

Pictures From The Past

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

<http://www.coloradorockart.org>

January 2017

Volume 8, Issue 1

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President's Corner **By Anne Robinson, CRAA President**

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.

We are looking for a new treasurer to replace Bob Tipton. The treasurer pays the bills, processes memberships and does quarterly a quarterly and year balance sheet and P&L. In addition, the treasurer participates in monthly conference calls and periodic in-person Saturday board meetings. If you are interested in this position please contact us at coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com. Working on the CRAA board is a great way to help shape the direction of CRAA.

This month's feature article is *A Navajo Rock Art Site in the Central Colorado Mountains?* by Peter Faris. The article explores a rock art site near Almont, Gunnison County, Colorado.

We are getting some field trips together for Summer 2017. If you are interested in leading a field trip, please let us know.

Happy New Year!

Upcoming Rock Art Events

2017

Please let us know if you would be interested in leading a CRAA field trip. Contact us at coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com if you would like to lead a trip in 2017. We are an all-volunteer organization and would love your participation.

Texas Rock Art Trip

April 3 to 7 to various locations in Texas. Plan on two travel days on each end. Also on April 1 there will be a bonus day at Hueco Tanks for those who can make it.

Leader: Teresa Weedin

Details to come.

Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA)

May 6-7, 2017 in Craig, Colorado

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

Yes the Colorado Rock Art Association is tentatively planning to have a conference in Craig, Colorado. We expect to have a day of papers and a day of field trips. More information to come.

San Luis Valley Rock Art Recording Project

July 2017 – exact dates to be determined

Details to come

The Project: We will be recording Rock Art in the in the Rio Grande gorge in the southern end of the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado. The rock art panels include a variety of motifs, likely including both Archaic and more recent images. The project will take place in July 2017. The exact dates have not been determined. We will be asking folks to volunteer for at least 3 or 4 days. Volunteers can stay in the project base camp in Antonito or at a nearby motel. Food will be provided.

Project Leaders: Paleocultural Research Group. They have 20 years of experience leading volunteer archaeological projects. See their website for more information (www.paleocultural.org). This project will be held in conjunction with the PAAC annual survey. A professional crew chief will train and assist CRAA volunteers.

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. Avocationalists are welcome at all of these conferences.

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA)

March 10-12, 2017 in Grand Junction

Website: <http://coloradoarchaeologists.org/>

Sign up information should be available by the end of January.

A great conference to learn about the latest in Colorado Archaeology. They have special rates for Colorado Archaeological Society members. (All CRAA members belong to CAS.)

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American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) 2017 Conference

June 1-5, 2017 at Redmond, Oregon (near Bend)

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

PLANS are underway for the ARARA 2017 Annual Conference to be held June 1-5. Redmond is just north of Bend, which is between the Willamette and Ochoco National Forests and is graced with the lovely Deschutes River. Jim Keyser is the area Chair, and he and his team have already met with many locals to plan for field trips. The field trip wish list has been drawn up with about 18 sites around Redmond and Bend. Sites include petroglyphs and pictographs in Columbia River Conventionalized and Columbia Plateau, Great Basin, North Oregon Rectilinear, and Yakima Polychrome styles. Our tentative field trips list includes Horsethief Lake, Cascadia Cave, Picture Gorge, Malheur Basin, Devils Pass, and Picture Rock Pass. The conference starts with two days of papers and is followed by field trips. A great way to keep up with Rock Art topics in the United States and North America.

Utah Rock Art Research Association

Fall 2017 – dates not announced on website

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

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

Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) Annual Conference and Meeting

October 2017 at History Colorado in Denver. Exact dates not announced.

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

All Colorado Rock Art members are also members of the Colorado Archaeological Society. This is a chance to hear a wide range of archaeological topics and to go on field trips.

For anyone interested in true long-term planning

20th International Rock Art Congress IFRAO 2018

Standing on the shoulders of giants / Sulle spalle dei giganti

VALCAMONICA Darfo Boario Terme (BS) Italia (Italy)

29 August - 2 September 2018

Website: http://www.casp.it/web/Ifrao2018/IFRAO2018_eng.html

The congress will cover a range of topics relevant to rock art, archaeology, culture and society, from its first appearance to current forms. During five days, leading experts in the field, researchers along with young scholars and enthusiasts, will gather and present the latest results and studies on rock art, rupestrian archaeology and other relevant research fields on Palaeolithic and Post-palaeolithic art of all over the world. More than 30 sessions, workshops, key lectures, exhibitions, visits with live streaming of certain events are being planned. Excursions before and after the congress in Valcamonica and to others areas of the Alps are also being programmed.

A Navajo Rock Art Site in the Central Colorado Mountains?

By Peter Faris



Almont rock art site, CO.
Photo, Jared Allen, 2016.

I recently received some fascinating pictures and information from Jared Allen. Jared shared some photographs of a rock art site near Almont, in Gunnison County, Colorado. A couple of the photos show deeply incised grooves or the sort usually defined as tool sharpening grooves, although some of the grooves appear to be arranged purposefully to create a tree-like image. Much more interesting, however, are a couple of Jared's photographs that illustrate what appear to be Navajo Yei (Holy People) figures. Almont is a considerable distance from the current region of Navajo habitation, so what gives here?



Almont rock art site, CO.
Photo, Jared Allen, 2016.

Almont, Colorado, is approximately 9 miles north of the town of Gunnison, and 60 miles NW of Saguache. Some references place the early Navajo and the boundaries of Dinétah, the Navajo homeland, far enough north and east of their present territory that it includes the San Luis Valley in south/central Colorado. "Dinétah encompasses a large area of northwestern New Mexico, southwestern Colorado, southeastern Utah, and northeastern Arizona. The boundaries are inexact, and are generally marked by mountain peaks which correspond to the four cardinal directions." (Wikipedia) Indeed, Mount Blanca, one of the Navajo four holy mountains is located in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range on the east side of the San Luis Valley.



Almont rock art site, CO.
Recurved bow held by
figure on the right.
Photo, Jared Allen, 2016.

The right figure in this group appears to be holding a recurved bow considered a hallmark of athapaskan peoples and, thus, a possible Navajo identifier (see below).



Yei pictographs showing recurved bow, Delgadito Canyon. Picture from www.nm.blm.gov/.

"In Navajo tradition, the Holy People, or Yeis, are sometimes shown holding "recurved" bows. This technological innovation is thought by some to have been introduced by the ancestors of today's Navajo and Apache. The distinctive double curve is sometimes shown alone as a symbol for Naayee' Neizghani, or Monster Slayer, one of the Hero Twins." (www.nm.blm.gov/)

If these images are indeed Navajo in origin they are probably dated from back early in the athapaskan entrance into this area, as with the passage of time the Navajo gravitated farther south and west. "The Navajo occupation of the region has been divided into two major phases - the Dinetah phase (ca. 1500-1630, which includes the entrance and settling of the area by the Navajo, and the Gobernador phase (ca. 1630-1800), during which time the Navajo culture became fully defined." (Wikipedia)

So, if these Navajo figures are authentic, they are probably fairly early, or evidence of a later wanderer.

REFERENCES:

http://www.nm.blm.gov/features/dinetah/navajo_history_2.html

Wikipedia

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>.

Historic Preservation Fund

Update on Reauthorization

In communities throughout America, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has helped to recognize, save, and protect America's historic places. Legislation creating the HPF was signed into law on September 28, 1976. The law provides for a relatively small portion of the royalties that energy companies pay for the right to drill for oil and natural gas on the federally owned Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to be used to preserve the places that tell America's story. The HPF has been used to help preserve and protect iconic sites and objects as diverse as Emily Dickinson's home in Amherst, Massachusetts, to the bus on which Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to the main street of Deadwood, South Dakota.

On November 14, 2016, the Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) sent members requests from Karen Kinnear, Colorado Archaeological Society President and from Holly Norton, State Archaeologist & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer suggesting that CRAA members consider asking their Representatives support HPF reauthorization.

Holly Norton has sent us a status update on the reauthorization process from Ted Monoson, Director of Government Relations at the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers dated December 7, 2016. Ted Monoson writes "Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4680, the NPS Centennial Bill. The bill includes a provision reauthorizing the HPF for seven years. In order for the NPS Centennial Bill to become law, it also must be passed by the Senate and signed by the President. The Senate is expected to finish its work for this session and this Congress late this week or, more likely, early next week. We are working to get the Senate to pass the bill before the session ends. There are some obstacles to getting the Senate to act on the bill. None of those obstacles are related to the HPF reauthorization provision. We are doing what we can to deal with those obstacles."

Web Seminar Access

Do you have access to a web seminar application?

The Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) would love to try an online web seminar a time or two this winter. Would anyone have access to web seminar software that CRAA could use an evening or two? Ideally it would have the capacity for 50 or 100 attendees. We would be happy to reimburse any incremental costs.

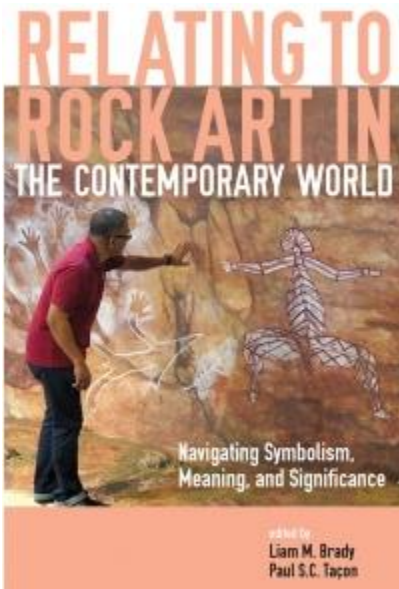
A web seminar would allow us to offer live lectures that CRAA members could view with any computing device. Viewers would be in the comfort of their own home. CRAA members could ask the lecturer questions. Everyone could see and hear the presentation with ease. There is no cost to the viewer.

Web Seminar software such as *Go to Meeting* or *WebX* would allow us to give a live on-line lecture on Rock Art. With CRAA being such a geographically disbursed group, it is hard to offer programs that most of our members can attend. CRAA could pay for the web seminar ourselves but with using it only one or two times, it is pricy.

If you have access to such software that we could use, please contact us at coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com.

**2016 Book – *Relating to Rock Art in the Contemporary World*
Navigating Symbolism, Meaning, and Significance
Edited by Liam M. Brady and Paul S.C. Taçon**

"A compelling, important, and overdue work on the state of rock art in the world today."
—Sven Ouzman, Centre for Rock Art Research and Management, University of Western Australia



Rock art has long been considered an archaeological artifact reflecting activities from the past, yet it is also a phenomenon with present-day meaning and relevance to both indigenous and non-indigenous communities. *Relating to Rock Art in the Contemporary World* challenges traditional ways of thinking about this highly recognizable form of visual heritage and provides insight into its contemporary significance.

One of the most visually striking forms of material culture embedded in landscapes, rock art is ascribed different meanings by diverse groups of people including indigenous peoples, governments, tourism offices, and the general public, all of whom relate to images and sites in unique ways. In this volume, leading scholars from around the globe shift the discourse from a primarily archaeological basis to one that examines the myriad ways that symbolism, meaning, and significance in rock art are being renegotiated in various geographical and cultural settings, from

Australia to the British Isles. They also consider how people manage the complex meanings, emotions, and cultural and political practices tied to rock art sites and how these factors impact processes relating to identity construction and reaffirmation today.

Richly illustrated and geographically diverse, *Relating to Rock Art in the Contemporary World* connects archaeology, anthropology, and heritage studies. The book will appeal to students and scholars of archaeology, anthropology, heritage, heritage management, identity studies, art history, indigenous studies, and visual theory, as well as professionals and amateurs who have vested or avocational interests in rock art.

Contributors: Agustín Acevedo, Manuel Bea, Jutinach Bowonsachoti, Gemma Boyle, John J. Bradley, Noelene Cole, Inés Domingo, Kurt E. Dongoske, Davida Eisenberg-Degen, Dánae Fiore, Ursula K. Frederick, Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Catherine Namono, George H. Nash, John Norder, Marianna Ocampo, Joshua Schmidt, Duangpond Singhaseni, Benjamin W. Smith, Atthasit Sukkham, Noel Hidalgo Tan, Watinee Tanompolkrang, Luke Taylor, Dagmara Zawadzka

University of Colorado Press, hardcover price \$90.00, published December 2016, 386 pages, 135 illustrations.

Information from the University of Colorado Press website. Book is available on Amazon.

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