



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

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Hello Fellow Colorado Rock Art Members,

We are reviving ***Pictures from the Past***, the newsletter of the Colorado Rock Art Association, after over five years of inactivity. For this first newsletter, we are using the original format of the first newsletter created in November 2003. Over time we hope to get back to more colorful graphics and eventually to offer an in-line newsletter format as well as the printable format. One step at a time though.

We have plans for a variety of field trips in 2016 to rock art sites in Colorado and outside of Colorado. The proposed field trips include trips a trip to SE Colorado, a trip to Eagle County, a trip to Shavano site, a multi-day trip to Pecos River and Hueco tanks sites in Texas (early November) and a trip to the San Luis Valley. We will share details and dates as they become available.

For 2016 we will not be holding a CRAA conference. Instead, hope to sponsor a rock art program at the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) annual meeting. The CAS Annual meeting will be held in Grand Junction, Colorado, on October 7-10, 2016. We will share the details when we have them.

We plan to do the CRAA election of officers in May 2016. Our plan is to

have members vote remotely. If you are interested in running for an elected board member position, let one of the current CRAA board members know. We would love to have you join us as a board member.

Anne Robinson, President  
Colorado Rock Art Association

### **CRAA Board Meetings Schedule**

#### **March Meeting**

Monday, March 28  
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Conference Call

#### **April Meeting**

Saturday, April 16  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Meeting location in Denver area

#### **May Meeting**

Monday, May 23  
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Conference Call

#### **June Meeting**

Monday, May 23  
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Conference Call

CRAA members are welcome to participate in CRAA Board meetings. To join us contact Anne Robinson at [annerco@yahoo.com](mailto:annerco@yahoo.com).

## **A Spotted Cat Petroglyph Revisited** by Peter Faris



Spotted cat petroglyph, Farrington Springs, Bent County, CO. Photo Peter Faris, 1990.

On May 1, 2009, I posted a column on <http://rockartblog.blogspot.com> titled "A Spotted Cat Petroglyph In Southeastern Colorado." In this I showed a petroglyph from the marvelous rock art site of Farrington Springs and speculated as to exactly what it represents. The petroglyph, of an animal covered with spots and with a long tail and small ears appears to represent a cat, so then we ask ourselves what kind of cat? The first guess of a spotted cat that might live in that locale would be a young bobcat as they are covered with spots. Bobcats, however, have short little stubby tails, and this cat has a long tail sticking out behind him. Also, this animal is obviously not meant to represent a young animal as it has the phallus of a fully grown male animal.



Little Rock's tipi, Southern Cheyenne, made 1904. Buffalo Bill History Center, WY. Photo Peter Faris.

In that posting I wrote "So what kind of cat is this? Other examples of spotted cat imagery can be located in Native American art. One that can be pointed to is the image on the painted model tipi (above), owned by the Field Museum, Chicago, which was collected in 1904 by Smithsonian ethnologist James Mooney and was displayed at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center at Cody, Wyoming, when the photograph above was taken. Another example I have seen is a carved stone pipe shaped as a spotted cat, attributed to the Mississippian culture. That carved stone pipe has been identified as an ocelot, which is one of the possibilities for identity of the spotted cat. The closest report of an ocelot sighting that I have been able to locate was somewhere along the Texas/Oklahoma border which might fall within about 100 miles from the petroglyph site. The other possibility for a long-tailed spotted cat is the jaguar, sightings of which are still reported irregularly throughout the southwest. In either case (ocelot or jaguar), they are now extinct through much of their former range in the southwest, and even in prehistoric times were probably quite rare. This suggests that the sighting of one of these animals was a significant event, worthy of reproducing on your tipi, your pipe, or on the cliff." (Faris 2009)



Panther pipe, Hopewell, AD 1 - 400, Mann Site, Posey County, Illinois, from Townsend, 2004, Hero, Hawk and Open Hand, p. 63.

Another source of comparative imagery can be found engraved on a shell gorget which has been attributed to the Hopewell culture and is the Missouri State Artifact. This so-called Jaguar Gorget was excavated from a mound near Fairfield, Missouri, and is assigned to the Kansas City Hopewell based upon associated artifactual evidence.

"The identification of the image on the gorget as a jaguar, *Felis onca*, seems secure. Only the slightly elongated body mars its realism. The configuration of the body, the nature of the spots on the torso and underbelly, the form of the head and ears, and the short tail all support this identity. The only disharmonious features are on the creature's neck. Rather than being spotted, the neck bears dots and dashes reminiscent of the ocelot, *Felis pardalis*, although the neck on that species carries solid heavy lines. Both jaguars and ocelots are native to tropical to subtropical and desert parts of Central America, but their historical ranges extended into southern United States. The jaguar once inhabited parts of southern California,

most of Arizona, parts of western and central New Mexico and, more to the point here, southeastern Texas and southern Louisiana (Hall 1981:1037-39, Map 524). All of these locales are far from southwestern Missouri, but we have no way of knowing the distribution of the animal in the past." (Wood 2000)

This then brings up the question of the time period during which jaguars and ocelots roamed eastern North America coexisting with people.

"The Pleistocene fossil record proves that jaguars once ranged over most of North America. Jaguar fossils have been found as far northwest as Whitman County, Washington and as far northeast as Port Kennedy, Pennsylvania. Across the southeast jaguar fossils are among the most common of the large carnivores found by fossil collectors. Along with dire wolves they were probably a dominant predator in the region's forests for most of the Pleistocene, being more common than the infamous saber-tooth." (Gelbart 2010)



Jaguar gorget, Hopewell. From: Wood, 2000, The Jaguar Gorget-"The Missouri State Artifact", Missouri Archaeological Society Quarterly, April-June 2000, 17(2):8-11.

So, what is the most likely identity of the spotted cat at Farrington Springs in southeastern Colorado? Given indications that both ocelots and jaguars might (and I emphasize might) have existed throughout much of North America in relic populations, and also given that considerably larger numbers of ocelots and jaguars existed in Mexico to stray or wander northward before the coming of the modern firearm, it appears that the identification of this petroglyph as an ocelot or jaguar is warranted.

REFERENCES:

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2009 A Spotted Cat Petroglyph In Southeastern Colorado,  
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Gelbart, Mark

2010 How Recently did the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) Roam Eastern North America,  
<https://markgelbart.wordpress.com/2010/07/08/>.

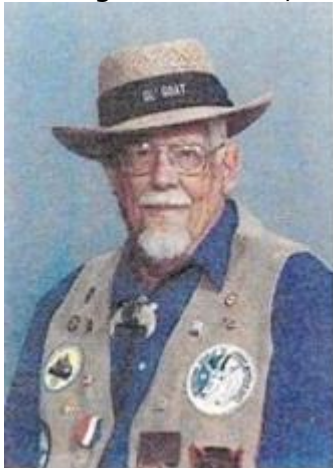
Wood, W. Raymond

2000 The Jaguar Gorget-"The Missouri State Artifact", *Missouri Archaeological Society Quarterly*, April-June 2000, 17(2):8-11.

*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>.*

## **Bruce Hartel – Named CRAA Newsletter & CRAA Member**

Bruce Hartel, of Cortez, CO, died peacefully at Mercy Regional Med Center in Durango on Jan.13, surrounded by his family and his dear friend, Lyle Rice. He was 87 and ready to move on. He is survived by his daughter Terry Woodrow (Mike) of Cortez; son Steve Hartel (Lisa Alecci) of Lakewood, CO; and 5 grand children. Son of Elmer Dillard Hartel and Ethel Veltmann, he was born Dec. 24, 1928, in Galveston, TX. He had a successful career as an aerospace engineer. He loved camping, jeeping, hanging out at his cabin in Crested Butte, and especially big game hunting. He was active in politics and served as a Republican committee chairman for 32 years in Jefferson County, CO. He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Felicia Hartel, and his granddaughter, Jill Hartel. He moved to Cortez in 2012 from the Littleton/Denver area where he had lived since 1958. No service is planned.



Bruce was a former CRAA and Denver Chapter member and joined us on many field trips for both groups. He named the CRAA newsletter, Pictures from the Past. Bruce will be missed by those who knew him.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Volunteer on an Archaeological Project! None of these projects is specific to Rock Art, but all area great way to learn more about archaeology.**

### **Paleo-Cultural Research Group Fieldwork Opportunities**

The Paleo-Cultural Research Group (PCRG) is planning three field projects for summer 2016. Additional projects may also be added to the schedule. There is no charge for participation and PCRG provides all meals and field equipment. Contact us to learn more about how to get involved. Contact info and website information is listed below.

#### **Household Archaeology in the Heart River Region (June 9–June 22)**

In mid-June, PCRG staff and volunteers will again collaborate with researchers from several different institutions to investigate Mandan households at Chief Looking's Village, a sixteenth-century Plains Village community located in Bismarck, North Dakota. A wave of transformative change, marked by increased population density, expanded long-distance trade and interaction, more frequent warfare, and economic intensification, swept through the region around present-day Bismarck between A.D. 1400 and 1600. However, little currently is known about the social processes operating within individual communities. This project will study intra-community social interaction by comparing the lives of families living in two distinctly different types of houses.

PCRG volunteers will be joined by field school students from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. The project's base camp will be located about 15 miles east of Bismarck. Participants will camp adjacent to a house, where a kitchen and showers will be available. Participants may sign up for either or both weeks of work.

#### **Archaeological Survey of the Baca Mountain Tract (July 17–July 24)**

In July PCRG and Forest Service researchers will return to the Bunker site, an extensive camp associated in part with the Old Spanish Trail, which was used by traders between 1828 and 1848. The crew will also survey selected portions of the archaeologically rich bajada on the eastern side of the San Luis Valley, between the Sangre de Cristo Range and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The crew will camp adjacent to the restored Duncan Cabin, located on the Duncan townsite, an extensive and well-preserved historical archaeological site dating to the 1890s.

#### **Archaeological Testing at the Venado Enojado site (5CF555) (August 9–August 17)**

The Venado Enojado ("angry deer") site is a multi-component open camp located in the upper Arkansas River valley close to Buena Vista, Colorado. Previously collected ground-penetrating radar data indicate that the site may contain one or more basin houses dating to the Late Archaic. In August, PCRG and Bureau of Land Management researchers will test the site to determine whether residential features are present and, if so, how old they are. Participants will stay at a campground in the area.

**To sign up contact Paleocultural Research Group (PCRG)**

Office: 555 Burbank Street, Unit A, Broomfield, Colorado 80020

Mail: P.O. Box 745309, Arvada, Colorado 80006

Phone: 303-439-4098

Email: [info@paleocultural.org](mailto:info@paleocultural.org)

Website: [www.paleocultural.org](http://www.paleocultural.org)

Website volunteer page: <http://www.paleocultural.org/participation.htm>

**Mitchell Springs Ruin Group Excavation Fieldwork Opportunity**

Greetings CAS members! The following information will explain this year's excavation opportunity being held at the Mitchell Springs Ruin Group in Southwest Colorado. Again, this year we will be working with our friends from the Verde Valley Archaeological Center ([VerdeValleyArchaeologyCenter.org](http://VerdeValleyArchaeologyCenter.org)), and members from various Chapters of the Arizona Archaeological Society.

Mitchell Spring Ruin Group was originally noted by Lewis Henry Morgan in 1870 during his early study of aboriginal Americans in the American Southwest. Shortly thereafter, J.W. Fewkes visited the site and confirmed Morgan's observations. During a reconnaissance of the San Juan Watershed in the 1890's, T. Mitchell Pruden, a physician working with the Peabody Museum at Harvard made the next mention of the ruins and provided a description and assessment of the condition of the site in two published reports. Several years later, Pruden returned and with the assistance of Clayton Wetherill (brother of Richard Wetherill, who is widely credited with discovering the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde) and Henry Hun, he conducted archaeological excavations related to his study of prehistoric architectural family units that are still often referred to as Unit Pueblos or Pruden Units.

The site is located just south of Cortez, CO and is the center of a large community spreading out in all directions from the site center for more than a half mile. It contained hundreds of rooms, 4 small great houses, a tower kiva, a great kiva, a 10 meter court kiva, reservoir and a bi-wall tower kiva. It was occupied for over 500 years and is listed on the National Historic Register.

Four 2016 Field Sessions -- Each Lasting Four Days

May 27-30 Mitchell Springs, Cortez CO

July 15-18 Mitchell Springs Ruin Group, Cortez

August 12-15 Mitchell Springs Ruin Group, Cortez

August 26-29 Mitchell Springs Ruin Group, Cortez

All fees, application form and liability releases and are due by **March 31, 2016.**

If interested, contact Tom Hoff at [tomhoff4@gmail.com](mailto:tomhoff4@gmail.com) or 303-489-9095

For more information go to

<http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/2016FieldSchoolannouncementletter.pdf>

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

## **Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Excavations at Hell Gap Field Work Opportunity**

Excavate and celebrate the 50th anniversary since the end of the first excavations at Hell Gap.

Hell Gap is a deeply stratified archaeological site located in the Great Plains of eastern Wyoming, approximately thirteen miles north of Guernsey, where an abundant amount of Paleoindian and Archaic artifacts have been found and excavated since 1959.[1] This site has had an important impact on North American archaeology because of the large quantity and breadth of prehistoric Paleoindian and Archaic period (ca. 13,500 to 7,600 B.P.) artifacts and cultures it encompasses. (from Wikipedia)

Volunteer opportunities and crew positions. Ten day field sessions from May to mid-August, including July to August at the Hell Gap Site.

To sign up contact Marcel Kornfeld, PiRL, Dept. 3431, 1000 E. University Avenue, Laramie, Wyoming 82071 or go to <http://www.uwyo.edu/pirl> PaleoIndian Research Lab: Email - [anpro1@uwyo.edu](mailto:anpro1@uwyo.edu) or messages at (307)766-5136.

## **Sign up now for PAAC Rock Art Studies Course**

Sign up for the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) Rock Art Course offered in Durango, Colorado this spring. The PAAC Rock Art Course is a great way to expand your knowledge on Colorado Rock Art.

### **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.

### **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

### **Rock Art Studies**

Weekend of June 3-5 in Durango, Colorado

To sign up contact: Tish Varney at [tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net)

History of Colorado research, terminology, recording and conservation methods, ethics, interpretive approaches, dating methods and overview of styles found in Colorado.



## **CRAA Elections 2016**

The Colorado Rock Art Association will be holding elections for board members in May 2016. We plan to do electronic voting so all current CRAA members can participate.

Please let us know if you are interested in running for a position. Email us your interest at [Coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:Coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com) or contact any current board member.

### **CRAA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

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<b>Betsy Weitkamp</b> Board Member	303.722.1656	elaw@q.com
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