

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

Welcome to all our members- new, renewing and existing. This May the Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) had 67 members. As of the end of September we grew to 119 members.

At the Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting on October 8 we had a booth- Joel Hurmence created a wonderful video on CRAA that ran in a continuous loop and we had a large CRAA banner that could be seen from across the room. Lots of folks expressed interest in the Colorado Rock Art Association and 15 people signed up to become CRAA members. With more members we hope to get more participation and expand our offerings.

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.

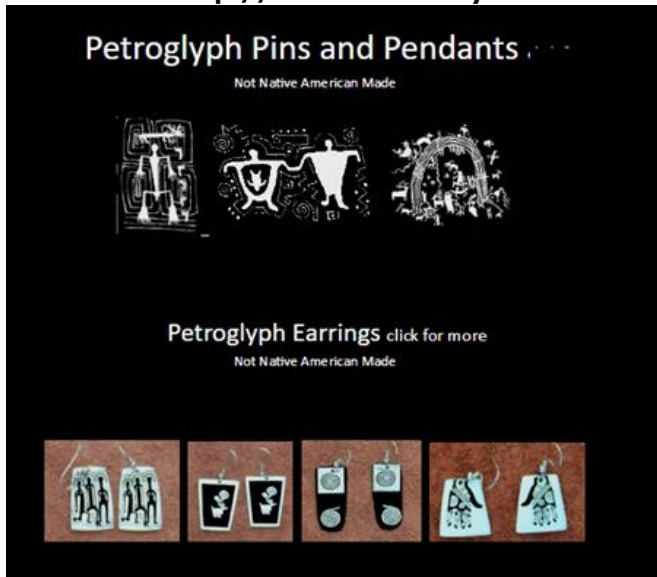
This month's feature article is "Dinosaurs in Rock Art? The Black Dragon Canyon Pterosaur" by Peter Faris. It explores some new information on this panel revealed through.

The CRAA Board is meeting this Saturday on November 19 to work on plans for 2017.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

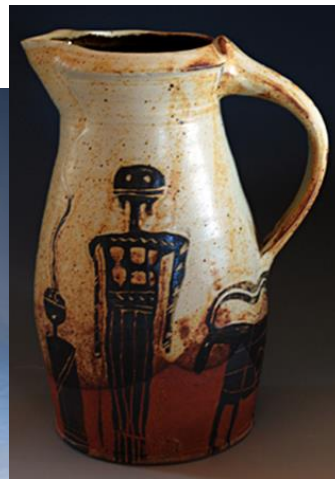
Ideas for Rock Art Inspired Gifts Pins, Pendants and Earrings

Website: <http://www.aliceseely.com>



Pottery and sculpture

Website: <http://blueglyphclayarts.com>



DINOSAURS IN ROCK ART? THE BLACK DRAGON CANYON PTEROSAUR.

By Peter Faris



Drawing of the traditional image of the supposed "pterosaur" in Black Dragon Canyon, UT. From Geggel, 2015, Photos: 'Winged Monster' Rock Art in Black Dragon Canyon', August 18, 2015, <http://www.livescience.com/51892-photos-utah-rock-art.html>.

On May 24, 2014, I posted a column titled DINOSAURS IN ROCK ART? - THE BLACK DRAGON CANYON PTEROSAUR, about the supposed pictograph of a pterosaur seen on a cliff wall in Utah. In that column I stated: "To me one of the strangest sub-studies of the field of rock art consists of attempts of creationists and evolution deniers to find dinosaurs in rock art. Apparently this is to prove that humans and dinosaurs lived concurrently because that is the only way primitive people would have their examples to portray. As best I can tell this is the work of a group of creationists who ascribe to the theory that the bible says the earth is only 6,000 years old based upon 17th century Bishop Usher's calculation that "the first day of creation began at nightfall preceding Sunday, October 23, 4004 BC" (Wikipedia), so dinosaurs and humans have to have coexisted." (Faris 2014)



Chalked pictograph in Black Dragon Canyon, UT. Public Domain.

I then continued, citing Phil Senter whose July 2012 exploration of the subject (Rock Art "Dinosaurs", More "Dinosaur" and "Pterosaur" Rock Art That Isn't, Palaeontological Association) took on the crazy ideas of creationists and evolution-deniers directly. I wrote "Whatever their motivation, there are a few tired examples that get trotted out over and over to supposedly prove that there are indeed portrayals of dinosaurs in rock art. Of these, perhaps the most ubiquitous example is the supposed pterosaur pictograph in Utah's Black Dragon Canyon. In 2012 Phil Senter stated "An alleged pterosaur painting in Black Dragon Canyon, Utah, is actually not a single painting. Its "head" and "neck" are a painting of a person with outstretched arms. Its torso and limbs are those of a painting of a second person with outstretched arms, whose body continues into the "pterosaur's" "wing." The other "wing" is a painting of a horned serpent. The three paintings only appear connected because someone outlined the group with chalk." (Senter 2012)" (Faris 2014)



Phil Senter's analysis of the image.



The new DStretch analysis of the pictograph, Black Dragon Canyon, UT.
From LiveScience.com.

Senter presented a detailed analysis showing that the supposed pterosaur was a combination of smaller painted (and quite faded) Fremont images. An August 18, 2015 article in LiveScience written by Laura Geggel, and titled "Photos: 'Winged Monster' Rock Art in Black Dragon Canyon" presents a project that resulted in even better analysis of the image and shows the original imagery in greater detail using DStretch analysis of high quality photographs of the panel.

Now a more recent (2015) analysis of the image of the supposed "pterosaur" in Black Dragon Canyon has utilized DStretch to provide even more detail of the real image. This study was conducted by Jean-Loïc Le Quellec, Paul Bahn and Marvin Rowe, ("The Death of a Pterodactyl," *Antiquity*, Volume 89, p 872-884, 2015, Copyright Antiquity Publications Ltd., published by Cambridge University Press.), and reported on in LiveScience by Laura Geggel in her article Photos: 'Winged Monster' Rock Art in Black Dragon Canyon, August 18, 2015. Where Senter had conclusively proven that the image was not a pterosaur, but was instead a combination of Fremont pictographs including a pair of anthropomorphs, a pair of animals, and a long sinuous image which might represent a therianthropomorphic figure, Le Quellec, Bahn, and Rowe, have now given us even more detailed images of the original Fremont figures, and even more proof of the fallacy of the Creationist position. And, thank you to Laura Geggel and LiveScience for making this accessible.

Go to <http://www.livescience.com/51892-photos-utah-rock-art.html> to read the whole article and see a number of detailed photographs.

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>.

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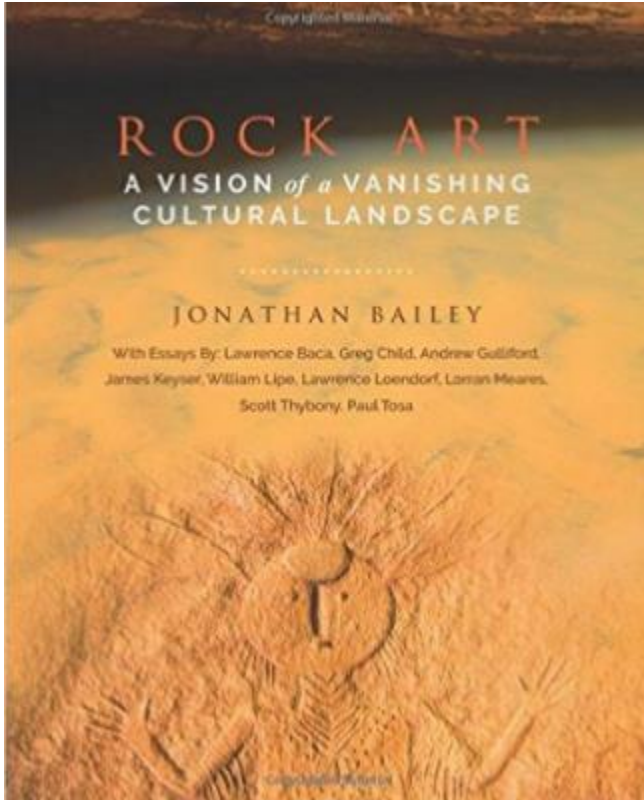
Jean-Loïc Le Quellec, Paul Bahn and Marvin Rowe,

2015 The Death of a Pterodactyl, *Antiquity*, Volume 89, p 872-884, 2015, Copyright Antiquity Publications Ltd., published by Cambridge University Press.

Senter, Phil

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2016 Book – *Rock Art: A Vision of a Vanishing Cultural Landscape* By Jonathan Bailey



To those who once walked these fins of sandstone, the landscape was alive with meaning and metaphor in a fourth-dimension, a collective vision of a landscape deeply connected to their culture, senses, and their landscape. In *Rock Art: A Vision of a Vanishing Cultural Landscape*, artist, researcher, and writer Jonathan Bailey brings back layers of dimension to archaeological sites in Utah and Arizona's canyon country by highlighting the significance of seeing beyond the second dimension, that which is carved on the rock face itself, to the value of place, landscape, and the fundamental experience of our prehistory.

These visions of the past are quickly being destroyed by development, vandalism, illegal trail pioneering, and encroaching tourism. This anthology brings together essays by noted archaeologists, writers, and artists (including Lawrence Baca, Greg Child, Andrew Gulliford, James Keyser, William Lipe, Lawrence Loendorf, Lorrain Meares, Scott Thybony, and Paul Tosa) to illustrate what we have, what we have lost, and

what we may lose, tied together by Bailey's essays and over one-hundred-and-fifty color photographs from his explorations into some of the most remote wild landscapes in North America.

Jonathan Bailey is an artist devoted to protecting cultural resources and the wild landscapes they inhabit. He has covered thirty thousand miles of Utah's backcountry on foot, exploring the art and minds of the people that lived there hundreds to thousands of years ago. He preserves the largest collection of photographs of San Rafael Swell rock art in the world and one of the largest collections of Utah rock art photographs internationally. His award-winning work, in both art and conservation, has been featured throughout the world in well-known journals, books, newsletters, magazines, and television shows.

Rock Art: A Vision of a Vanishing Cultural Landscape

Author- Jonathan Bailey

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Information from Amazon.com website

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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.