



Pictures From The Past



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

January 2024

Volume 15, Issue 1

On the Cover

- ❖ Upcoming CRAA Events
- ❖ How to Use Zoom
- ❖ Feature: "Domestic Dogs in Rock Art"
- ❖ By Dennis DeVore

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Upcoming CRAA Events

Webinar:

March 13, 2024-7:00 PM

Board Meetings:

Feb. 8, 2024-7:00 PM

March 14, 2024-7:00 PM

April 4, 2024-7:00 PM

May 2, 2024-7:00 PM

March Webinar

Monday, March 13, 2024
7:00 PM MST

"Domestic Dogs in Rock Art"

By Dennis DeVore, Ph.D.

How to use ZOOM:

- Zoom links for CRAA events will be emailed shortly before the start of the meeting or webinar.
- 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:**
- Follow this link to connect to the Zoom MARCH webinar <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83152305905?pwd=OXErbmo5QUw0QjYyZ0RqNm1OSW56UT09> If the links do not work, go to zoom.us and click "Join a Meeting" at top right of the screen.
- Enter Meeting ID **831 5230 5905** and Passcode **905491** 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.





"Domestic Dogs in Rock Art"

Starting about 11,000 years ago, canine figures began to appear in the rock art of western North America. These images include true domestic dogs and the common wild species—the wolves and coyotes. By observing canine tail positions, it is possible to differentiate among these species. The presentation will reflect on the archaeology and origin of domestic dogs and show canine variations as depicted in rock art.



Phot Credit, Dennis DeVore



Photo Credit-Anne Whitfield

Dennis DeVore, Ph.D.



Biography

Dennis DeVore is a Colorado native and lives in Grand Junction. His first adventure in rock art was in 1982 while working in Craig, Colorado – a daytrip that sparked a lifelong interest. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1976 with a BS in Economics, followed by a career in real estate appraisal, retiring in 2004. He is a former board member of the Chipeta Chapter of CAS. His article Canine Tails – Rock Art Semaphores was published in 2022 in American Indian Rock Art, Volume 47.



President's Perspective on CRAA in 2023

By: Anne Whitfield

This has certainly been a full year! OUR 20th! At the CAS Annual celebration, we treated attendees to brownies! For the Board, it was often the first time seeing other members in person. (We've been a ZOOM Board since lock down.) Yet, I am delighted to say that we have a full working Board. We welcomed the new Board members:

- ❖ Craig Brazeau, (Fieldtrip Chair, Education and Outreach Comm.)
- ❖ Renee Lovely, (Secretary and Membership Chair)
- ❖ Jaimie Adams, (Webinar Committee & Newsletter)
- ❖ Jerry Grandel, (Chair, Science Activities Comm., Fieldtrip Comm., Education and Outreach Comm.)
- ❖ Tamara Estes, (Website/Tech Guru, Education and Outreach Comm.)

We so appreciate those Board long-serving members who are the bedrock of the organization, and continue to serve:

- ❖ Bob Huestis
- ❖ Darwin Thompson
- ❖ Peter Faris
- ❖ Erika Schmitt

We said "Adios" to Cheryl Ames and Steve Main. On behalf of CRAA, we thank you for your time and energy! You deserve retirement.

Long overdue: Recognition was finally given to Joel Hurmence and Peter Faris. They received much deserved Chapter Awards. It would be hard to "overestimate" their contributions to CRAA for so many years! Many thanks!

Plans, plans, plans

A volunteer group of Board members (from all over the state) assembled in Walsenburg to "brainstorm" several tedious, but important, issues for CRAA. Our discussion led to a number of solutions and initiatives.

Look forward to the following efforts your Board is working on:

- ❖ Intriguing webinars are being planned.
- ❖ Exciting fieldtrips are in the making.
- ❖ 3 different survey/fieldtrip opportunities are being explored.
- ❖ Facebook, website, etc. are being reviewed and updated.
- ❖ Volunteer opportunities are surfacing at the CRAA Archive.
- ❖ More and more, "OUTREACH" seems to be a recurring theme.

There are parts of the state with lots of rock art and few, or no, CRAA members. What's wrong with this picture? Would they be interested in stewardship? What can we offer them? Outreach continues with efforts to better include young people and forge relationships with indigenous people. Contacts are being explored; partnerships are too.

So, if anybody wants to know if CRAA is in "good hands". I'd say, "I think so."

Anne Whitfield
President of CRAA



CRAA Online Archives 2024

To explore the archives:

1. Visit PuebloLibrary.org -This opens "The Digital Collection at Pueblo City-County Library District." The "Colorado Rock Art Association Collection" and "The Sally Cole Collection" are currently on page five. Click on the images to see full details.
- ❖ The CRAA Board has graciously donated \$1000 to the CRAA Archive. This will further support CRAA efforts to make our rich cultural heritage available and accessible to all.
 - ❖ We need to have more volunteers, if possible, for this work. The sooner we can make these collections available, the better. If interested, please contact me: annewhit45@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Colorado Rock Art Archive Help Needed!

Activity at the Archive has been brisk! CRAA volunteers completed the slide descriptors of the Daphne and John Rudolph collection: a wonderful and huge collection!

Fran Cosyleon and I are currently the "volunteer regulars" at the CRAA Archive at the Hoag Library in Pueblo. Our primary task was describing rock art images found on slides. These descriptions will go into a database in preparation for slide digitization. Once digitized, rock art images become accessible to anyone who has a home computer. We are happy to report that we have encountered an unusual collection of excellent photographs taken by Dell Crandall. This exceptional collection of rock art imagery is focused on rock art in the eastern part of our state. His contribution is priceless! He was a local rancher himself, knew the other ranchers, and was allowed access to photograph rock art panels on their lands. Many of you may remember Dell from the time before he moved to Moab Utah.

Simultaneously, Pueblo Library has hired a new archivist, Alisha Cunzio. She is ready, willing, and able to do the digitization! She's plenty smart, too! This collection is so extensive and impressive, we'd really like to make it available to you as quickly as possible! I can work with 2 people at a time for 2 hours on Tuesday afternoons. Alisha's schedule will allow for other training times, as well.

Here's what the job looks like: One person records data on a computer while the partner looks carefully at the projected images and describes what may appear on the panel in question. (Example: quadrupeds, anthropomorphs, wavy lines, grids.) You will have a suggested glossary to help you with useful terms. It's fun! It's sort of like "solving little mysteries." If you're interested and available, please contact me: Anne Whitfield annewhit45@gmail.com or call, 719-485-3314.



What is in the CRAA Archive and Why Is It Important?

What does the collection include?

The Colorado Rock Art Association Archive is a collection of donated items related to Native American Rock Writing (Rock Art). It also archives documents on CRAA as an organization: its formation, Bylaws, meeting minutes, record of officers, symposia, etc.

A variety of items were donated by the CRAA membership: primarily rock art slides and photographs. Also in the collection at this point are site forms, field notes, photo logs, and personal/professional communications related to field projects. CDs, cassettes, videos, rock art programs, professional journals, and publications of CAS, URARA, and ARARA are present. Other items included in the collection are rock art special reports, news articles, drafts of major reports, and master's thesis. There are tracings, rubbings, and latex molds of rock art panels. Books on rock art subjects are present, including those from foreign countries (Africa, Portugal). .

Some individuals contributing to the Archive:

- ❖ Bill Wagner
- ❖ Terry Murphy
- ❖ Larry Loendorf
- ❖ Dell Crandall
- ❖ John and Daphne Rudolph
- ❖ Bill Buckles
- ❖ Fosters
- ❖ Peter Farris
- ❖ Gary Moreschini
- ❖ Bill McGlone
- ❖ Anne Whitfield
- ❖ Mike Maselli
- ❖ Sally Cole
- ❖ Carol Patterson has pledged to donate her records.

Why is the CRAA Archive Important?

I would suggest that the primary importance of this archive is in what it makes available to the public. Rock art is a vanishing cultural resource as images on stone are steadily degrading. The collection provides a series of "snapshots in time (literally)" of a communication form made by the indigenous peoples of the Southwest, and Colorado, in particular. These people, the "First Americans," left no written language, as such. Rock art images in the collection provide the best glimpses we have into their world view. Through their images on stone, we gain clues as to their religious beliefs and mythology, social organization, cultural affiliations, and territorial boundaries. Rock art panels provide evidence as to chronology of cultural affiliation, their life ways, hunting strategies, game preferences, and time keeping, some panels appear to be telling stories of special events such as major astronomical occurrences, treaties, personal stories and histories, and commemorations. Some appear to be maps, others, warnings.



The collection provides a narrative of rock art investigation and recording. It tells the scientific story of the evolution in thinking about rock art as “insignificant because it is difficult to date” to a systematic analysis of elements and element associations in order to reveal “meaning.” Books in the collection provide comparative information about rock art worldwide.

In short, images of rock art may be a primary, if not key source, for understanding the pre-history of our region. And, maybe, the most personal connection we have to long-gone cultures!

Happy Birthday, CRAA!

Thinking Like a 20-Year-Old!

Over the years, I can remember 4 different times I was told that CRAA was “going under.”

Yet here we are after 20 years! Clearly, there have been hills and valleys, bumps, and surprises for a CAS chapter whose membership covers, not a region, but the entire state.

Ironically, COVID revealed some strategies that were a boon to CRAA: enter ZOOM! We experimented with ZOOM webinars (Thank you, Joel Hurmence). ZOOM Board meeting could be held more frequently--virtually. Peter Faris, almost singlehandedly, produced a virtual CRAA Annual Meeting (without the costs of venue, snacks, dinner, speaker/attendee expenses etc.). COVID inspired creative thinking. We're still experiencing the “after glow.”

Your CRAA Board is well aware that you would like to see more field trips, survey projects, and in-person activities! We'd like that, too! Thank you, Past President Anne Richardson. Every time I make a board agenda, I look at the survey results of member-desired activities, taken during Anne's tenure. I assure you that development of these member-identified activities is a primary and on-going part of your CRAA board meetings.

STILL . . . we definitely need your continued input. Is there someone who YOU'D like to hear/see at a webinar? Let us know! Do you know a landowner, interested in having sites surveyed? Let us know! Are you interested in helping update the CRAA website? Let us know! Do you have in mind an idea for a statewide in-person round-up . . . with fieldtrip? Let us know! Are you interested in volunteering at the CRAA Archive at Pueblo Library in Pueblo? Let us know! Humm . . . Do we detect a pattern here? There are 12 officers and committee chairs at our board meetings. Can we amplify that? Please contact any Board member with your ideas.

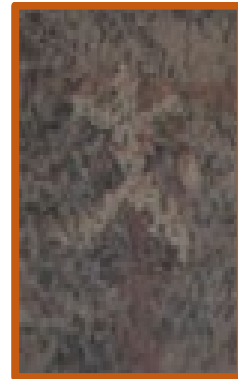
SO . . . Thinking like a 20-year-old? . . . Yeah, you 20: options, opportunities, like that 20-year-old! things. Establish new that is active, available, and the last page of this traditions. You have a board responsive. Contact us! (See newsletter.)





Shield Using Natural Rock,
Chimney Rock, North Colorado,
Photo Credit, Jaimie Adams

Foto Favs



"Running Man", SE Colorado
Photo Credit, Jaimie Adams

A continuing feature is coming to our CRAA newsletter. Most rock art enthusiasts have dozens, hundreds, or thousands of photos of rock art!

We'll show you ours, if you'll show us yours!

Each year, you'll have 4 issues of the newsletter. Wouldn't it be great if everyone began to go through their images now, and selected 1-5? Favorites? It will be rewarding just revisiting your digital collection of images.

Join us in selecting the 1-3 images/panels that you consider favorites. For each one, tell us:

1. The name of the panel if it has one. If not, suggest one!
2. What year the photo was taken.
3. The location of the panel (county and state.) **Note:** The location can be redacted if desired.
4. Tell us why this is a favorite of yours. It needn't be long. We are interested in what your choices mean to you (i.e. What panel got you "hooked" on rock art? What panel was most inspirational? What was the most beautiful? Funny? etc.)
5. Tell us if we would have permission to place your images in the CRAA ARCHIVE.

Send to Jaimie Adams (jadams48@uwyo.edu) or Anne Whitfield (annewhit45@gmail.com)



Field Trip Reports:

CRAA field trip report at the Piñon Cañon Maneuver Site (PCMS) November 7-8, 2023

Day 1:

We started at the PCMS Headquarters on Nov. 7 at 8:15 AM.

CRAA members were:

- ❖ Robert Crifasi
- ❖ Tina Crifasi
- ❖ Jim Remington
- ❖ Doug Baxter
- ❖ Jerry Grandel

The trip was led by Kari Pittman, PCMS Archaeologist and 2 of her associates (Marissa and Abigail). We were driven in 2 4WD pickups to a newly discovered site that was reported by a Firefighter. The site(s) consisted of several rock shelters, work areas, possible ceremonial areas, a possible astronomical site, and numerous petroglyph panels. Although we saw no rock writing, this was not a 'Recording' endeavor and time precluded any thorough investigation.

After a short lunch break, we continued along the slopes of the hillside observing more rock shelters and petroglyphs. Having some extra time, Kari decided to take us across the canyon to a previously recorded site. Although we did see several rock shelters, large areas of tumbleweed made walking difficult and took more time than expected. We returned to the Headquarters at approximately 3:30 PM.



Big Hands site on the Hogback
(Dstretch)

Day 2:

We started at the PCMS Headquarters on Nov. 8 at 8:30 AM.

CRAA members were:

- ❖ Robert Crifasi
- ❖ Tina Crifasi
- ❖ Jim Remington
- ❖ Erica Schmitt
- ❖ Jerry Grandel

This day was again led by Kari Pittman, PCMS Archaeologist and her associate Marissa. However, an unscheduled military operation required a slight modification for the day's itinerary. We went to the Hogback area of Piñon Cañon where we saw many petroglyphs among the boulders along the basalt dikes. Finally, we drove to the "Big hands hunter" site before returning to the Headquarters at 2:45 PM.

Conclusion

This was an amazing trip, and we were all excited to see some of the sites and petroglyph panels both previously recorded and newly found. We were initially told that photography would not be allowed because of the culturally sensitive nature of the sites (PCMS works closely with the many Indigenous Tribes affiliated with this area). However, Kari allowed us
(Continued on Page 9)



Field Trip Reports *(Continued from Page 10)*

to take photographs with the caveat that we do not share or make public any of them or their locations.

PCMS does not record areas on the Maneuver Site where active maneuvers take place which is why the first day's sites were not previously recorded. It was only made known to the archaeologists by one of the Firefighters who has an interest in archaeology. There are many areas like these at the Maneuver Site, but they have limited staff and time. This offers the potential for the Military and CRAA to work together for future site recording.

This trip was organized by Craig Brazeau, the Field Trip Chairman of CRAA and the Outreach Program of PCMS.

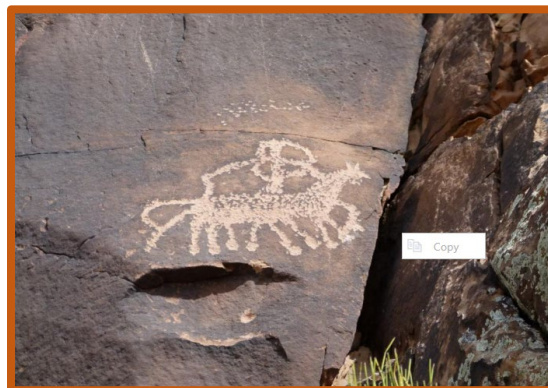
Unfortunately, because of a death in the family, Craig was unable to lead the trip and that responsibility was handed over to me. Because of his many hours of planning and his constant communication with the people at PCMS, Craig was able to organize a field trip that went smoothly without any problems and was greatly enjoyed by all.

Upcoming Field Trips:

CRAA Needs Your Help with Field Trips

CRAA is looking for field trip opportunities state-wide. Are any of our CRAA members interested in leading a CRAA field trip in your local area? Or know someone that can? Perhaps you know of a Rock Art site that is not well publicized, off the beaten path, or even one that is well known. If so, please contact me and let's discuss! I will assist you with all the preparation and coordination for the field trip, and if possible, I'll be there to assist on the day of the trip! Please contact me at 67chevypu@msn.com if you are interested.

Craig Brazeau
Field Trip Coordinator



Shavano Valley Rock Image Site, Photo Credit-Carol Patterson



Design Your Own Fieldtrip to Picture Canyon

VERY lightly visited, Picture Canyon is perfect during wintertime. Picture Canyon is so named for the over 100 panels once visible on its walls. Today, due to weathering, fewer than 30 panels are found with ease. It's fun to see how many one can find. Crack Cave (an archaeo-astronomy site) is open to visitors during the Spring Equinox. Find the illusive "sunrise panel" near the entrance (clearly visible only at equinoxes). Discover remnants of Plains Indian cultures and early 20th century homestead remains. Amenities include a vault toilet and picnic shelter. Camping is allowed. Scenic vistas and unique rock formations are the main attractions on the 13 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails that start here. It is excellent for birdwatching, including Bullock's oriole, scaled quail, several species of towhees, wrens and sparrows, ladder-backed woodpecker, eastern phoebe, and blue grosbeaks. Google "Picture Canyon" for complete information. (Managed by Forest Service).

Design Your Own Fieldtrip to Picture Canyon

Directions: From Springfield, Colorado drive south on Highway 287 for 17 miles; turn right (west) on County Road M for 8 miles; turn left (south) on County Road 18 for 8 miles; turn right (south) at the Picture Canyon Road sign (Forest Service Road 2361) and continue on into the recreation area.

If you make the trip, don't forget to submit your panel photos to CRAA website.



Picture Canyon, CO, Photo Credit-Floyd Muad'Dib

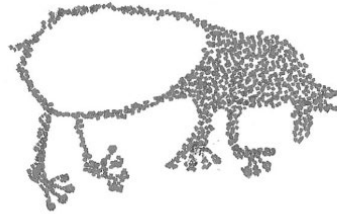


Committee Reports

Report Summary on the Smith Fork Petroglyph Recording

From Leigh Ann Hunt, wintering in Tucson AZ.

Lee Bennett (historian working with Leigh Ann) has done all the archival research she could think of and submitted a preliminary summary of her findings on the Euro-American history of the ranch to me. I have collated the photos and basic descriptions of the panels for the Colorado site form. I have not done anything since November. This spring when I get back to Ekert, Colorado, I will press on with interviews and creating the site forms. Your drawings would then be included. I got a note from the ranch owner last week saying they were at the ranch for that week, and he asked how the project was going. I said, "it's nice, the project is on their radar."



Smith Fork of the Gunnison
Figure 1: Smith Fork Rock Image,
Photo Credit-Carol Patterson

I will have more drawings this spring, hopefully finishing the project.

-Report by: Carol Patterson

Treasurer's Report-January 2024

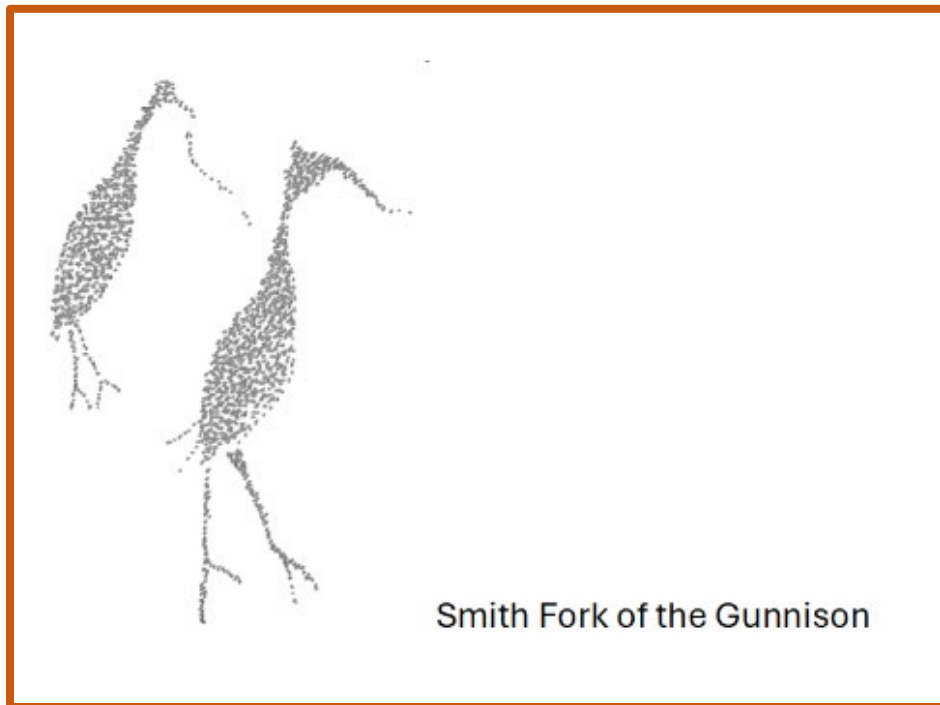


Figure 2: Smith Fork Rock Image, Photo credit-Carol Patterson



COLORADO ROCK ART ASSOCIATION JANUARY 2024 TREASURER'S REPORT

- o Checking Account Balance - \$4,364.30
- o Saving Account Balance CD - \$4,316.02
- o Total Accts. \$8,680.32
- o All bills are paid except for audit expenses.
- o Annual Audit is currently underway.
- o CD Savings Account has been renewed for 5% for 6 Months.

-Report By: Treasurer, Darwin Thompson

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY UPDATE

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING SUMMARIZATION OF MEETING AGENDA FOR REVIEW BY CRAA MEMBERSHIP

The Quarterly meeting of CAS was held on January 27th. Online

The Minutes of 2023 Q4 were approved as presented. Michele Giometti reviewed the Treasurer's Report and the Budget for 2024. There was discussion and approval of transferring unused funds to the SW Lore account. Budget and treasurer's report approved. (*Continued on Page 12*)

Committee Reports were presented and reviewed by those present. The 2024 Spring Quarterly Meeting is to be held on April 20th. in Boulder. The Annual Conference is to be in July with the date to be announced later. The meeting is to be held in Grand Junction.

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY UPDATE

A review of the possible membership dues increase was reviewed and discussed. An increase in dues may be needed as the expenses are not keeping up with the income from membership dues. The dues and donations are the prime source of income for CAS and the Subchapters. There have not been any due increases for the past fifteen years. The Ways and Means Committee will investigate the possible Membership dues increase possibilities and present recommendations for the next meeting.

Many of the CAS Subchapters have noted concern over Liability Insurance issues and CAS coverage. Board discussion was held concerning CAS coverage of General Liability and Accident Insurance. This important topic was discussed in consideration of the many future field trips and activities the chapters are currently planning. Plans are being investigated and costs are being reviewed and how these expenses could be paid. Each chapter will be asked to pay their portion of the Liability Insurance expense.

Sarah Allaun, Assistant State Archaeologist, History Colorado, has finalized the 2024 PAAC classes and workshops. Information is available by going Online to History Colorado / Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, PAAC. These courses are to be held this Spring and Summer.

Report By: Darwin Thompson – CRAA Representative to CAS



CRAA Logo ... and a Battle Rock Saga

Some folks have asked about the origin of the CRAA logo. It is sometimes affectionately referred to as "Felix the Cat" (a comic character bearing some resemblance) or the "Picketwire Owl." This enigmatic petroglyph can be found on a large boulder in Picketwire Canyon called "Battle Rock." "Felix" or "Owl," this image is, in fact, a shield figure. An interesting fact about our logo is that this image may be seen 2 or 3 times elsewhere within a 20-mile radius. Because the design is unique, and because the contexts in which it is found are apparently important situations, one might speculate that the shield owner held some tribal prominence (a war chief, perhaps?).



Peter Faris suggests in his blog:

"Among Native American cultures the owl was a spiritually powerful being and was often believed to have martial attributes. The owl was often believed to bring messages concerning enemy activities to someone with a sacred connection to them, someone who had perhaps received "owl power" during a vision quest. I feel safe then in assuming that the Picketwire Owl Shield represented a particular individual, someone whose vision had gifted him with military ability and spiritual power. I think of this individual as a warrior named Owl Shield."



Other suggested ideas: "Felix" has large, scary eyes, producing fear in the enemy? The spiked head gear may be feathers. The 2 triangles on the shield rim are used on the shields of other warriors and may communicate some tribal identification or other idea, long since lost.

During the CRAA presidency of Mike Maselli, the Board deemed it desirable to select a logo that represented Colorado. I think we had a logo from an image in New Mexico. Images were solicited, and the "Owl" was the one chosen.

According to experts, each shield design was unique. A warrior might confer with a tribal shaman as to design. A shield was often composed of 3 leather parts: the outer, seen by the enemy, the inner seen by the warrior and tribal members, and the "inter shield," found between the other two. Its subject matter was spiritual and sacred to the owner; content known only to warrior and/or shaman.

Battle Rock:



The images on Battle Rock are said to be in Rio Grande style. The folks making the rock writing apparently come into the area from the Four Corners area. It makes one wonder if their incursion was, indeed, the source of the apparent conflict. The boulder would appear to tell the story of a conflict of some importance. One can distinguish the winners and losers in this conflict. Often, injuries are described with specificity. See the individual stuck by an arrow passing through both legs. (L). The shield below suggests his opponent's (shield). Some individuals were scalped or died in the





conflict. Notice possible "blood," "life force" coming from the navel area of some warriors. Clearly weaponry used is described: bows, hand axes.

Perhaps the area of greatest interest is that featuring several elements in "x ray" style. See the handprint and mask with horned headdress (spiritual power imagery)? This is not ordinary. Notice the round possible "death's head" to the upper right of the hand. Beneath this imagery, is a phallic warrior with more elaborate headdress, hand axe, and bow. Notice his long tail of circular objects. At his feet is a jack rabbit, perhaps a name glyph for this special individual? I would suggest he is the primary leader of the battle's winners. Much smaller and beneath the "leader" is an upside down "skirted" individual with "tailed moccasins." This is an identifiable attire worn by a different tribal group in the area. Perhaps, the narrative is describing one of the "losers" in the conflict.



There is more going on at Battle Rock. For instance, if one approaches the rock from the east, what do you see but a "road killed cat!" What's that about?



Professionals, we welcome your ideas and knowledge. Please step gingerly out on the precipice of interpretation and suggest other possible inferences.

-Article By: Anne Whitfield
-All Photos Credited to Anne Whitfield

Note: It has been my understanding that the site report for "Battle Rock" has been missing at OAHF for several years. Should anyone find it, please let us know. If it cannot be found, should CRAA sponsor a "re-survey" of this most special of sites?



Unveiling the Past: The Role of D-Stretch in Analyzing Rock Imagery

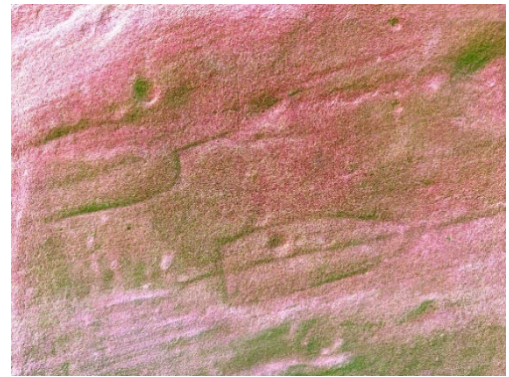
In the vast and intricate field of archaeology/anthropology, the analysis of rock imagery stands as a testament to the ingenuity and creativity of ancient cultures. These images, etched into the surface of rocks and caves across the world, offer a window into the lives, beliefs, and artistic expressions of our ancestors. However, time and nature often conspire to fade these invaluable historical records, making them challenging to study and interpret. This is where D-Stretch comes into play, revolutionizing the way researchers analyze rock imagery.



Spears (Original), Photo Credit, Jaimie Adams

What is D-Stretch?

D-Stretch, or Decorrelation Stretch, is an image enhancement software developed by Jon Harman, designed specifically for the analysis of rock art. The technology is based on a process that enhances the color differences within an image, making faded pigments visible to the human eye. By applying this method, details that were once obscured by time and erosion are brought to the forefront, allowing for a clearer understanding of the original artwork.



Spears (D-Stretch-RBGO Option), Photo Credit, Jaimie Adams

Enhancing Visibility and Detail

One of the primary benefits of D-Stretch is its ability to enhance the visibility of details in rock imagery. Many rock art sites contain images that have faded over millennia, with pigments that have been worn down by weathering processes. D-Stretch can highlight these subtle color variations, revealing patterns, figures, and symbols that were previously indistinguishable. This enhanced visibility is invaluable for researchers who are trying to document, study, and preserve these ancient artworks.



Facilitating Interpretation

The enhanced images produced by D-Stretch not only reveal hidden details but also facilitate the interpretation of rock art. By making the imagery more visible, researchers can better understand the context and meaning of the art. This includes identifying figures, animals, and symbols that play a role in the cultural and spiritual beliefs of the society that created them. Furthermore, D-Stretch can help to distinguish between different layers of paint, offering insights into the chronological sequence of the artwork and the evolution of artistic practices over time.



Spears (D-Stretch-YRD Option), Photo Credit, Jaimie Adams

A Tool for Preservation

In addition to its analytical benefits, D-Stretch serves as an important tool in the preservation of rock art. High-quality, enhanced images can be archived, providing a digital record of these artworks for future generations. This is especially crucial for sites that are at risk of damage from natural erosion, vandalism, or the impact of climate change. By creating a digital archive of enhanced images, D-Stretch ensures that the knowledge and beauty of ancient rock imagery can be preserved, even if the original artworks are lost. The integration of D-Stretch into the analysis of rock imagery represents a significant advancement in archaeological research and preservation. This technology offers a new lens through which to view the artistic legacy of our ancestors, unveiling details that bridge the gap between the past and present. As researchers continue to explore and understand the vast tapestry of human history embedded in rock art, D-Stretch stands as a pivotal tool in their endeavor, illuminating the whispers of ancient cultures for the world to see.



Spears (D-Stretch-YRE Option), Photo Credit, Jaimie Adams

-Article By: Jaimie Adams, CRAA Board Director

-Photos Taken at Chimney Rock (Northern Colorado) and Submitted By: Jaimie Adams



The North Branch of The Old Spanish Trail Project – The San Luis Valley

PROJECT UPDATE – September 2020

For centuries the “Old Spanish Trail” served as a path followed by nomadic hunters, Native Americans, early Spanish explorers, trappers, traders. 19th. century explorers, early pioneers and settlers. The historic trail began in Santa Fe, New Mexico and wandered over sixteen hundred miles to Southern California. It was used as a major trade route for many years. The North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail skirts the San Luis Valley.

Evidence of the Old Spanish Trail can be found in the many artifacts: lithics, culturally modified trees, wagon tracks, cairns, rock art and shelters. From the early Rio Grande River crossing used by Diego de Vargas in 1694 to the much later uses by the early Hispanic sheep herders and explorers of the San Luis Valley, signs of the trail use and historic rock art abound.

The local chapter, “La Vereda del Norte” of the Old Spanish Trail Organization has the approval of the Old Spanish Historic Trail Association, a six state trail system, to develop an historic video presentation featuring the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, its history and the rock art on or near the trail.

Funding is in the process of being secured to assist in the educational and historic project. The project will include video clips, oral interviews, documentation and recording of the historic trail and its evidence. The finished documentary will be used on the OSTA website for future use by the public, educational institutions and museums. The La Vereda del Norte Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association, the Sangre De Cristo National Heritage Area and Los Caminos Antiguos National Scenic Byway are creating a smart phone app that will include the Old Spanish Trail in the San Luis Valley. Visitors driving through the area can learn about the history of the Old Spanish Trail.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 has put a damper on much of the project work needed to complete the recording of rock art and other evidence of the trail. It is hoped, that in the near future, work can continue on this historic and educational project. For further information on this OSTA project or membership in the La Vereda

Chapter or the Colorado Rock Art Association contact: dthompson0481@gmail.com or kennruth@gojade.org.

-Article By: Darwin Thompson CRAA



Colorado Rock Art Association Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

The following members were present via Zoom:

- ❖ Darwin Thompson (Treasurer)
- ❖ Tamara Estes
- ❖ Jerry Grandel
- ❖ Bob Huestis (VP)
- ❖ Renee Lovely (Secretary)
- ❖ Peter Faris (Director)
- ❖ Anne Whitfield (President)
- ❖ Craig Brazeau (Director)
- ❖ Jaimie Adams (Director)

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Whitfield at 7pm.

MINUTES: Renee The minutes were accepted as submitted.

TREASURER: Darwin Bob and Peter will conduct the annual financial audit.

Bills paid since last meeting:

- Pueblo Library Donation \$1,000
- Go Daddy Acct 2yr renewal \$635.19.
- Domain Fee for 2024 \$36.16
- Postage expenses \$67.59
- Total: \$1,671.35
- Nov 2023 Dec 2023
- Checking balance \$6,259.24 \$4,372.89
- CD balance \$4,160.05 \$4,315.98
 - TOTALS \$10,419.29 \$8,688.87

OLD BUSINESS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIPS: Renee Tamara has added some new emails to our correspondence list. Darwin will get with Karen Kinnear for an updated membership list.

FIELD TRIPS: Craig / Jerry Three filed trips were discussed at length; Hicklin Springs, Mitchell Springs, and Vogel Canyon. Details and Dates are pending.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES: Jerry -will be investigating 2 possible rock art sites in Colorado Springs as soon as the weather cooperates.

WEBSITE / Tech/Social Media: Tamara -advised that staying with GoDaddy will be most effective for CRAA for several reasons. Tamara will continue to bring both accounts up to date. Bob added pictures from two field trips to Facebook.

(Continued on Page 19)



CRAA Board Meeting Minutes (*Continued from Page 18*)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: Craig / Darwin Pamphlets will be distributed in various areas of Colorado as meetings and events are attended there. The education section of our website will be updated.

WEBINARS: Carol / Jaimie Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Carols last webinar. Tamara's announcement that was sent out about that webinar was very well done. CRAA's last two webinars were attended by approx. 40 people. The next webinar is scheduled for March 13th, details will be announced later. Our past webinars will be available on YouTube through individual CRAA member accounts.

NEWSLETTER: Jaimie Adams is intermittently editing the CRAA Newsletter

ARCHIVE REPORT: Anne has submitted the information for volunteers to participate in the archive project at the Pueblo Library District to Tamara to be sent out in a blast to the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

The next monthly meeting will be February 8, 7pm via Zoom. This meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Upcoming CRAA Events

Webinar:

March 13, 2024-7:00 PM

Board Meetings:

Feb. 8, 2024-7:00 PM

March 14, 2024-7:00 PM

April 4, 2024-7:00 PM

May 2, 2024-7:00 PM

Upcoming CAS Events

Winter Quarterly Meeting - Online. Join at: www.bit.ly/cas_bod

Spring Quarterly Meeting - Pueblo/Hybrid Annual CAS Conference and Member Meeting. Hosted by the Pikes Peak Chapter (Colorado Springs).

Upcoming ARARA Events

March 9, 2024: Webinar-Assessing the Variability and Chronology of Red Linear Style Pictographs in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of Texas by Jerod Roberts

ARARA 2024 Conference: May 16-20, 2024, in Farmington, NM (See ARARA Website for details)



PAAC Class Offerings



History Colorado

PAAC Class Offerings

Dear PAAC Participant,

I am delighted to announce our Spring PAAC Classes!

Introduction to Archaeology (*6 credit hours*)

This class is designed to introduce participants to the field of archaeology over the course of 10 weeks. Throughout the course, we will explore the theoretical and methodological foundations of archaeological research and learn how material remains uncovered in the archaeological record are used to reconstruct the past. Each week, we will cover topics such as theory & anthropological inquiry, fieldwork methods, commonly encountered artifacts, geoarchaeology & site formation processes, chronology, curation, experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, animals & plants in the past, historical archaeology, and cultural heritage law in the US and Colorado.

Where: Online Course Delivery*

When: March 25-May 31

Registration: Open now [online!](#)



*This course will be taught entirely online. All materials including lecture slides and video lectures, readings, and other handouts will be published weekly and participants may view them at any time throughout the duration of the class. To receive full credit for the class, participants must complete the Class Survey at the end of the course.

State & National Register Nomination Workshop (2-4 credit hours)

This weekend workshop will walk participants through the process of preparing nominations for the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places. On day one, participants will learn about the State and National Registers, how to evaluate the eligibility of archaeological resources for nomination, will practice their new skills hands-on with a mock-archaeological site and learn how to write up parts of a nomination. On day two, participants can bring their own nominations for one-on-one assistance with our National and State Register Historians and Assistant State Archaeologist. This course is being offered in collaboration with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

Where:

Day 1: Online-only (offered synchronously & asynchronously online)

Day 2: In-person only at History Colorado, Denver

When:

Day 1: April 26, 5 - 8 pm (& recorded for asynchronous participants)

Day 2: April 27, 9 am - 4 pm

Registration: Opens March 25

Site Stewardship Workshop (2-4 credit hours)

This weekend workshop provides an introduction to archaeological advocacy through site stewardship. One day one, participants will learn about the principal mission of preservation and primary activities of a site steward including the observation, documentation and reporting of the condition of cultural resources in Colorado. On day two, participants will have the option to join us in the field and



practice stewardship hands-on! This course is being offered in collaboration with [South Park Site Stewards](#) (SPSS).

Where:

Day 1: In-person at History Colorado, Denver & offered synchronously online

Day 2: In-person only - location TBD

When: Date & Time TBD

Registration: Opens in the late Spring

Local CAS Seminar Lectures

Additionally, PAAC participants can receive credit for attending local CAS seminar lectures. Participants must submit the CAS Seminar Lecture form [online](#) within two weeks of the date of the lecture. To learn more about upcoming CAS seminar lectures in your area, visit the [Colorado Archaeological Society](#) or connect with your [Local PAAC Coordinator](#).

PAAC State Coordinator

Sarah A. Allaun

Assistant State Archaeologist | Office of the State Archaeologist
History Colorado | Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
303-866-5746 (w) | sarah.allaun@state.co.us

[Learn More & Register for a PAAC Class!](#)

CRAA Board of Directors / Contact

As the Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) enters its 21st year, please welcome our board and committee members! The elected officers are:

PRESIDENT:	Anne Whitfield	annewhit45@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT:	Bob Huestis	pinonbob3431@gmail.com
SECRETARY:	Renee Lovely	rlovely062@gmail.com
TREASURER:	Darwin Thompson	dthompson0481@gmail.com

The elected directors are:

Director	One Year Term	Jaimie Adams	Jadams48@uwyo.edu
Director	One Year Term	Peter Farris	archeofaris@yahoo.com
Director	Two Year Term	Craig Brazeau	67chevypu@msn.com
Director	Two Year Term	Erica Schmitt	erica.k.schmitt@gmail.com

Committee Chairs/Appointed Positions:

Newsletter	Jaimie Adams (Chair)	Jadams48@uwyo.edu	Carol Patterson	urraca2fly@gmail.com	Tamara Estes	tjestes2@gmail.com
Webinars	Carol Patterson (Chair)	urraca2fly@gmail.com	Jaimie Adams	Jadams48@uwyo.edu	Bob Huestis	pinonbob3431@gmail.com
Website/Tech	Tamara Estes (Chair)	tjestes2@gmail.com				
Field Trips	Craig Brazeau (Chair)	67chevypu@msn.com	Gerald Grandel	ggrandel1221@gmail.com		
Membership	Renee Lovely (Chair)	rlovely062@gmail.com				
Social Media	Renee Lovely (Chair)	rlovely062@gmail.com				
Education	Gerald Grandel (Chair)	ggrandel1221@gmail.com	Craig Brazeau	67chevypu@msn.com		
CAS Representative	Darwin Thompson	dthompson0481@gmail.com				
Scientific Activities	Gerald Grandel	ggrandel1221@gmail.com				
CRAA Archive Liaison	Anne Whitfield	annewhit45@gmail.com				
History Colorado Representative	Darwin Thompson (Chair)	dthompson0481@gmail.com				



Resources/Other Important Contact Information

PAAC State Coordinator

Sarah A. Allaun, Assistant State Archaeologist
303-866-5746 (w) Email: sarah.allaun@state.com

State CAS	Archaeological Conservancy
PPC/CAS	Archaeology Southwest
CRAA (Colorado Rock Art Association)	Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Pikes Peak Historical Society	History Colorado
ARARA (American Rock Art Research Association)	Shumla Archaeological Center
Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project	CAS Events Calendar
San Diego Rock Art Association	Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS)



Pueblo County, Photo Credit Anne Whitfield