



Pictures From The Past



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

January 2023

Volume 14, Issue 1

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Upcoming CRAA Events

Webinar: Jan. 24, 7:00 PM
Board Meeting: Feb. 9, 7:00 PM



Colorado Rock Art Association

<https://coloradorockart.org>

Leigh Marymore

WESTERN MESSAGE PETROGLYPHS: SMOKING GUNS

Thursday, March 16
7:00 p.m., MST

Join via Zoom!



Join the webinar by following this link on your computer, laptop, or smartphone: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81350234226?pwd=SUw0MmM3OHJlMU1MbJicXJBYTI2QT09>

Or go to www.zoom.us, click “join” and enter the following:
Meeting ID: 813 5023 4226
Passcode: 304085

Find full details about our speaker and this month’s topic on page 2.

March Webinar

March 16, 2023

7:00 PM MST

Western Message Petroglyphs: Smoking Guns

Leigh Marymore

The term “Western Message Petroglyphs” (WMPs) refers to a number of petroglyph sites found scattered among eight western states that are recognized by their shared image content and layout. The imagery is drawn largely from a mash-up of late historic Native American sign-gesture language and picture-writing traditions intermixed with pancultural imagery from around the world. An increasing number of sites that fit this mold have been reported over the past 85 years or so, currently numbering 39. Four WMP sites are currently known in Colorado.

There is no question that these sites date to post-European contact based on images that depict Euro-American cultural content (western-style house, rifle, whiskey keg, horse, etc.). The post-contact era is also apparent in the method used in rendering the engraved images evidenced by the smooth angular lines and chisel strikes produced by metal tools.

Leigh Marymore will focus on narrowing the time frame for these sites based on two additional streams of evidence. First, patterned associations with historic landscape settings tied to the era of western expansion bind the sites together into a coherent whole and set a floor for their oldest probable dates. Secondly, a study of their imagery supports the proposed dates by revealing “smoking guns” for the sources of many of the individual icons.

I intend to demonstrate that the common parlance of Plains Indian sign-gesture language and the picture-writing imagery that supplemented it was by no means strictly universal. Many picture-writing examples prove to be culturally explicit, and unique to individual picture-writers. When these unique images show up in WMP panels we have a means to narrow their time frame, as it is possible to source many of them to mid-nineteenth and early twentieth century ethnographic literature. These publications served to introduce an Euro-American audience to heretofore unique and closely-held picture-writing imagery; resulting in a number of “faux-Indian” picture writing expressions that began to appear in the last quarter of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries - among these are the Western Message Petroglyphs.

[1] For grammatical convenience, this study uses the terms “author” and “he” to refer to the creator of the WMP engravings. Authorship of the WMPs may be the responsibility of one or more persons, and the gender of the author, or authors, is also unknown.

CRAA webinars will continue to be held on Zoom. The link to join will be emailed to members in advance of each webinar, and will be shared on the CRAA website.

Do you have an idea for future webinars?

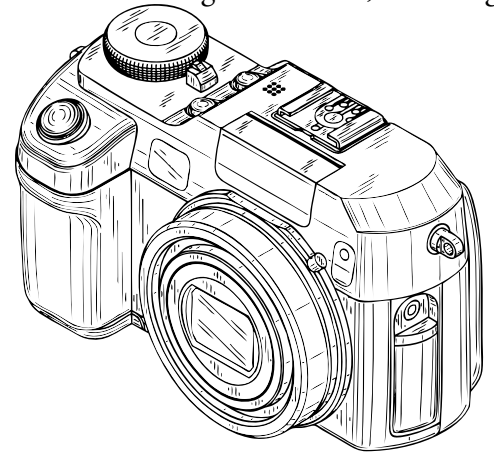
If there is a speaker or topic that you’re interested, please let the CRAA know! Email suggestions to: coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com

Upcoming Field Trips

The CRAA is planning several field trips for 2023. All field trips are subject to weather and site access.

The first trip of the year will be led by Carol Patterson, and is anticipated to take place in April or May. The trip will visit rock art sites along the Gunnison River in Delta County. The trip will focus on recording the rock art, including GPS data, photographing the site, and creating drawings of the imagery. Field trip details will be finalized at a later time. Please contact Carol to be included in trip updates. Please email Carol at urraca2fly@gmail.com, with an email subject line of "CRAA Field Trip".

Additional field trips will be scheduled as the year progresses. Tentative locations include sites near Fort Collins, the eastern plains, and the Four Corners regions.



Updates from the Archive

The Pueblo City-County Library is undergoing a massive remodeling project, but the CRAA Archive is alive and well! When the remodeling concludes, archive items will have more space to be stored, and will live in the new Special Collections Department.

During renovations, there was limited access to the collections. Fran Cosyleon and Anne Whitfield worked in a "store room" with the John and Daphne Rudolph collection. The renovations will allow CRAA items to be stored more carefully (archivally) and provide additional space. The project started during COVID, with work continuing though 2022.

Anne reports that Fran and she were the only volunteers allowed to continue work during the mess of renovations. With CRAA records organized, a new digital archivist must be hired. To view the collections that have been digitized, including the Sally Cole and Bill Buckles collections, search online for the "CRAA Archive" at Pueblo City-County Library.

If you have rock art images to include in the archive, please mail your files on a disc or thumb drive to:

Aaron Ramirez, Manager of Special Collections and Museum Services
Pueblo City-County Library District
100 E. Abriendo Ave. Pueblo, CO 81004

Questions? Call Aaron at (719) 562-5631 or email Aaron.Ramirez@PuebloLibrary.org

We request that images are labeled with the location and date. Additional information is appreciated, but not required.

Reflecting on Twenty Years of CRAA

As the CRAA celebrates twenty years of existence, we are taking the moment to reflect on our past, and look ahead to our future. This issue's reflection comes to us from Darwin Thompson, the Chair of the CRAA Education Committee.

Rock Art – A Cultural Treasure at Risk

Rock art, known by many as rock writing, reflects humankind's rich spiritual and cultural heritage and has great significance to its creators and their descendants. Its beauty, symbolism, and rich narrative are widely appreciated and treasured.

Many rock art or rock writing sites are in peril today due to developmental pressures, graffiti, vandalism, looting, poor tourist management, and a range of natural and environmental impacts. The Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) has an important role to play in assisting in the effort to save and protect the valuable and vulnerable heritage of rock art.

The purpose of the CRAA is to encourage integrated scientific study of rock art, to advocate for its protection and conservation, to provide educational opportunities, and to promote professional, avocational, and public awareness. The CRAA recognizes four main pillars of rock art conservation policy and practices: public and political awareness, effective management systems, physical and cultural conservation practices, and community involvement and benefits.

The issue we are faced with today is protecting and preventing irreparable damage to important historical and cultural sites. The message must be conveyed that rock art has value and that there are both Federal and State laws protecting it. The CRAA must find new ways to educate all the importance of rock art.

Most of our rock art sites are on public lands. Our public lands belong to every American and are an important part of our national heritage. Managing these public lands is a challenging mission for State, Federal, and private organizations. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is charged with the management of the major part of the

West. One of the issues faced is managing land for multiple uses while protecting and preventing irreparable damage to these important historical cultural sites.

An article addressing the BLM's role today in the protecting of cultural treasures including our rock art will appear in a future issue the "Pictures of the Past", the CRAA Newsletter.



Photo: Darwin Thompson. Historic graffiti.

History of the CRAA

As far as I know, the idea of a Rock Art Chapter for the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) began with Mr. Bill McGlone in La Junta in the mid-1980s. Bill's advocacy led to Mr. Gary Moreschini of the Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society organizing a series of two or three meetings to discuss the idea. Gary invited interested parties from around the state to participate, but at the end nothing came of it. Later, Mr. Bill Tilley, also of the Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society initiated a series of annual Rock Art Symposiums where papers were presented and rock art was discussed.

In 2002, I was the Vice President of the Denver Chapter of CAS with the responsibility to organize the programs and speakers for the monthly meetings. I conducted an informal survey to get an idea of what kinds of programs the members would enjoy, and was surprised (and somewhat shocked) to find a level of animosity to rock art programs.

That led me to bring up the idea of a separate organization for the study of rock art at the next symposium organized by Bill Tilley and this time the reception was positive. I asked interested parties to give me their names and contact information and in early 2003, gathered a group together in my family room where we had a discussion that concluded with us proclaiming ourselves the Colorado Rock Art Association.

Shortly thereafter, I petitioned CAS for admission as a statewide chapter devoted to the study of rock art. Over the past 20 years, we have had many field trips, annual meetings with rock art symposia, and published newsletters. About three years ago, Joel Hurmence's technical abilities allowed us to present online webinars with speakers from around the country.

Although the recent COVID restrictions prevented the CRAA from holding in-person annual or board meetings, we learned how to meet on Zoom, which made everything easier in many ways. Now that we do not have to travel for hours to meet in person, board members' jobs have become so much easier – now it is only an hour or two a month sitting at your computer. All in all, the future of Colorado Rock Art Association looks very bright. With your help, there will continue to be opportunities to visit and record rock art sites. We hope you will join us and the CRAA.

Peter Faris

Current Member of the Board of Directors

Past President: 2003-2005, 2008-2010

History Colorado - Preservation Program Committee

The CRAA and Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) both have important roles in the preservation of our cultural resources. One way the CRAA is assisting is by our representation and by serving on the History Colorado Preservation Committee.

The History Colorado Preservation Program Committee (PPC, formerly AHPC) met on Zoom on January 10, 2023. The purpose of the Committee is to review and establish policies for History Colorado preservation and archaeology programs, and to provide direction for historic preservation and archaeology funds.

The meeting was overseen by Dawn DiPrince of History Colorado, assisted by Cathey Finlon and Patrick Eidman. Each individual made presentations reviewing the State Preservation Plan and the State Historical Fund. The PPC Committee was informed of the work and action required by the State Preservation Plan, and the timeframes and deadlines mandated by the State of Colorado.

Discussion was held on the many aspects of the Plan and with the meeting of the goal objectives of the Committee.

Recommendations were made and discussed. A possible “roadmap” plan was established.

Future meetings will be held to finalize the Plan and to meet the deadlines established by the State of Colorado and the National Park Service.

The next meeting of the joint Committee will be held in-person on May 16, 2023.

Submitted by Darwin Thompson

CAS Representative to the AHPC

PPC Board Member – History Colorado



HISTORY *Colorado*

Reports from the Field: March 2022 CRAA Field Trip to Southern New Mexico and West Texas

The Chihuahuan Desert of southern New Mexico and West Texas was once home to the Mimbres, Mogollon, Apache, and other indigenous peoples. Evidence of their rock art was visited by members of CRAA on March 18, 27, and 28, 2022.

As some of the members arrived in the area early, we decided to make a side trip to Three Rivers Petroglyph site on March 18. Located 17 miles north of Tularosa, NM, the park contains more than 21,000 images carved between 900 and 1400 A.D. by the Jornada Mogollon people.

On March 27, we visited Pony Hills in the basin of the Cooke's range, north of Deming, NM. We climbed an escarpment to view numerous boulders containing a large variety of images, metates, mortar holes, and possible water tanks or cisterns.

This entire area is rich with rocks and history. On the west side of the basin is Fluorite Ridge with its old fluorite mines. East of Fluorite Ridge is Starvation Draw, and east of Starvation Draw are the ruins of Fort Cummings at the foot of the Cooke's Range. The Butterfield Trail also runs through this area.

After visiting Pony Hills, we drove east about 25 miles to Apache Flats. This upland valley drains south toward Akela Flats and the huge trough that lies between the Florida Mountains and the west Portrillo Mountains.

On March 28, the group caravanned from Las Cruces, NM, to Ft. Hancock, TX, about 54 miles south of El Paso. 24 miles of remote dirt roads brought us to Alamo Canyon.



Photo: Bob Huestis. Apache Flats.

Alamo Canyon contains at least 16 rock art panels—more than 500 images carved (petroglyphs) or painted (pictographs) on the rocks. Spanning some 4,000 years of cultural history, this forms one of the most extensive and well-preserved rock art sites in Texas.

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Reports from the Field: March 2022 CRAA Field Trip to Southern New Mexico and West Texas *(continued from page 7)*

Researchers studying these images note that they contain particular styles and symbols prevalent in other areas of the Southwest, pointing to relations and interaction between various contacting cultures.



Photo: Bob Huestis. Alamo Canyon.

All of these images are characteristic of the Mesoamerican culture of Casas Grandes in northwestern Chihuahua, MX, which influenced the Katchina Cult and Pueblo Pantheon. The influence of Casas Grandes spread throughout the Mimbres and Jornada Mogollon regions of the Southwest. Archeological evidence of trade and contact between the peoples of Casas Grandes and Alamo Canyon was found in Jaguar Cave in the form of Casas Grandes wares, and the motifs found at Alamo Canyon may be associated with this particular cultural diffusion.

There is additional rock art at Alamo Canyon that dates to a much later period. It has been associated with the Sumas, Jocomes, and Mescalero Apaches who occupied the region at the time of their first encounters with the Spanish in the late 1500s.

Submitted by Bob Huestis

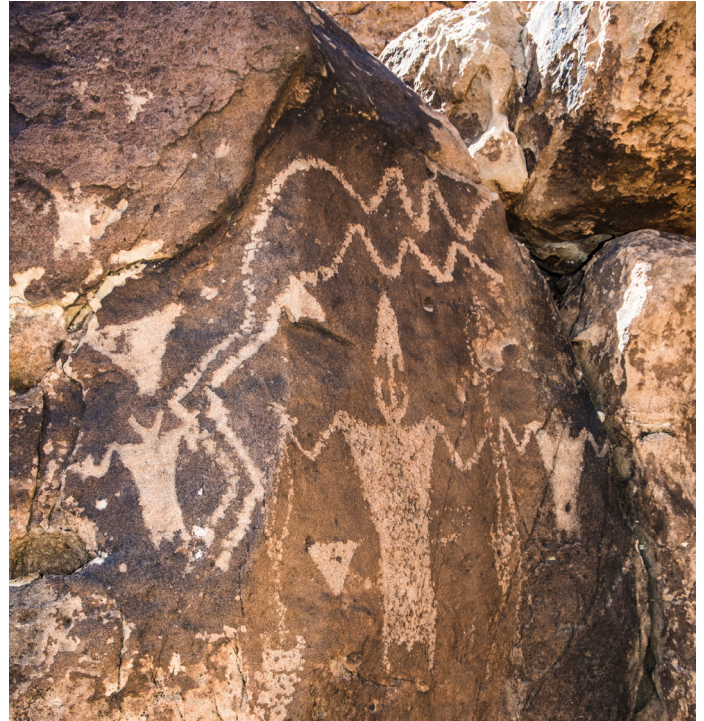


Photo: Bob Huestis. Alamo Canyon.

Are you interested in joining the CRAA on an upcoming field trip? See page 3 for details about our spring 2023 trip.

CRAA Board of Directors

As the Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) enters its twentieth year, please welcome our newest board and committee members!

The elected officers are:

PRESIDENT: Anne Whitfield
VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Huestis
SECRETARY: Renee Lovely
TREASURER: Darwin Thompson

The elected directors are:

One year terms: Peter Faris, Steve Main
Two year terms: Craig Brazeau, Erica Schmitt

Committee Chairs/Appointed Positions:

Newsletter: Erica K. Schmitt (Chair), Carol Patterson, Tamara Estes
Webinars: Carol Patterson (Chair), Bob Huestes
Website/Tech: Tamara Estes (Chair), Erica Schmitt
Field Trips: Craig Brazeau (Chair), Steve Main
Membership/Facebook: Cheryl Ames (Chair), Darwin Thompson
Education: Robin Bell (Chair), Steve Main, Craig Brazeau
CAS Representative: Darwin Thompson
Scientific Activities: (open)
CRAA Archive Liaison: Anne Whitfield
History Colorado Representative: Darwin Thompson

The CRAA is a chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS). As part of the annual conference, CAS elected the following board members:

PRESIDENT: Sharon Murphy
VICE PRESIDENT: Susanne Denlinger
SECRETARY: Larry Beidle
TREASURER: Michele Giometti

Read more about the CAS Annual Meeting on page 12.

Attend the February CRAA Board Meeting:

Meetings are held on Zoom. Please see page 13 for Zoom instructions.

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2023

TIME: 7:00 PM MST

LINK TO JOIN:

A link will be emailed to CRAA members in advance of each meeting.

CRAA December Board Meeting Minutes:

December 8, 2022

The following members were present: Anne Whitfield, Darwin Thompson, Bob Huestis, Peter Faris, Steve Main, Carol Patterson, Tamara Estes, Erica Schmitt, Cheryl Ames, and Renee Lovely.

The meeting was called to order by acting president Anne Whitfield. A quorum was present.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

 Treasurer Darwin Thompson

Checking Account Balance: \$6,691, Savings Account CD \$4,159.60, for a total balance of \$10,851.00. Darwin will pay the Zoom account bill upon receipt. Darwin relayed that the CD Savings account may be able to earn more interest if changes are made, but he recommends staying with Vectra Bank in Cortez for continuity. He will report back on the final decision as the account is up for annual renewal on January 6th.

ELECTIONS:

We have a full slate of directors to hold an election. It was noted that normally this voting occurs at the annual meeting in the Sept/Oct time frame. Tamara Estes will create and send out the electronic voting email to the membership on Dec. 9th. Voting will end and be tallied on Dec. 16th. Erica Schmitt and Craig Brazeau will serve a 2 year director term. Peter Faris and Steve Main will serve one more year and then will be up for reelection. Darwin Thompson motioned to accept the slate for election and Bob Huestis seconded.

WEBINARS:

Carol Patterson is coordinating the first webinar for the year with Leigh Marymor. Leigh is a Research Associate at the Museum of Northern Arizona and will present on Western Message Petroglyphs: Smoking Guns. A date near the end of January for this webinar would be optimal. This webinar will be highlighted in the January newsletter. The group agreed that quarterly webinars would be considered. Erica asked if we have any stats on webinar participation; not at this point. Tamara is the webinar host.

NEWSLETTER:

The first quarterly newsletter will go out in January in order to get the upcoming webinar info out. The remaining newsletter schedule for the year has not been finalized, tabled until the next meeting. Our bylaws suggest that articles will need to be submitted by the 15th of that month. Submit any articles to Erica Schmitt. (continued on page 10)

Continued on page 11

CRAA December 2022 Board Meeting Minutes (*continued from page 10*)

FIELDTRIPS:

The board suggested three field trips per season. Field trip chair, Craig Brazeau was not able to attend the meeting so we will focus on it at the next.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Erica, Cheryl and Tamara will work on the two Facebook accounts: updating and perhaps consolidating. Tamara will work on updating the website as needed.

MEMBERSHIP:

Cheryl and Darwin report that we have 52 active members and 113 secondary. Suggestions on ways to increase membership was discussed. Should fees be changed? Further discussion is tabled until the next meeting.

EDUCATION:

Robin Bell will revive the History Colorado PowerPoint presentation, ensuring it is updated. Carol has contact with a CU Denver student, Greg Williams to assist with this. The group discussed CRAA's interaction with native peoples and their belief that rock images are writings, not art, that these writings are sacred and tell the stories of their ancestors. Erica noted that Toward Right Relationships is a nonprofit organization that may be a good resource to our group in improving our working relationship with Native peoples in respect to rock art/writings. Some rock art organizations are changing their names to reflect 'rock writings'.

CAS REP:

Darwin Thompson will be the CRAA representative to CAS (Colorado Archeological Society).

CRAA's 20th Year:

2023 will mark 20 years for CRAA. Special activities forthcoming will be noted in the newsletters.

Steve motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Peter seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Renee Lovely, Acting Secretary

CRAA November 2022 Board Meeting Minutes:

November 10, 2022

The following members were present:

Anne Whitfield, Darwin Thompson, Bob Huestis, Peter Faris, Steve Main, Carol Patterson, Tamara Estes, Erica Schmitt, Craig Brazeau, Devin Duncan

The meeting was called to order by acting president Anne Whitfield. A quorum was present.

Welcoming and introductions followed. As there were no Minutes of the past meeting, no minutes were read.

Continued on page 12

CRAA November 2022 Board Meeting Minutes (*continued from page 11*)

The following Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Darwin Thompson:

Balance - Checking Account: \$6612.40, Saving Account CD: \$4159.60, for a total balance of \$10,752.00. Darwin presented a bill for \$10.00 for reimbursement for the filing fee to the Colorado Secretary of State. Motion by Peter and seconded by Steve, Motion carried to pay the reimbursement. Darwin suggested checking the interest rate on CD's as the current CD will be up for renewal this January 6, 2023 at .04%.

The following old business was discussed:

Steve Main reviewed the June Wyoming Field Trip he and Mavis Greer organized and led. The group visited many rock art sites of armored horses, shield figures and historic rock art panels. A special thanks to both Steve and Mavis! Mavis and John donated back their field trip fee of \$500.00 to the organization.

New business:

Anne reviewed a CRAA membership survey indicating the goals and priorities of the total membership. She stressed the importance of the Board instrumenting these priorities through the action and goals of the committees.

The Nominating Committee report was reviewed with the following names put forth: Acting President- Anne Whitfield, Vice President-Bob Huestis, Secretary-Renee Lovely, Treasurer-Darwin Thompson. Directors: Steve Main, Peter Faris, Devynn Duncan, Carol Patterson. The following Committee Chairpersons were appointed: Erica Schmitt – Newsletter Editor assisted by Carol Patterson; Website Administrator- Tamara Estes, assisted by Erica Schmitt, Field Trip Coordinator- Craig Brazaeu assisted by Steve Main, Education Committee-Robin Bell assisted by Craig Brazaeu, Webinars – Carol Patterson assisted by Bob Huestis. Membership- Cheryl Ames assisted by Darwin Thompson, CAS Representative- Anne Whitfield, History Colorado Representative- Darwin Thompson. Tamara will assist in the online election process which will be held in late November.

Discussion of meeting dates was held. It was decided to hold the Monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month. The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, December 8th. At 7:00 pm. on Zoom. Tamara will provide the zoom link just prior to the meeting. Anne thanked all for the great turnout and support. The Board also expressed their thanks for her leadership.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Darwin Thompson, Acting Secretary

CAS Members Annual Meeting

The 87th Annual Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) Conference was a hybrid meeting hosted by the Northern Colorado Chapter. A quorum was in attendance. The following officers were elected for 2023:

President: Sharon Murphy
Vice President: Susanne Denlinger
Recording Secretary: Larry Beidle
Treasurer: Michele Giometti

CAS is seeking representatives from each chapter to join the Educational and Outreach Committee. This committee is working to create an activities calendar on the state website that will encourage collaboration between chapters. The education chairs are Mandy Posgai (MPosgai@yahoo.com) and Karen Kinnear (Karen.Rockies@gmail.com).

Upcoming CAS meetings:

Winter Quarterly Meeting: January 28, 2023 - virtual
Spring Quarterly Meeting: April 29, 2023 - Pueblo/hybrid
Summer Quarterly Meeting: July (TBA) - Cortez/hybrid
Annual Meeting October 7, 2023 - Colorado Springs

ARARA Updates

In February 2023, ARARA members will elect the Board of Directors. Once elected, Directors serve a two-year term. The current term runs from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Candidates can self-nominate, be nominated by ARARA members, or be nominated by the Nominating Committee. All inquiries, recommendations, and self-recommendations should be directed to the Nominating Committee Chair, Aaron Wright. Please email AaronWright1@hotmail.com

The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2023. Voting runs from February 7 through March 7, 2023. Results shall be announced at the March 2023 Annual Conference.

2023 ARARA Annual Conference

March 9-13, 2023

Registration is now open for the ARARA Conference in Tucson, AZ.

The conference is open to both members and non-members. If you enjoy rock art as much as ARAA does, they would love to have you join for a year to experience their work. The conference is cheaper for members. To register for the conference or to join ARARA, visit <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conf-Info-2023>

This is the ARARA's first in-person event since COVID began. To protect the health of attendees, the ARARA board requires that each attendee has a negative COVID test within 24 hours of attending the conference. Full details can be found on the ARARA's conference website.

Upcoming Events

Information is current at the time of writing. Please contact the event sponsors to ensure accuracy.

Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) Events:

- Feb 9 **Monthly CRAA Board Meeting - 7:00 PM MST (Zoom)**
- March 9 **Monthly CRAA Board Meeting - 7:00 PM MST (Zoom)**
- March 16 **Monthly CRAA Webinar - 7:00 PM MST (Zoom)**

Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) Events:

- Jan. 28 **Winter Quarterly Meeting - Online.** Join at: www.bit.ly/cas_bod
- April 29 **Spring Quarterly Meeting - Pueblo/Hybrid**
- October 7-8 **Annual CAS Conference and Member Meeting.** Hosted by the Pikes Peak Chapter (Colorado Springs).

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) Events:

- Feb. 11 **Lecture: *History and Research at Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'pi***
- March 9-13 **ARARA 2023 Conference - Tucson, AZ**

How to connect to the March CRAA Zoom Webinar:

Zoom links for CRAA events will be emailed shortly before the start of the meeting or webinar. If you haven't used Zoom in recent months, please visit zoom.us and update your device to the latest version of the software. You can join CRAA presentations through Zoom as early as 15 minutes before the start of the event.

To connect to the meeting, please follow these instructions:

1. Follow this link to connect to the Zoom MARCH webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81350234226?pwd=SUw0MmM3OHJlMU1MbJicXJBYTI2QT09>

2. If the links do not work, go to zoom.us and click "**Join a Meeting**" at top right of the screen. Enter Meeting ID: **813 5023 4226** and Passcode: **304085** to connect to the **March** webinar

Need assistance? Email coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com or tjestes2@gmail.com with a description of the issue you are experiencing. This email account will be monitored from 15 minutes prior to the event until 15 minutes past the event start time.