

Pictures From The Past

NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLORADO ROCK ART ASSOCIATION (CRAA)
A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

<http://www.coloradorockart.org>

May 2016

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Inside This Issue

Field Trips

..... page 2

PAAC Scholar Awards

.....page 3

Feature Article: A Journey
Through an Aboriginal Clan's
Special Place by Jack Warner

..... page 4

2016 Conference
Announcements

.....page 8

CRAA Officers & Board
Members

.....page 10



May is Colorado Rock Art Association renewal month. Please renew your membership. Renewal forms are on the Colorado Rock Art Website on the membership page. Thank you to all who have already renewed.

We are offering a variety of field trips this spring, summer and fall. We hope you will join us for our field trips.

The first trip of 2016 will be in May in to Hicklin Springs Petroglyphs near La Junta, Colorado. Details are on page 2.

In June, Ken Frye will lead a field trip in the San Luis Valley. Details for this field trip is on page 3.

Please support us by participating in field trips.

We have several open positions on the CRAA board. Open positions include Membership Chair person, Newsletter Editor and Field Trip Coordinator. We hope you will consider contributing to CRAA by taking one of these positions. The board meets on the fourth Monday of most months via conference call. Please contact Anne Robinson at annerco@yahoo.com, if you are interested.

If you hear of any events or projects relating to rock, please pass them along to us at coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com. We will get the information out to CRAA members.

We will be holding CRAA elections in May 2016 via Survey Monkey. Please participate in electing and re-electing CRAA board members.

Colorado Rock Art Association Field Trips

Join us for a field trip!

Participants must agree to the CAS and CRAA code of ethics. All participants must sign a release of liability.

May 21, 2016

Hicklin Springs Field Trip

Location: La Junta, Colorado – All Day

Date: Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Driving: Pick up or SUV is best, but can be done with a car.

Activity Level: Expect to be hiking in rough terrain, but distances are not great.

Leaders: Bob Rushforth & Bob Tipton

Details & sign up information for Hicklin Springs Field Trip:

Bob Rushforth and I (Bob Tipton) will be in LaJunta on May 21 and plan to do some exploration in the Hicklin Springs rock art site. There's lots of cool petroglyphs and some pictographs (if we can find them). If you would like to join us, you're more than welcome. When we're finished, you'll be free to visit other sites of interest on your own.



We will meet at the Walmart on the west end of LaJunta at 10 in the morning and, if you like, you can make carpool arrangements among yourselves. The site is accessible by car if you're really careful, but a pickup or SUV would be better. You'll want to bring a lunch or snacks. Boots and gaiters are recommended as there are snakes and poison ivy in the area.

Other places of interest in the area are Vogel Canyon, Picture Canyon, Carrizo Canyon, Bent's Fort and Boggsville. Not to be missed are the ribs at Boss Hog's in LaJunta.

We are making 16 slots available. Preference will be given to CRAA members. Membership forms are available on the CRAA website. Please contact me by email, junkdocs@q.com to sign up or by phone, 720.289.9033 if you have any questions,

Several field trip participants plan to camp and the KOA in La Junta, including the group leaders. Join us there if you wish to camp. We may plan to do a group dinner if there is enough interest.

Yours,
Bob Tipton

For additional information about Hicklin Springs rock art from Peter Faris' blog go to <http://rockartblog.blogspot.com/search?q=Hicklin+Springs>. He has several articles that reference Hicklin Springs rock art.

Additional field trips on next page

June 18, 2016

Field Trip to San Luis Valley site- Dry Creek Sites (& Cat Creek, if time allows)

Date: Saturday, June 18 – All Day

Location: Meet in Monte Vista at 9:00 a.m. (Details provided with sign up confirmation)

Leader: Ken Frye

Driving: Best with High Clearance Vehicle- two-track roads

Activity Level: Rough walking + couple of the sites take 15 minutes with some uphill walking

Maximum Participants: 20

Sign-up contact: Send email to coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com to reserve your spot.

Monte Vista June Temps: Average High is 76 degrees, Average low is 23 degrees.

Lodging is available in Monte Vista. Camping options are also available, but none appear to be terribly close to Monte Vista. We will plan to do some type of optional group dinner for folks who are interested.

July 23, 2016

Sweetwater Cave Field Trip

Ute Rock art located in a cave.

Location: Eagle County, Colorado

Activity Level: Short but very steep hike to cave.

Leader: Jo Morgan

Details & sign up information to come

October 31 – November 4, 2016

2016 CRAA Texas Rock Art

Clear your calendars! We will be sponsoring a rock art tour to western Texas, October 31-November 4 (travel days Oct. 29-30 and Nov. 4-5). Our stops will be Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site near El Paso, an archaic boulder petroglyph site on a private ranch, Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Park (Fate Bell Shelter), 2 sites on private property—White Shaman and Curley Tail Panther. Camping is available at Hueco Tanks, Davis Mountains State Park, and Seminole Canyon; motels can be up to 30 minutes away in El Paso, Fort Davis/Alpine and Comstock/Del Rio.

This trip is rated moderate to strenuous due to uneven ground, rocks, boulder scrambling, prickly bushes, cactus, steep climbs into and out of deep canyons, narrow paths with drop-offs on one site.

More detailed information coming in July/August.

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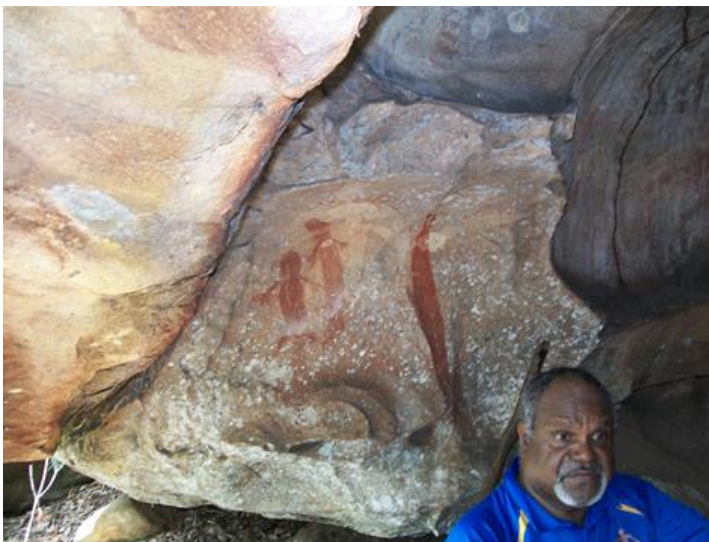
PAAC Scholar Certificates Awarded

Colorado Rock Art Members Karen Kinnear and Anne Robinson have recently completed the PAAC Scholar Certificate. PAAC Scholar certificates are awarded after completing and passing all thirteen PAAC Classes. The certificates were awarded at the CAS Quarterly meeting held in Denver in April. Congratulations to Karen and Anne!

A Journey Through an Aboriginal Clan's Special Place In Cape York, Queensland, Australia

By Jack C. Warner

We are all shaped by four keys to our lives: spirit, survival, education, and economy. We must all be understood in the context of the environment that we were raised in, and the forces that have shaped us. Strong family and community values build a strong spirit. A good education provides survival skills and a path to prosper economically. Australian aboriginal people believe that there is a Spirit Giver for all living creatures. Because all come from the same Spirit, all are created equal. Willie Gordon sits serenely in front of a rock art image of the Creator Spirit, men, and fish in the Reflection Cave. He teaches us visitors, just as he teaches the young of his clan of his tribe, on their ancestral land, in the Hope Vale Aboriginal Lands on Cape York, Far North Queensland, Australia.



Nugal Teacher, Willie Gordon, teaches in the Reflection Cave with the images of the creator spirit in yellow, and men and a fish, the symbol of the life

Gordon as our guide; in the Wet Tropic bush of Queensland, visiting six rock art sites not open to the general public.

Rock art is a somewhat unusual branch of archaeology. It is studied and appreciated much like other artifacts, but many also are interested in rock art as art itself. It is one of the few archaeological artifacts where the creator actually intended to express meaning to other people. The main problem with interpreting rock art is that the creator's meaning is often lost in the mists of time that separate the creative act from modern eyes. This day was to be much different for us.

Willie Gordon is the specialist in the *Nugal* clan of the *Guugu Yimithirr* Tribe responsible for the clan's special place that contains the caves and the rock art. Willie likes to call himself a *Nugal* "teacher" or "story-teller". Many refer to his specialist position as a clan "elder". His father and his grandfather handed down Willie's specialist position and knowledge to him. In fact, his

grandfather is known to have contributed to some of the art. Most of the art is ancient. This series of rock art filled caves is used by his clan for teaching the young the most important clan spiritual values; as well as, a place of birth, a place of burial of the dead, and a place of reflection. Willie is responsible for the care of the art and the teaching stories that go with them.

It is important to have a guide in the Australian tropical bush, as there are many things that can hurt and even kill you. On the hike through the bush up to the rock ridge that contained the caves and rock art, Willie explained what to be watchful for: insects, snakes, and plants. He explained emergency procedures to follow if we were in trouble, and even instructed us on what to do if he was rendered incapacitated. He also stopped to teach us Aboriginal lore and about “bush tucker” (wild food).

The first cave was very low to the ground. I had to lie on my back and wiggle, worm-like, into the narrow opening. Inside there was a fine display of left hand stencils, some with arms also, painted in white on the ceiling. These were made by blowing paint through a hollow reed. Willie explained that the left hand is considered a person’s signature. It is considered the peaceful hand, as the right hand is used in conflict.

Some caves were related to food with pictures of local hunted animals such as the eastern grey kangaroo, the goanna (a lizard), the large emu bird, and fish. Special people in the clan were also represented. The shape of the striping painted on their bodies marked their various specialties. These caves are used to teach the young key aspects of *Nugal* clan organization and life skills. Most paint is red and based on red ochre. White is often used, and Willie explained that to the *Nugal*, it is the color of sadness. Yellow is also used and it is a symbol of light. Light is a very important symbol to the *Nugal* and the Aboriginals of Cape York. The symbol of the Creator is the Rainbow Serpent. The serpent sometimes looks like the shape of the rivers, which give life-sustaining water to living beings. The rainbow is what comes from the joining of light and water—the two key elements of life. The last cave contained two large paintings of the Rainbow Serpent.

There was a very moving two-cave sequence. The first of these was a cave where pregnant women went when they were close to delivering their babies. The images on the cave walls are of pregnant women near time of birth and a large kangaroo in red. The cave is dominated by a large solid yellow image on the ceiling of a woman near the time of birth. Willie told us this was a restful place for women to be with their helpers during the uncomfortable time waiting for the



The reclined figure of a respected elder or teacher whose specialty is denoted by stripes high up his chest.

birth. The next cave is the actual birthing cave where *Nugal* women have their babies. Willie's father and grandfather were born here. The image of a mother just after birth with the baby still attached by the umbilical cord lingers on the mind. There are several other images including inverted men, which symbolize that no men are allowed in the birthing cave. Just outside the birthing cave is a large tree. There, the father accepts the newborn into his family by burying the placenta near the roots.



Birthing Cave new mother and baby with umbilical still attached

Just around the corner from the birthing cave is a place where the bones of those who had died are wrapped in bark, called *dubal*, and placed in shallow caves in a rock face. The *Nugal* custom is to bury the dead to return the flesh to the earth. Later, the bones are collected, washed, embalmed with ochre, and put in a *dubal* bundle. They then put the *dubal* bundle in a cave near the person's place of birth. Willie said this completes the cycle of birth to death.



**Image of a *dubal* bundle holding the bones of the dead.
The left hand and arm silhouette signifies a person's acceptance.**

Willie Gordon calls the place of the six caves we visited his *Guurrbi*, his special place. By the end of our day with Willie, it was special to us as well.

References:

The author's personal travel journal for 5/5/09

GUURRBI My Special Place, Willie Gordon with Judy Bennett, published by Guurrbi Tours, Cooktown, Queensland, Australia (www.guurrbitours.com)

A version of this article was originally published in the Colorado Archaeological Society's Denver Chapter newsletter All Points Bulletin, June, 2011.



Jack C. Warner is an archaeologist and a lifelong student of the archaeology and anthropology of early humans. He has a particular interest in the early people in the Americas. Jack is active in archaeological fieldwork: survey, igs, lab artifact curation, analysis, talks, and publication involving prehistoric human occupation in the areas of the Colorado Front Range and Southwestern Colorado. Jack gives talks and tours relating to Denver Basin prehistoric archaeology, including at the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve, a 10,000+ year-old Paleo-Indian site with many extinct mammoth and bison remains. Jack is a Past President and an active Director of the Colorado Archaeological Society. He has visited archaeological sites in all six of the permanently inhabited continents of the Earth. He is a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, and The Archaeological Conservancy. Jack is the author of the book *EAGLES AND LIONS OF LAND AND SEA*, which documents the places in the world he has found the most interesting, and why. Jack received his Master of Science degree from Cornell University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

Upcoming Rock Art and CAS Conferences

Conferences are a great way to learn more about Rock Art and Archaeology.

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) Conference

Las Cruces, New Mexico
May 27–30, 2016

Conference Registration Pre-Registration Deadline: May 1, 2016

The 43rd annual American Rock Art Research Association Conference will convene in Las Cruces, New Mexico, over the customary Memorial Day weekend. Las Cruces, with Three Rivers and other outstanding rock art sites on the field trip list, is an ARARA member's dream venue. In addition to fantastic field trips, the conference will feature interesting papers, the ever-exciting auction, and the awards banquet.

Presentation of research papers forms the core of the meeting. Come learn the latest in rock art research, ask questions of our presenters, and share your ideas. For more information and to sign up go to <http://www.arara.org/>

Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) Conference

Delta, Utah
September 30 – October 3, 2016

Our annual symposium. Two days of field trips to great rock art sites. Two days of speakers. Our business meeting which gives you the opportunity to throw out those bums on the board. Dinner, auction, watermelons, fun and frivolity.

There is a plethora of rock art in the Delta area. The rock art is generally on boulders rather than large rock faces. Access is much simpler than in many other places with many "drive up" sites and little hiking.

For more information & to sign up, go to <https://urara.wildapricot.org/>

Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting and Conference

Grand Junction, Colorado at Colorado Mesa State University

October 7-9, 2016

Saturday, October 8 will feature speakers on a variety of topics. Friday and Sunday, October 7 & 9 will include field trips. Details and sign up information to come.



An original ceramic pot made especially for CAS!

"Zebra Sentinel" stands 32" tall, featuring African porcupine quills, by Colorado Springs artist Jerry Rhodes. Value estimate \$900++



Jerry Rhodes is a ceramic artist living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. His work has appeared in numerous juried shows and competitions. He currently exhibits in galleries in Colorado, Santa Fe and Taos (NM), Hastings-on-Hudson (NY), Charleston (SC), Georgetown (DC), and Bethlehem (PA), and has many pieces in private collections internationally.



Jerry likes to combine seemingly disparate elements drawn from a global, temporal, and cultural palate to form a composition. Some pieces may blend science with antiquity; Einstein's equations for Special Relativity carved around the rim of a classic Greek form, for instance, while others may represent a cultural fusion; African and Polynesian tribal components combined into a loosely symbolic presentation. Often he will use traditional style glazes and classic post firing reduction techniques, but other times he'll use plant food, steel wool, and horsehair during the firing, and add African porcupine quills to complete a composition. The results are usually very dramatic.

www.jerryrhodespottery.com

Raffle ticket prices:

\$3 each or 4 for \$10

For additional info, contact Terri Hoff 970-882-2191

tthoff@hotmail.com

www.coloradoarchaeology.org

Raffle Tickets will be available at the CAS Annual Conference in Grand Junction, October 7-9.

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