



# Pictures From The Past



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

<http://www.coloradorockart.org>

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## **President's Corner**

**By Anne Robinson, CRAA President**

In September, we have two field trips for CRAA members. The first trip is to see rock art at the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Southeast Colorado. Archaeologist Mark Owens will be leading this trip on government land that needs special permission to visit there. We are lucky to have that permission for this trip. Space is limited so sign up early. Details on page 2.

The second September trip is a weekend trip to a special place in Utah. Often billed as the longest art gallery in the world, Nine Mile Canyon is home to over 10,000 petroglyphs. Folks come here time and time again and see new things every time. The trip will be led by Keith Fessenden. Participants will want to stay at Nine Mile Ranch in either their lodging or in the campground. Don't miss this special trip. Space is limited. Details on page 3.

We are still looking for volunteers who are passionate about rock art and want to make a difference. We have the following positions open.

- **2 Board Member positions**
- **Field Trip Coordinator**
- **Newsletter Editor**

Please join us for one of these positions. We would love to have you. If you want to make a difference in rock art this would be a great place to do it

If you are interested in these positions please contact us at [coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com). Working on the CRAA board is a great way to help shape the direction of CRAA.

# Upcoming Rock Art Field Trips

2017

## Field Trip – September 2017

### Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) Field Trip

Archaeologist Mark Owens will be leading this tour to see some of his personal research sites on the PCMS– including one that may have archaeoastronomical importance. The tour will include discussion on the larger cultural landscapes and how rock art fits into the larger picture. We will be viewing pecked, painted and etched elements from just about every known prehistoric and historical time period. If weather allows we will be touring an extremely old rock art site, perhaps of Paleoindian age. We will also view at least one game drive with game drive imagery in the form of pictographs and petroglyphs. Getting permission to be on the base takes some effort so take advantage of the opportunity to see this great rock art.

**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2017

**Trip Start Time:** 8:00 am **Trip End Time:** 4:30 pm.

**Nearest Towns:** Trinidad (about 35 miles) and Rocky Ford (about 50 miles)

**Meeting Location:** Meeting location will be the PCMS Headquarters. Directions will be sent to you after you sign up. Carpooling will occur at the headquarters.

**Road & Driving Conditions:** Includes unimproved 2-track roads requiring four wheel drive and high clearance.

**Vehicle & Fuel Requirements:** Mid to Large sized High-Clearance 4-Wheel Drive Vehicle is required. Make sure you have plenty of gasoline. Smaller all-wheel drive vehicles will not be able to handle the terrain.

There is no place to fuel at or near the PCMS. The closest gas stations to the PCMS are located in Trinidad (~35 miles away) or Rocky Ford (~50 miles away). When you arrive at the PCMS, you must have at least ½-tank of gas to participate on the tour, although it is preferred to have ¾-tank of gas.

**Hiking Distance & Difficulty:** Some hiking will be rough terrain – even though we will drive close to the Archaeological Sites. This trip might not be right for everyone.

**Items to bring:** Hat, Sun protection, rain protection, water, lunch, snacks, hiking boots. Long pants are suggested to protect yourself from plants and wildlife.

**Food & Water-** Bring lunch, snacks and LOTS of water.

**Sign up information:** Must sign-up with Betsy Weitkamp at 303-722-1656 or [elaw@g.com](mailto:elaw@g.com)

**Last Day to sign up:** September 2. Sign up will be closed after this date.

**Membership policy:** Must be Colorado Rock Art Association member or Colorado Archaeological Society Member.

**Dogs:** No pets allowed

### Important Information

- There will be no bathroom sites outside of the Cantonment Area.
- Members of the group will not be allowed to wander around the sites freely (except for bathroom stops and the buddy system will be in effect.)
- Not all Rock Art will be allowed to be photographed and to use the photos beyond the personal level will need approval.
- All trip participants must agree to the Colorado Rock Art Association code of ethics and the Colorado Archaeological Society code of ethics.

- All trip participants must agree to the Colorado Rock Art Association Field Trip Policies.
- All trip participants must sign the Colorado Archaeological Society Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement.
- All trip participants must sign a Training Area Hold Harmless Agreement.

*Please note that due to ongoing military training activities, national security, and safety concerns, downrange access at the PCMS can be withdrawn at any time. At the discretion of the Fort Carson, tours may be cancelled up to and including the day of the scheduled tour.*

## **Field Trip – September 2017**

### **Nine Mile Canyon Field Trip**



Join us for a field trip to Nine Mile Canyon in Utah. Nine Mile Canyon is 40 miles long and filled with spectacular Rock Art. Often called the world’s longest art gallery. The Rock Art is attributed to the Fremont Indians from about 1000 years ago.

- Dates:** Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24  
(camping on Friday night, September 22 and Saturday night, September 23)
- Hiking:** Trip will have many stops. Hiking distance is minimal. Walking distances will be short.
- Driving:** Two-wheel drive cars should be able to make this trip.
- Meeting location:** Nine Mile Ranch (website: <http://9mileranch.com>) in Utah
- Camping/ Lodging:** Nine Mile Ranch Camping or cabins.
- Saturday Night:** Potluck dinner at Nine Mile Ranch- bring a dish to share, your own utensils, silverware, camp chair and drinks.
- Trip Leader:** Keith Fessenden
- To sign up contact Keith at** 303.907.5184 or [khfessenden@gmail.com](mailto:khfessenden@gmail.com).
- Last day to sign up:** September 15
- Maximum participants:** 15

All Trip Participants must sign the Colorado Archaeological Society Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement.

Make sure to get gas before coming up the Nine Mile Canyon to the ranch. There are no gas stations nearby. For the day of the trip, make sure you bring water, lunch, sun protection, sturdy shoes or boots, appropriate rain and weather gear.





## **Field Trip – March 2018**

### **Texas Rock Art Trip**

Visit incredible rock art sites in Texas such as the White Shaman Preserve, The Curly Tail Panther, the Lewis Canyon site, Myers Springs, Halo Shelter, Painted Shelter and the Fate Bell Shelter and Hueco Tanks. Tours will all be guided.

This is a very preliminary itinerary and is subject to changes.

**Dates:** Monday, March 5 through Friday, March 9, 2018. All-day for five days.

These dates do not include travel dates. Plan two days for travel on each end of the trip.

**Nearest Towns:** Comstock, Texas and Del Rio, Texas. Hueco Tanks is near El Paso, Texas

**Trip Leader:** Teresa Weedin

**Road & Driving Conditions:** All kinds of driving conditions, including roads that require 4-wheel drive and high clearance.

**Vehicle Requirements:** 4-wheel drive recommended, high clearance required for some trips.

**Hiking Distance & Difficulty:** Hikes will vary in difficulty with some hikes being extremely difficult and others being easier. Hiking distance of the longest hike is 1.5 miles. Several hikes may be done in a single day. Terrain includes poorly defined trails with steep drop offs, loose rock, through thick brush, uneven terrain, large boulders. Elevation change is up to 250 feet. One hike with steep drop offs may be impossible for people afraid of heights. Another hike describes a rope-assisted climb in and out of a canyon.

**Cost:** Cost of tours is still to be determined, but will likely be approximately \$150 - \$200. This doesn't include food, transportation or lodging costs.

**Sign up information:** Sign up will open later this fall.

## Colorado Rock Art Field Trip Requirements

Must be Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) member or Colorado Archaeological Society Member (CAS) to participate in field trips. CRAA members can sign up anytime space is available. CRAA members get first priority for sign up.

All trip participants must agree to the CRAA Code of Ethics, the CRAA Field Trip Policies, the CAS Code of Ethics, the CAS Social Media Policy and the CAS Cultural Resources Protection Policy and Guidelines. See the Colorado Rock Art Association website and the Colorado Archaeological Society websites for the specific policies or ask the trip leader.

All trip participants must sign the Colorado Archaeological Society Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement. Some field trips may have additional releases that need to be signed.

## Take a PAAC Class this fall Learn about Archaeology in Colorado



PAAC courses are a great way to expand your knowledge of Colorado archaeology at a reasonable cost. Classes are offered around the state in evening and weekend formats. No prior archaeological knowledge or experience is required.

### What is PAAC?

A joint program of the Colorado Archaeological Society and the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado. The Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) is a mutually beneficial educational program for avocational and professional archaeologists. Established in 1978 by the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) and the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado (OSAC), it allows CAS members and other citizens to obtain formally recognized levels of expertise outside of an academic degree program. It also facilitates avocational public service and assistance in education, governmental management of cultural resources, research, and the protection of archaeological resources in Colorado. PAAC complements, but does not replace, existing university and governmental training programs. [Click here](#) to go to the History Colorado PAAC website.

### Requirements of PAAC:

- All participants in the PAAC program must: Be 15 years of age or older
- Agree to the PAAC Code of Ethics
- Pay a non-refundable, nominal materials fee per course (also sometimes a fee for the meeting room)

### Fall 2017 - Five Classes

Sign up now for a PAAC class to learn more about Archaeology in Colorado.

### Colorado Archaeology

Dates: September 8th (evening), 9th & 10th all day

Location: Montrose (BLM office)

Instructor: Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

To sign up, contact: Beverly Kolkman at 970-250-8893 or bk7753@msn.com

Host Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter: Chipeta

Colorado Archaeology Class covers the major periods and cultures of Colorado's prehistory, concluding with a brief summary of historic period American Indian groups in Colorado.

### **Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis**

Dates: Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9:30, October 3, 10, 17, 24, November 7, 14 (NOTE: NO CLASS ON October 31)

Location: Loveland (Medical Center of the Rockies)

Instructor: Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

To sign up, contact: Dave Swinehart at 970-397-7589 (cell) or swinehart53@gmail.com

Host Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter: Northern Colorado

Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis class covers ceramic technology, methods of manufacture, physical/stylistic analyses, and basic Colorado ceramic characteristics.

### **Archaeological Practice in Colorado**

Dates: October 14, all day

Location: Durango (Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College)

Instructor: Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

To sign up, contact: Tish Varney at 970-259-4099 or tishvarney@att.net

Host Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter: San Juan Basin

Archaeological Practice in Colorado includes a basic summary of the field of archaeology, common terminology, and Colorado's place in North American prehistory. Also describes the PAAC program in detail, and the functions of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) including interactions with the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado. State & federal laws protecting archaeological resources and codes-of-ethics also are covered.

### **Prehistoric Lithic Description and Analysis**

Dates: November 3rd (evening), 4th & 5th all day

Location: Pueblo (El Pueblo History Museum)

Instructor: Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

To sign up, contact: Barbara Sabo at 719-547-2383 (home) or barbsabo@yahoo.com

Host Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter: San Juan Basin

The Prehistoric Lithic Description and Analysis class will look at stone tool technology, methods of manufacture, morphological/functional analyses, and common tool classes in Colorado.



### **PAAC Workshop: Artifact Illustration – limited to 20 participants**

Dates: Friday, October 27th 10am-4pm (with lunch break, lunch not provided)

Location: Denver (History Colorado Center)

Instructor: Dr. E. Steve Cassells

This workshop will be held at the History Colorado Center in conjunction with the CAS Annual Meeting. Participants will get an overview of the principles of artifact illustration followed by hands-on instruction in creating detailed hand drawn illustrations. Class will end prior to the evening CAS Board Meeting. Final details are still being drafted, but course will include a nominal materials fee along with materials that need to be purchased in advance of the class (list will be provided). Total cost is expected to be around \$40 per person. Contact Chris Johnston at [chris.johnston@state.co.us](mailto:chris.johnston@state.co.us) for more information. To sign up please [click here](#). Class will be limited to the first 20 registrants.

## **Rock Art & Archaeology Conferences**

**2017**

Conferences are a great way to learn more about archaeology, see wonderful archaeological sites and a great way to meet others who share your interest. Avocational archaeologists are welcome at all of these conferences.

### **Utah Rock Art Research Association**

October 6 – 9, 2017 in Green River, Utah

Website: <http://www.utahrockart.org/>

Papers and field trips on Utah Rock Art. Always a popular conference for Colorado Rock Art Members.

The annual URARA symposium will be held in Green River, Utah October 6-9, 2017. The city is located on the Green River, a major tributary of the Colorado River.

The event includes two days of field trips (at least), two days of fabulous speakers and the business meeting. There will a dinner, auction, delicious Green River watermelons, fun and renewing of old friendships.

The rock art in the Green River is among the best in the state. The beautiful canyons of the San Rafael Swell are located to the west, Canyonlands National Park is to the south and the Bookcliffs to the north

### **Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) Annual Conference and Meeting**

October 27-29, 2017 at History Colorado in Denver. The keynote speaker is Mike Waters who is known for his Pre-Clovis era excavations at the Buttermilk Creek Complex at the Debra L. Friedkin Paleo-Indian site in Texas.

Website: <http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/bulletinboard.htm>

## **Rock Art & Archaeology Conferences**

**2018**

### **American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA)**

Dates: June 2018 (exact dates TBD)

Location: Grand Junction, Colorado

Website: <http://www.arara.org/>



# New Discoveries in Azilian Culture Rock Art

By Peter Faris



Azilian painted pebble,  
Wikipedia. Public Domain.

It has long been believed that the great Ice Age art of Europe disappeared with the decline of the Magdalenian culture about 12,000 BCE. The following culture in that area has been named the Azilian culture, and the main art practice associated with Azilian has been decorated pebbles.

"The Azilian is a name given by archaeologists to an industry of the Epipaleolithic in northern Spain and southern France.

It probably dates to the period of - around 12,000 years ago - and followed the Magdalenian culture. Archaeologists think the Azilian represents the tail end of the Magdalenian as the warming climate brought about changes in human behaviour in the area. The effects of melting ice sheets would have diminished the food supply and probably impoverished the previously well-fed Magdalenian manufacturers. As a result, Azilian tools and art were cruder and less expansive than their Ice Age predecessors - or simply different.



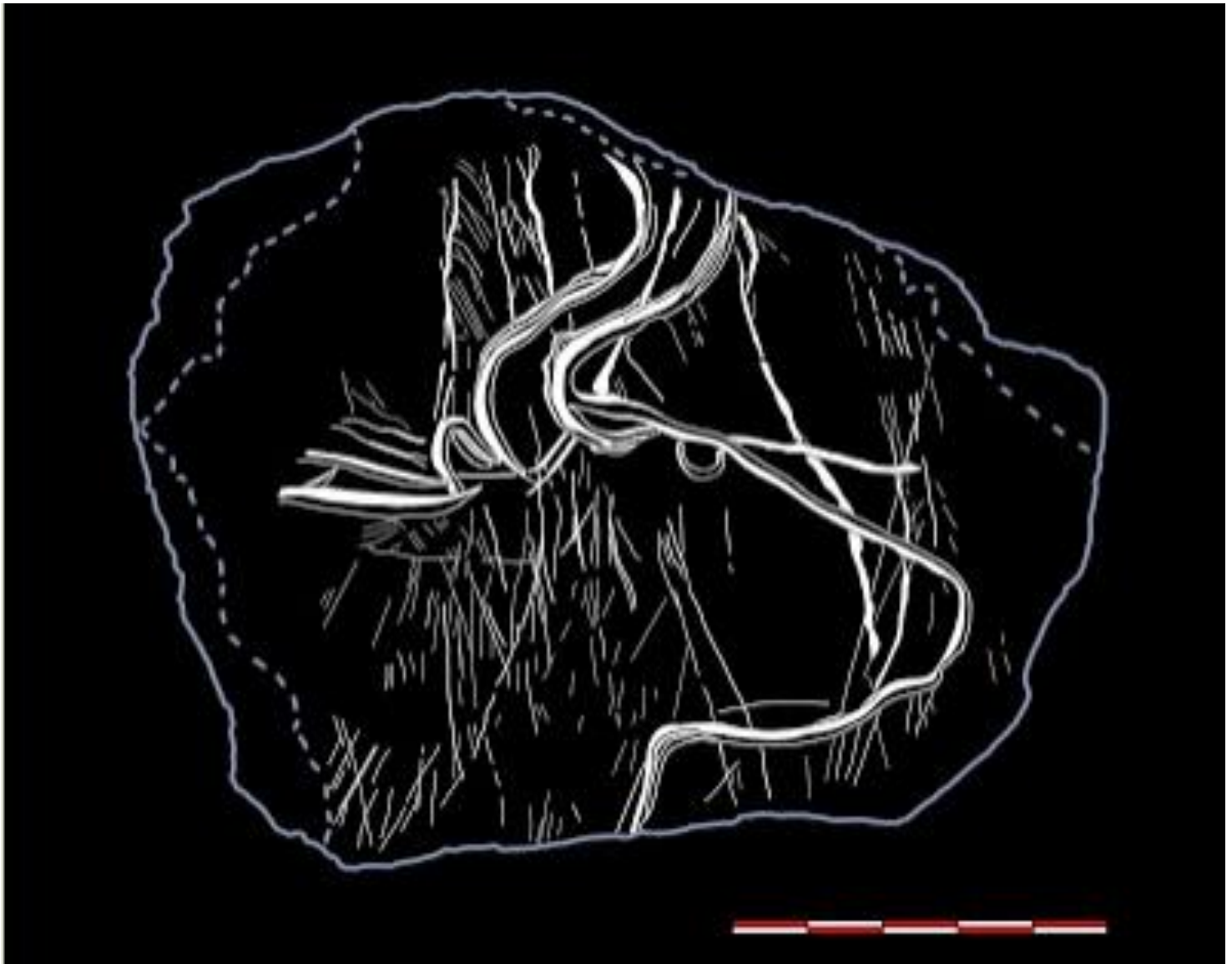
Diagnostic artifacts from the culture include Azilian points (microliths with rounded retouched backs), crude flat bone harpoons and pebbles with abstract decoration. The latter were first found in the River Arize at the type-site for the culture, Le Mas-d'Azil in the French Pyrenees." (Wikipedia)

Large numbers of the painted pebbles mentioned above have been recovered from Azilian sites, and this has long been assumed to represent their total artistic output.

"Azilian pebbles carry simple designs coloured and/or decorated with paint made from red ochre (iron peroxide), applied from the creator's fingers. Dots, borders and bands of colour, zig-zags, ovals and dashes are featured. About 1400 pebbles like these were found at Le Mas-d'Azil, southwestern France." (Wikipedia)



Engraved aurochs on schist plaque.  
Azilian, Le Rocher del'Imperatrice,  
France. Plos.org, Public Domain.



Drawing of aurochs on schist plaque.  
Azilian, Le Rocher del'Imperatrice,  
France. Plos.org, Public Domain.

A recent publication online on Plosone (Plos.org, March 3, 2017) by a team of French researchers led by Nicolas Naudinot described a group of 45 schist placques recovered at Le Rocher del'Imperatrice described sophisticated realistic engravings that open up a whole new area of understanding of the art of this important period of history.

"The development of the Azilian in Western Europe 14,000 years ago is considered a 'revolution' in Upper Paleolithic Archaeology. One of the main elements of this rapid social restructuring is the abandonment of naturalistic figurative art on portable pieces or on cave walls in the Magdalenian in favor of abstract expression on small pebbles.

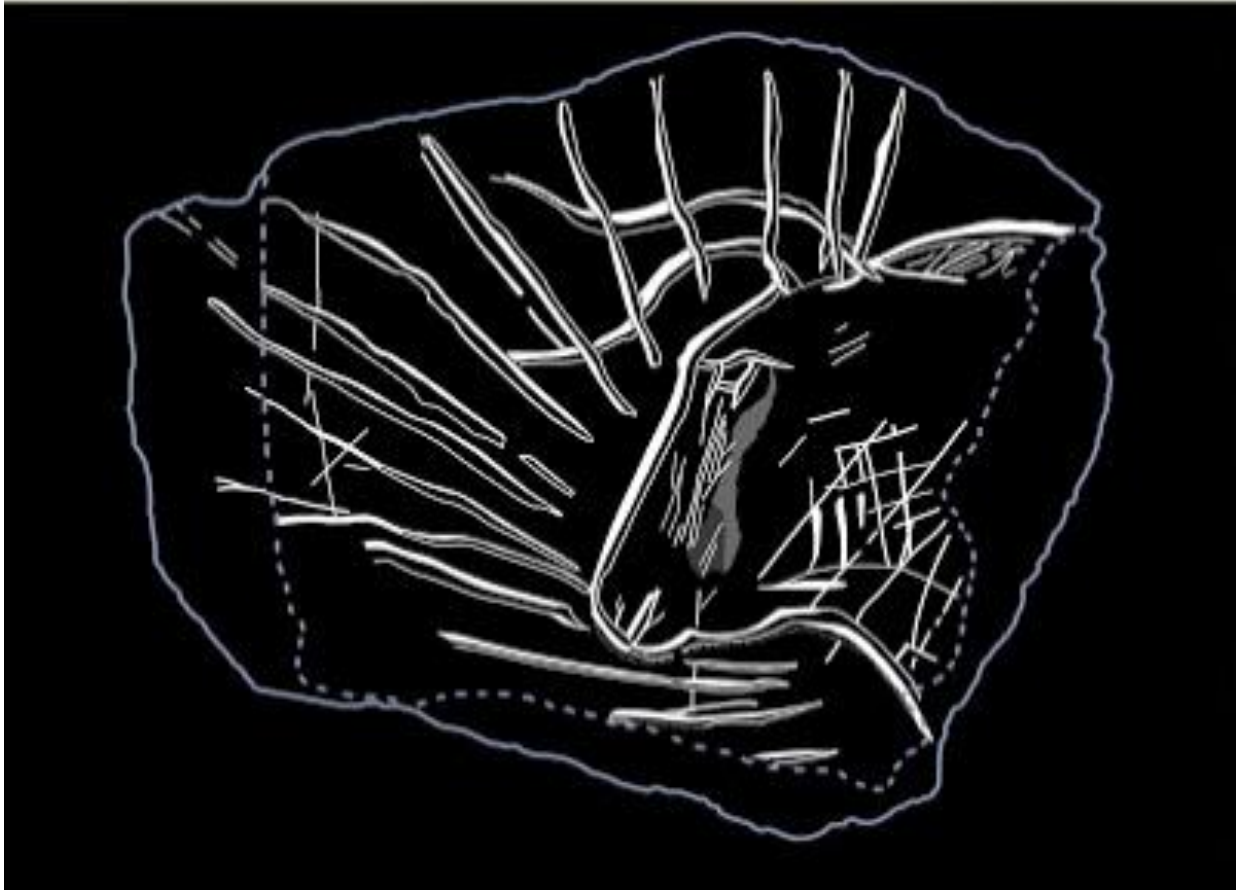
Recent work shows that the transformation of human societies between the Magdalenian and the Azilian was more gradual. The discovery of a new Early Azilian site with decorated stones in France supports this hypothesis. While major changes in stone tool technology between the Magdalenian and Azilian clearly mark important adaptive changes, the discovery of 45 engraved

schist tablets from archaeological layers at Le Rocher de l'Imperatrice attests to iconographic continuity together with special valorization of aurochs as shown by a 'shining' bull depiction." (Naudinot 2017)

Realistic, larger-scale depictions of aurochs and horses provide evidence that cultural and religious beliefs had not totally abandoned the fascination in large animals found in previous cultures, and suggest that the evolution of these beliefs and mythology moved more slowly, lagging behind the evolution of tools to fit the new conditions the people lived in.



Engraved aurochs on schist plaque.  
Azilian, Le Rocher del'Imperatrice,  
France. Plos.org, Public Domain.



Drawing of aurochs on schist plaque.  
Azilian, Le Rocher del'Imperatrice,  
France. Plos.org, Public Domain.

A depiction on one schist plaque of an aurochs seems to be accentuated by an aura or rays around its head. "One side bears a special composition of a bull's head in left profile surrounded by deep rays that create a highlighting visual effect. No equivalent 'shining animal' could be found in the European Paleolithic iconography. The technological study of this piece shows an intentional organization of gestures in order to point up the central place of the aurochs. The rays were engraved after the animal. But to place the aurochs at the forefront, the horns have been accentuated by a new series of engraving in the same grooves, occurring in the areas where the rays and the horns intersect." (Naudinot 2017)

This type of symbolic representation may be later traced to the portrayal of halos on holy images in medieval and renaissance art and may point to the origin of a symbol utilized and understood down to the present. In other words, it is possible that this represents the earliest known example of a symbol that has lasted for ca. 14,000 years, an important discovery to be sure.

NOTE: The images in this posting were retrieved from the Internet with a search for Public Domain images. If they were used inappropriately and are not intended to be Public Domain I apologize to the owner of the picture's rights. If this is the case please inform me.

*Peter Faris is a 30+ year member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, Founder and former President of the Colorado Rock Art Association, Member of the Arapahoe County Cultural*



*Commission, President of Institute for Archeoesthetics. 2013 recipient of the Ivol Hagar Award for outstanding service to the Colorado Archaeological Society, and a 2013 Colorado Rock Art Association Chapter Achievement Award. Member of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Committee and also Programs Committee of History Colorado. Arapahoe County Cultural Council. He writes a regular blog on Rock Art at <http://rockartblog.blogspot.com>. This article is from his blog.*

REFERENCES:

Naudinot, et al,  
2017 Divergence in the Evolution of Paleolithic Symbolic and Technological Systems: the Shining Bull and Engraved tablets of Rocher de L'Imperatrice,  
<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pome.0173037>

Wikipedia

**Join Colorado Rock Art on Facebook**  
**Friends who like Colorado Rock Art Association**

Join us on our Facebook page "Friends Who Like Colorado Rock Art Association". This is a closed group where you can feel comfortable sharing your Rock Art Photos with the group. From the Facebook application search for "Friends Who Like Colorado Rock Art Association."

## Rock Art Book – Cave Art Book by Bruno David



Deep underground, some of humanity's earliest artistic endeavors have lain untouched for millennia. The dark interiors of caves, wherever they may be found, seem to have had a powerful draw for ancient peoples, who littered the cave floors with objects they had made. Later, they adorned cave walls with sacred symbols and secret knowledge, from the very first abstract symbols and handprints to complex and vivid arrangements of animals and people. Often undisturbed for many tens of thousands of years, these were among the first visual symbols that humans shared with each other, though they were made so long ago that we have entirely forgotten their meaning. However, as archaeologist Bruno David reveals, caves decorated more recently may help us to unlock their secrets.

David tells the story of this mysterious world of decorated caves, from the oldest known painting tools to the magnificent murals of the European Ice Age. Showcasing the most astounding discoveries made in more than 150 years of archaeological exploration, *Cave Art* explores the creative achievements of our remotest ancestors and what they tell us about the human past.

Bruno David is Associate Professor in archaeology at the Monash Indigenous Center, Monash University, Australia. His books include *Hiri*, the World Archaeological Congress Handbook of Landscape Archaeology, *The Social Archaeology of Australian Indigenous Societies*, *Landscapes, Rock-Art and the Dreaming* and *Inscribed Landscapes*. In 1994 he was awarded the inaugural Antiquity Prize for his work on the archaeology of meaning in rock art, in 2007 the Australian Archaeological Association's Bruce Veitch Award for Excellence in Indigenous Engagement, and in 2013 the Ben Cullen Prize for writings on the social construction of caves and rockshelters. His current research involves working in partnership with Indigenous communities in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea, exploring the historical connections that people have formed with places and documenting the antiquity of rock art and its meaning to local communities today.

Thames & Hudson World of Art, 216 pages; 1 edition (February 28, 2017); 215 illustrations

From Amazon.com review

## CRAA OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Anne Robinson</b> President	720.334.2782	annerco@yahoo.com
<b>Joel Hurmence</b> Vice President	970.481.2124	jhumence@hotmail.com
<b>Randy Tatroe</b> Treasurer	303-699-8958	rtatroe@q.com
<b>Betsy Weitkamp</b> Secretary & Education Chair	303.722.1656	elaw@q.com
<b>Jo Morgan</b> Board Member	303.938.9208	jomorgan07@yahoo.com
<b>Van Graham</b> Board Member	970-250-2618	vkgraham46@gmail.com
Open Position Board Member		
Open Position Board Member		
<b>Cheryl Ames</b> Website	303.940.2043	cheryl_e_ames@msn.com
<b>Keith Fessenden</b> Membership	303.907.5184	khfessenden@gmail.com
<b>Teresa Weedin</b> CAS Representative	303.366.7843	weedin@comcast.net

If you hear of any events or projects relating to rock art, please pass them along to us at [coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com). We will get the information out to CRAA members. Also if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please let us know.