing, region of origin, and routes taken by Paleoindians colonizing the "New World." In recent times, the chronology of the process has been pushed back deeper into the Ice Age on an almost annual basis, and these updates regularly make headlines across media outlets. This lecture sifts through these recent discoveries; holding onto some, debunking others, all while trying to come to a clearer understanding of the cultures and behaviors of these early ancestral Native American populations.



Photo courtesy of John Seebach

Photo by Bill Harris

Our January Speaker John D. Seebach



Dr. John Seebach is an archaeologist specializing in the indigenous (pre)history of the southwestern United States. The bulk of his research concerns the Paleoindian era, or the earliest period of North American prehistory. Since moving to Grand Junction in 2014, John's research interests have adapted to the surroundings and prehistory of western Colorado. For example, his ongoing field project is documenting the archaeology found along the mid-elevation edges of the Uncompahgre Plateau. In recent years, however, he has predominantly been involved in a project exploring the cultural history and memories of the Grand Junction Indian School. This work has evolved into advocacy, attempt-

ing to ensure the legacy and history of the school is not forgotten in the community and beyond.

Seebach is the Associate Professor of Archaeology at Colorado Mesa University. In his time at CMU, the archaeology minor has grown into a BA program in *Applied Anthropology and Geography*. This new program has quickly grown into a thriving major with over 40 enthusiastic students.

Photo courtesy of John Seebach

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



Photo by Sally Johnson

The holiday party was celebrated at the Silver Basin Brewery (formerly the Two Rascals) again this year. Leigh Ann Hunt did a wonderful slide show of some of the recent trips. As we ate and talked, someone would say "Who is that?" or "What trip was that?" Thank you Leigh Ann for the great show.

(Outgoing) President's Corner

by Sally Johnson

Photo by Sally Johnson

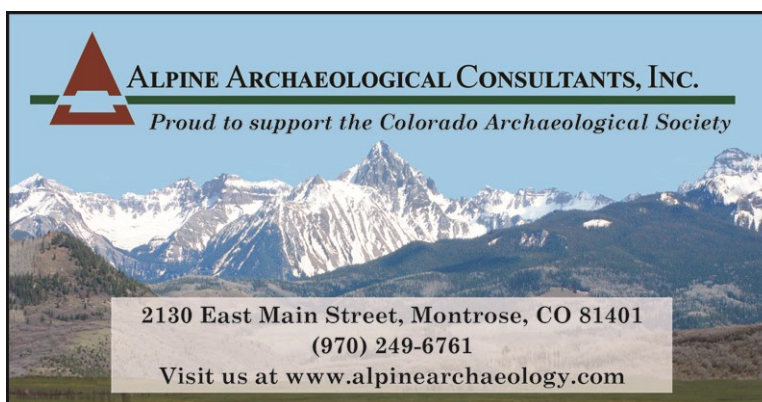
It is a new year for everyone and a new leader for the Chapter. I want to thank everyone for their support in keeping the Chipeta Chapter an important part of our community. I am glad to have led this group in the past few years and hosted an outstanding State Annual meeting after Covid. I will be still handling the emails and memberships so you have not quite gotten rid of me yet.

I did not doubt that someone would step up to be President of the Chapter. Thank you, Alma Evans! Alma has been very active on many levels within the organization, which helps with the understanding of the Chapter. It is always a great way to change things to keep the Chapter vibrant. In the same vein, Leigh Ann Hunt's creation of the new sub-committee concerning the speakers for the

meeting was a great addition. Sometimes it is hard to find a speaker for the meeting, especially in the winter. This committee has taken off running with some outstanding speakers for the future.

Again thank you for all the support and the Board members that are still contributing to the leadership for another year.

Sally

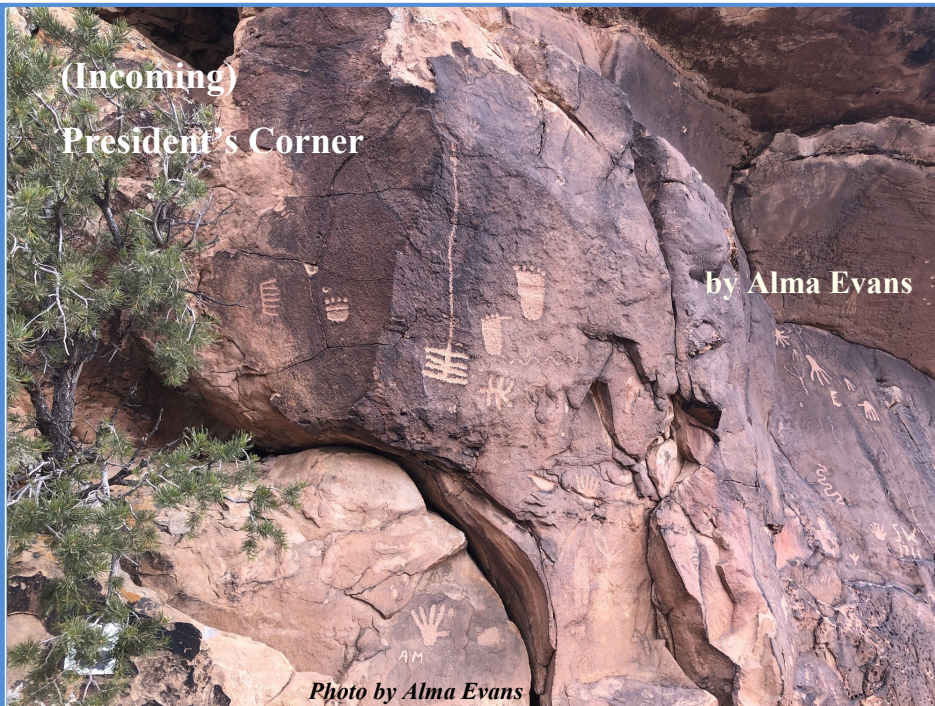


Membership Report

by Sally Johnson, Membership Chair

Membership renewals are easy if you go to the tab on our website for membership. Once you have created a profile, then it will walk you through the steps for the membership. The nice thing about the website is it will send you a nice email when your membership is up for renewal. It also sends you notice with the state publications come out. The other bonus if you write a check for membership dues it usually takes a good month to clear the bank. The way it works is I get the membership dues then I gather several for the month then send them off all at the same time to the state. I do not know when the State Treasure picks up the mail and processes the checks, but I do know that it is not instant. So I encourage you to enroll on the state membership website.

On another note, if you have not been receiving the chapter's email, then I either do not have one or I have the wrong email address. So please update your email for all the great notices and information that is sent out to the membership.



How was I captured by the secrets of the past? Why do I enjoy climbing rocky, dusty trails looking for ancient cultural clues in the sand and on the rocks? Sometimes sleeping in a tent (Chaco Canyon). OK, it is a very comfortable tent. Sometimes, driving thirty miles to sleep in a motel with a warm shower (McElmo Canyon). It is because I followed the bread-crumbs laid down for me.

Here is the story:

It all started when I attended a presentation by (now retired) BLM archaeologist Glade Hadden in Delta about Eagle Rock Shelter. As you know, it was fascinating. At the end of this presentation, a young lady asked for volunteers to be site stewards. I thought that should be easy

and maybe even a little fun. So I signed up. One of the requirements to be a site steward was to take a class.

At that class, I met Dr. Carol Patterson. We became good friends. She mentioned that she needed someone to be a site steward at Shavano Valley.

Shavano Valley, I exclaimed, "that is where I grew up". I am sure, I almost had tears in my eyes as I quickly answered, "Yes, yes, yes!

She also told me that I needed to join CAS, Chipeta Chapter. So, I did. The next five years, I had the opportunity to work, hike, and talk with Dr. Patterson on many occasions. This provided me a different wonderful learning experience.

I have been a member of CAS for 10 years. I have met so many wonderful people, learned so much from so many and, of course, enjoyed the presentations. I have learned part of the history of Chief Shavano and part of the mystery of the petroglyphs of Shavano Valley. We know it is only part of the meanings because the Ute elders have given us very literal interpretations. The spiritual and mystic meanings are lost to us. However, every time I enter that valley, I feel as though I am in a place of great spiritual importance to more than one culture.

So now it is time for me to give back in a small way. I shall try to meet the high standards that have been set by the past Presidents of this organization.

I thank you in advance for your support.



Smith Fork Ranch

Field Trip




Joe Oglesby, Leigh Ann Hunt, and Dr. Carol Patterson did great with this special field trip to the Smith Fork Ranch outside of Hotchkiss. It was so popular that they added an extra day for the people on the waitlist. The weather was perfect, the group was special and there was just one incident with the cactus. (The cacti were plentiful in the area)

Words and photos by Sally Johnson



From the Editor

Archaeologists need dates. And no, not like “lonely archaeologist seeks adventurous dendrochronologist.” Rather, we need ways to tell how old an artifact or site is. And we and our related disciplines have come up with a whole slew of ways to do this. The list could start with dendrochronology and obsidian hydration, and then there’s a whole alphabet of techniques, like C14, K-Ar, U series, and OSL. We’ll talk here about the well-established archaeomagnetic dating technique, and go on to introduce a new (to me) technique that may not have a name yet, but that involves archaeomagnetic intensity.



The earth has a magnetic field, which is why we can use compasses to tell direction. The northern magnetic pole is reasonably close to the geographic north pole, and predictable enough that we can adjust our compasses to point to true north. I assume the same is true of the south pole. We also know that the magnetic north pole wanders around constantly, and these movements through time have been carefully reconstructed.

We can use these past fluctuations to date archaeological sites. As sediment is laid down, the iron particles align themselves to the current magnetic field, and this alignment persists in those layers even as the direction

of the magnetic field changes. Thus, with careful extraction of a block of sediment, we can determine the location of magnetic north at the time the sediment was deposited. A chart of the magnetic north’s wanderings provides dates for when the magnetic pole was in that particular direction from your site. Other means might allow one to narrow the possibilities down to a few contiguous years—or centuries/millennia.

Interestingly, the magnetic field varies not only in direction, but also in intensity, and this can be relatively localized. A spike in intensity has been documented in the Near East during the iron age, around 3,000 years ago, and called the Levantine Iron Age (geomagnetic) Anomaly, or LIAA. Although postulated to have been present in Mesopotamia proper (the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, now in Iraq) the spike had not yet been adequately documented there.

Howland et al. have now confirmed the presence of the LIAA in Mesopotamia. They sampled 32 previously-excavated fired clay bricks whose inscriptions allowed them to each be precisely dated to the reigns of 12 different Mesopotamian kings from the 3rd to the 1st millennia BCE. When the bricks were fired in antiquity, the iron particles would have been realigned to the contemporary magnetic field. Since they were bricks, and were moved around a lot, the direction of the magnetic field in the bricks would be irrelevant, but the intensity was preserved and could be measured. Besides confirming the presence of the LIAA, by adding these 32 high-resolution data points, the research team has “dramatically increased the resolution of the archaeointensity curve” of that time period in Mesopotamia, and in so doing hope to pioneer the creation of an alternative dating technique for archaeological materials from that part of the world. And the more dating techniques that are available to archaeologists, the more relevant the discipline will be.

References:

Geggel, Laura
2023 Iron oxide baked into Mesopotamian bricks confirms ancient magnetic field anomaly.
[Live Science](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2023/12/20/iron-oxide-baked-into-mesopotamian-bricks-confirms-ancient-magnetic-field-anomaly) 12/20/2023

Howland, Matthew D., Lisa Tauxe, Shai Gordin, Mark Altaweel, Brendan Cych, and Erez Ben-Yosef

2023 Exploring geomagnetic variations in ancient Mesopotamia: Archaeomagnetic study of inscribed bricks from the 3rd–1st millennia BCE. *PNAS* 120(52):_December 18, 2023, 120 (52) e2313361120. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2313361120>

Chipeta Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 593
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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: a .pdf is posted to Member365 for download. Effective soon, if you want a print copy, you will have to go to the state CAS website and pay an additional fee.

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
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- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, casrep@chipetachaptercas.org

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- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, membership@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Site Steward Coordinator:** Leigh Ann Hunt, sitestewards@chipetachaptercas.org
- **Library:** Linda Manske, library@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, visit:

<https://www.historycolorado/paac>

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Leigh Ann Hunt

Chipeta Chapter PAAC Coordinator

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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 Bill Harris. All other unattributed photos are by the editor.