

The Uncompahgre Journal

February 2025 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Volume 42 Issue 2

Mark Your Calendar

Feb 12: [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with Michael Mathiowetz speaking on the role of clown societies among Casas Grandes and Puebloan communities. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm.

Feb 19: [Chipeta Chapter](#) monthly meeting (*right*) with Rand Greubel on late prehistoric Gateway phase sites on the southern flanks of the Uncompahgre Plateau. United Methodist Church, 19 S Park Ave., 7:00 pm.

Feb 26: [CAS-GJ](#) monthly meeting with Zebulon Miracle speaking on the historiography of the Colorado Plateau. Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, Grand Junction, 6:30 pm.

Our February Presentation

The Weimer Ranch Sites and the Late Prehistoric Gateway Phase

by Rand Greubel

The Weimer Ranch sites are a group of Late Prehistoric sites on the southern flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau in western Montrose County. These sites, along with a modest number of similar sites in the region, are unique for the presence of stone masonry structures, Puebloan-style pottery, and maize. They represent anomalies because they are situated a considerable distance north of the well-defined northern boundary of the Ancestral Puebloan culture area and east of the boundary with the Fremont. This presentation will focus on the excavation history of the Weimer Ranch sites, the age of the sites, descriptions of the stone structures and artifacts, and the possible identity of the inhabitants. The sites will then be discussed in a larger regional context, including a consideration of the nature of the Gateway phase and how it relates to nearby contemporaneous cultures including Ancestral Puebloan, Fremont, and the non-horticultural Aspen tradition.



Our February Speaker

Rand Greubel is a retired former co-owner and principal investigator at Alpine Archaeological Consultants in Montrose. He worked as a professional archaeologist in the western US for almost 40 years. A Colorado native, Rand grew up in Montrose, graduating from Montrose High School in 1978. He obtained a BA degree in Anthropology from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and an MA in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, UK. His first professional experience was working on the Old Dallas archaeological project (Ridgway Reservoir) under Dr. William G. Buckles in 1980. Over the course of his professional career he participated in hundreds of archaeological surveys (recording over 1,000 sites in Colorado alone) and dozens of excavations in the northern Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Southwest regions. He became proficient in many areas of archaeological research and analysis but was particularly known for his expertise in prehistoric lithic technology. Rand's other research interests include Ute archaeology, the Formative (i.e., Late Prehistoric) period in western Colorado and eastern Utah, forager-farmer interactions in prehistory, and spatial analysis of hunter-gatherer sites.

Photo by Rand Greubel



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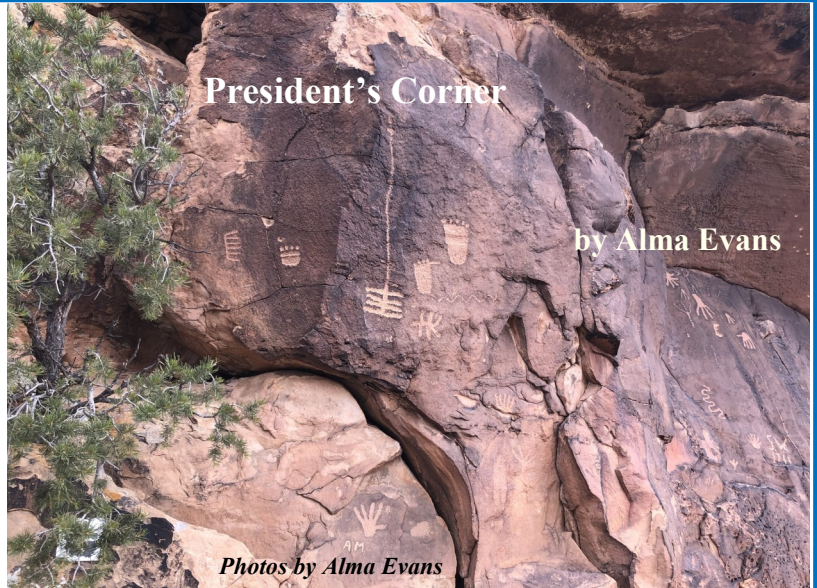
2025

Was it really only 25 years ago that I was experiencing angst about New Year's Eve, 1999? No shortage of experts predicted computers would fail, planes would fall out of the sky and cars with electronic ignitions would stop running. Now it seems funny. 2025, WOW! For those of you who are close to my age – that was a fast quarter-century. It seems, we live long days and short years. Watching archaeologists

work backwards through time, 25 years is a blink and usually stated in a footnote, such as “The Utes acquired horses in 1640 (plus or minus 25 years). Y2K, for the youngsters in the audience, means “Year 2000”. It also will become only a footnote to the New Year, January 1, 2000.

New Year's Eve for me was sitting near an ancient wall built between 900-1400 CE (plus or minus 25 years) in the place of refuse, Pu'uhonua o Honaunau' and watching the sun sink into the beautiful Pacific Ocean. Dare I say, “The temperature was 82 degrees.” Don't worry about temperatures, I came home to 17 degrees soon enough.

In any event, I hope the year 2025 is a marvelous year for each of you.



Some Thank Yous

First, I want to thank Elizabeth Binder for covering half the Board who were out for the January meeting. I am told she did a fine job. Thank you, Elizabeth.

I also want to acknowledge the many people who attended the Christmas Party. It was good to socialize, laugh, and tell stories. Dan Elsner entertained us with each of us trying to match petroglyphs with their locations. The food was delicious and plentiful.

I would like you to know that I have enjoyed being the President of the Chipeta Chapter of CAS. It is a fulfilling job that does not require much time on my part. The very competent Board members and standing committees (the people who do the work) make it easy for the President. I shall remain as President for the remainder of this year and resign at the end of 2025.



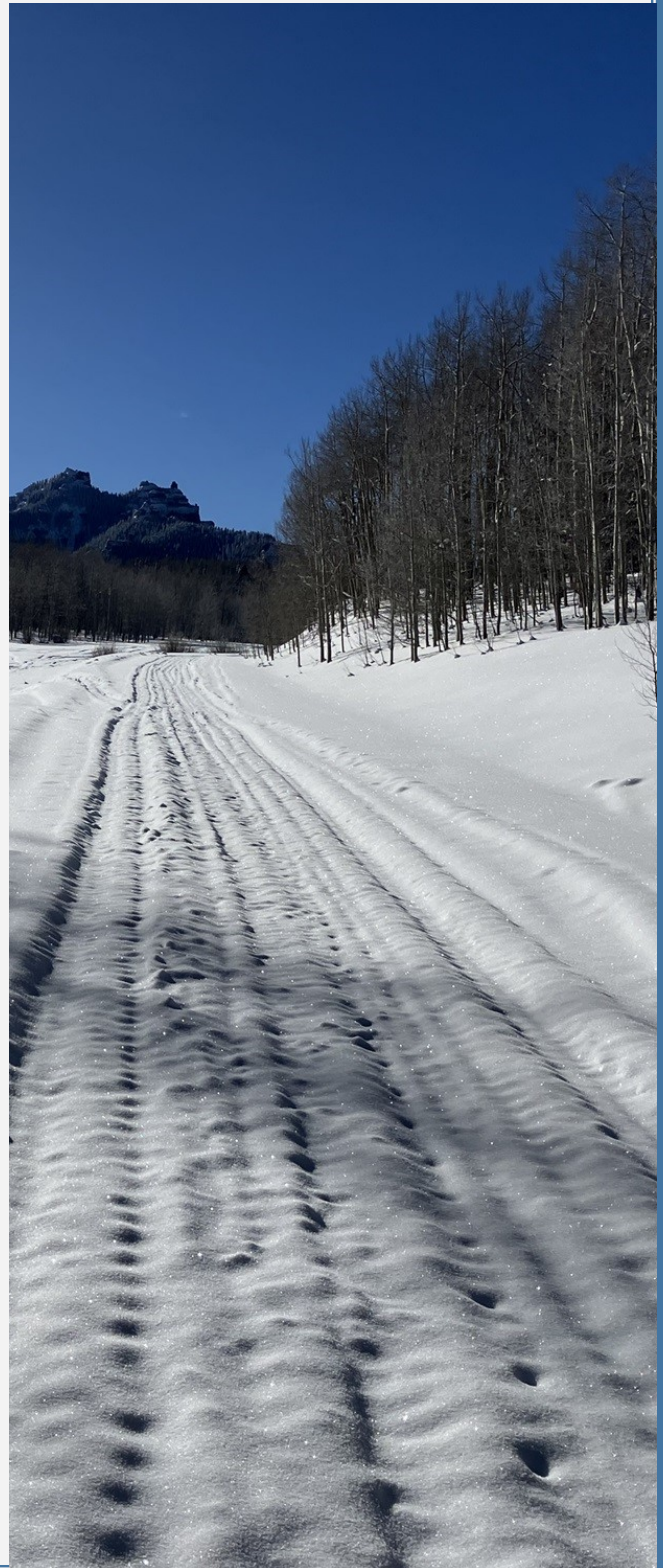
From the Editor

A recent article in the journal *Nature* describes an archaeological community called Durotrigians, that occupied the southern parts of Britain near the English Channel during the late Iron Age (100 BCE – 50 CE), and that differed from many of their contemporaries in that they buried their dead. This was during a time of considerable upheaval as indicated by a proliferation of hill forts. The women were often buried with substantial grave goods, indicating high status, and DNA analysis revealed that most of them were very closely related to each other. In contrast, the male burials were mostly unrelated either to the women or the other men, suggesting that they came from diverse outside regions. Taken together, these findings suggest that this was a matrilineal social system. That is, a new union of a woman and man lives with the woman's family. Matrilineal societies are generally also matrilineal, meaning that kinship relationships are defined along the female line. Children born into the new family are in the lineage of their mother, mother's mother, etc all the way back to some real or mythical lineage ancestor. The children's father, mother's father etc. are all in different lineages, thus only distantly related. The children are more closely related to their mother's brother than they are to their father.

The authors note that matrilineal residence rules tend to be associated with horticultural societies (where women did most of the planting, tending, and harvesting) and societies in which paternity may have been uncertain, either because the men were off fighting wars and/or were otherwise indifferent to familial responsibilities, or because the women didn't demand or expect men to stick around. They also underscore the unsettled political situation and endemic warfare (hillforts). Interestingly, the Durotrigians seemed to have closer trading relations with people across the channel in northern Europe than with other societies nearby in Britain. The authors suggest that they were recent arrivals who may have helped bring Celtic languages into the island, and who may have been displaced by the aggressions of the Roman Empire farther south in Gaul.

This article is interesting because of its use of genetic analysis to identify the residence rules of an archaeological society, but it annoyed me because the authors suggested that matrilineal societies are rare. It's true in a worldwide sense: only some 17% of societies are matrilineal. But to say therefore that matrilineal societies are rare is akin to saying that starlings are rare birds. Compared to all the birds in the world, starlings might not be that numerous. But most of us will agree that they are not rare. Seventeen percent of all the societies in the world is a lot of societies. Matrilineal societies are quite common in the Southwest: the Navajo are traditionally matrilineal, as are most of the Puebloan groups, including Zuni, Hopi, and Acoma. Matrilineal societies are also common along the northwest coast of Canada and into Alaska, in the southeastern US, the South Seas and New Guinea, and much of southern Africa.

Cassidy, L.M., Russell, M., Smith, M. *et al.* Continental influx and pervasive matrilineality in Iron Age Britain. *Nature* **637**, 1136–1142 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-08409-6>



Chipeta Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society
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Membership Application

Date: _____
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Photos by Dennis DeVore



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

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

New Family (2 or more members same household)\$40
 Renewal 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.



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:

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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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Future Speakers

March: David Bradford, Dominguez-Escalante expedition route.

April: David Hyde, Central American excavations

May: Greg Munson, PaleoAstronomy

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.