

Pictures From The Past

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

January-March 2026

Volume 17, Issue 1

On the Cover

- ❖ **How to Use Zoom**
- ❖ **Inside This Issue**

The Solar and Astronomical Alignments at the "Table Rock" Petroglyph Panel.....	2
Election Results.....	3
Help Wanted!.....	4
In Remembrance.....	5
Announcements/Classifieds.....	9
Upcoming Events/Webinars.....	10
Foto Favs.....	11
Ten Steps for recording Pictographs and Petroglyphs.....	12
Committee Reports.....	14
Financial Reports.....	14
Field Trip Reports.....	15
CRAA Archives.....	19
PAAC Opportunities.....	20
CRAA Board of Directors & Committees.....	21
Resources/Other Contacts.....	22



February Webinar

Thursday, February 19,
2026
7:00 PM MST

Webinars and Board meetings are always found on the website under EVENTS

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 the link that you receive in your email to connect to the Zoom. If the links do not work, go to zoom.us and click "Join a Meeting" at top right of the screen.
- Enter the Meeting ID and Passcode (**found in the email**)
- Need assistance? Email coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com or tjester2@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.

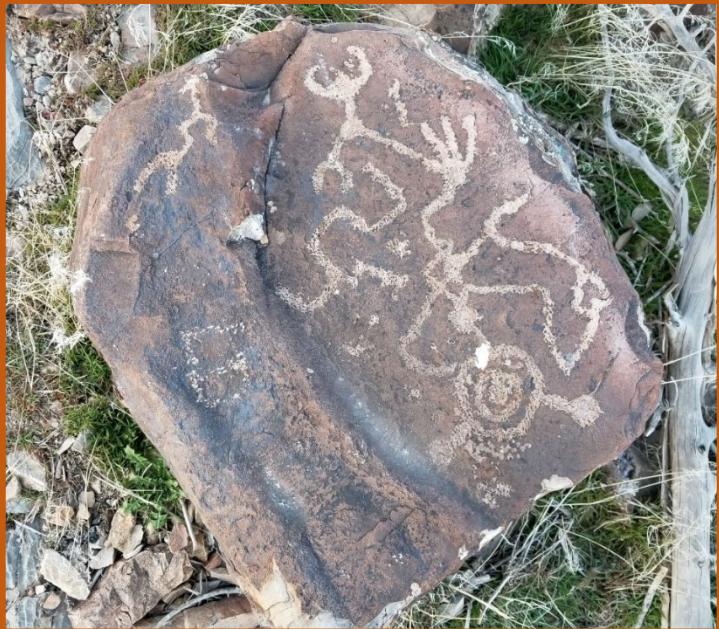


The Solar and Astronomical Alignments at the “Table Rock” Petroglyph Panel

By: John McHugh

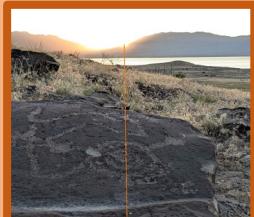
February 19, 2026 At 7:00 PM

This presentation explores the recently confirmed solar and astronomical alignments at the “Table Rock” petroglyph panel near the western shore of Utah Lake. It also explores the potential cultural affiliation and date of the panel using an alignment with Polaris.



BIO

John McHugh is a permitted Utah archaeologist with a specialty in archeoastronomy relating to the Indigenous Peoples of the American Southwest and the Near East. He is author or coauthor of over a dozen peer-reviewed articles in the field of archeoastronomy and cultural astronomy, which includes his recently published *The Celestial Code of Scripture* (Monkfish, 2021). He is the Education Chair at the Utah Rock Art Research Association, and his “Shovel Bums” archaeology club stewards, documents, and protects prehistoric Native American rock imagery and archeological sites throughout Utah. John is also a licensed Utah teacher currently teaching at the Blessed Sacrament School in Sandy, Utah, and engages in other educational outreach programs for Utah youth relating to Native American studies.





2026 CRAA Board Election

Congratulations to the **2026 Board** on your election and continued service! This year's results reflect the strong trust and confidence placed in the board's leadership and vision. We look forward to another productive year of collaboration, dedication, and positive momentum in support of the organization's mission.



2026 CRAA Election Results:

President: Anne Whitfield

Vice President: Bob Huestis

Secretary: Mike St. Clair

Treasurer: Darwin Thompson

Board Member: Anne Robinson

We Need Your Help!

It is with great sadness that I announce the resignation of two truly pivotal and important volunteers for CRAA: Tamara Estes and Jaimie Adams. Their jobs, "Tech Wrangler" and Newsletter Editor", are absolutely essential for the survival of CRAA as a functioning entity!

Craig Brazeau has graciously stepped up to take over the Newsletter Editor position! Thank you, Craig! We can use MORE than one person for either job!

If you'd like to volunteer, the CRAA Board members would be most appreciative! . . . AND I would worship the ground on which you walk!

Tech Wrangler Description: This job is a composite of SEVERAL. It can be broken up into the following:

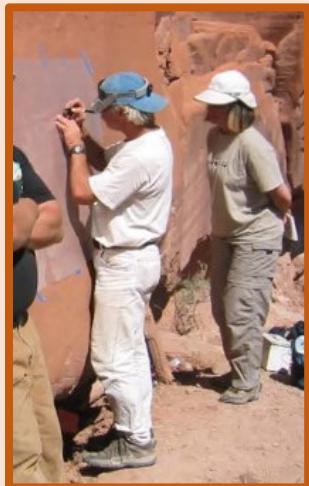
1. Membership notification.
2. Web Master
3. YouTube Liasson
4. ZOOM scheduler and Webinar support
5. Manager for elections, membership "Blasts"
6. Facebook manager
7. CRAA Gmail manager
8. Event promotion poster designer

How could any one person do all this? Tamara has offered to help us transition, so If you could do one or two of these things (or know of someone), she will "give you the needed tools."

Jaimie and Tamara, WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR CRAA!

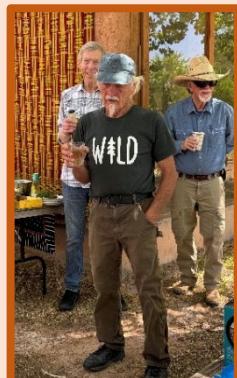
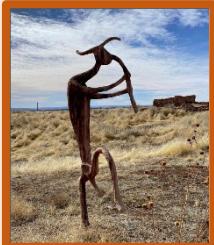


In Remembrance...



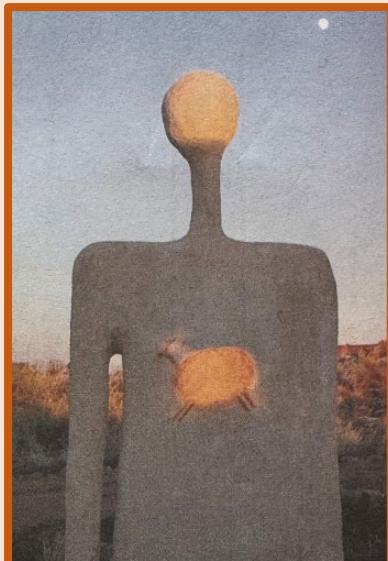
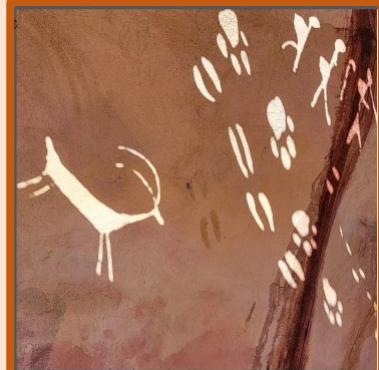
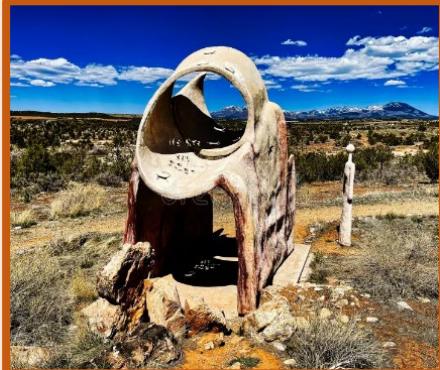
Joe Pachak, 1950-2025

I knew Joe as far back as the nineties when we would cross paths in the field looking at petroglyphs in Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. I cannot name a site he had not seen and vice versa. I admired his patience recreating petroglyph panels in exact replication that are painted on the walls at the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding. I love his cast concrete sculptures of strange and wild anthropomorphs and quadrupeds. (ECSM) He told me that the horned Anthro was holding a ring that holds a reflection of you! (photo CP)



His birthday party this summer, was attended by the whole town to celebrate the 'wild' man. (picture by CP)

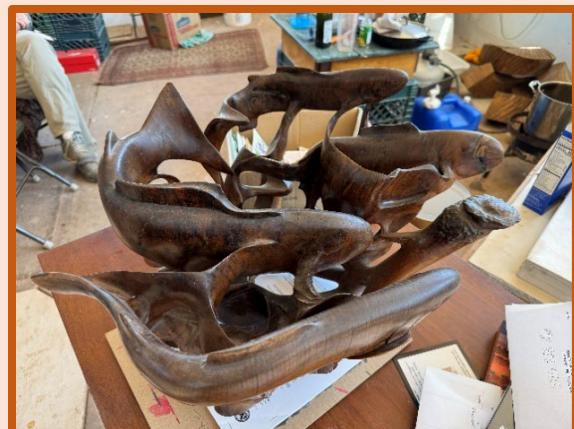
His love for archeoastronomy is encapsulated by his solar alignment sculpture depicting animals and humans carved out on the surface. The sun shone through their silhouettes during the solstices, and the animals danced across the adjacent wall as the sun moved toward the horizon. (pictures from the web)



The staff at the museum writes: "The late artist Joe Pachak gifted Edge of Cedars State Park Museum with an amazing piece of sculpture that recognizes the important solar events of the solstices and equinoxes. The "Sun Marker" sets off several beautiful "fireworks" on these occasions, but on the winter solstice a favorite involves "The Sentinel," a human form that captures the light of the setting sun on the image of a bighorn sheep. Edge of the Cedars offers "Happy Solstice" greetings as the days slowly grow longer and a bit brighter. Speaking of Pachak, Edge of the Cedars said, "His spirit lives on in Bluff through the burning, transforming art into a powerful moment of reflection and renewal. As we welcome the return of the light, we hold Joe in our hearts and give thanks for all he gave to this

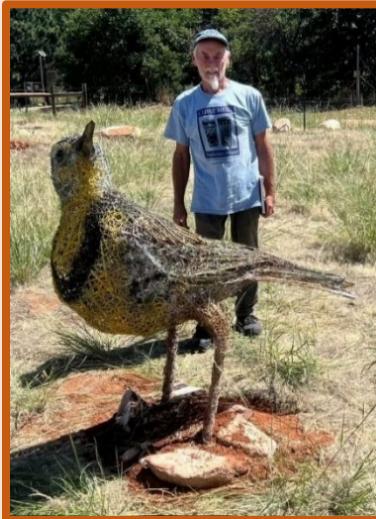
community." (photo and article from San Juan Reporter, vol 111 no. 13, December 24, 2025).

What I loved most about his work was his belief in its "spirit." Everything that he showed me came with a story about its personality, its spirit. He knew that I shared the same belief, that the artist expresses the spirit of an object. His fawn is so beautiful, I told him I could build a house around just that piece. His trout swimming through kelp carved out of a solid piece of solid wood just amazes me.

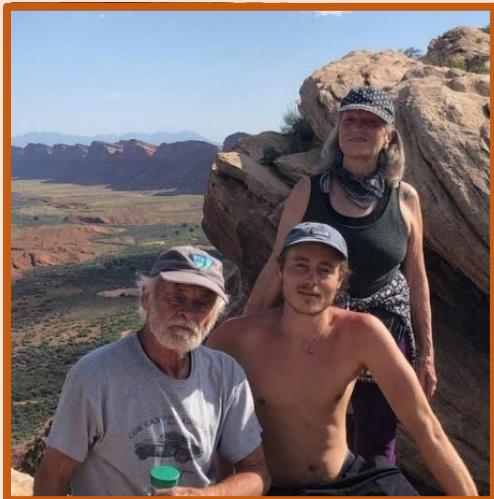


*Fawn with Joe in the background. Swimming trout.
(photo by CP)*

He showed me his latest work, a Meadowlark. But it was not the simple form that impressed me. He explained that each wire is placed in concert with concepts he understood about the entanglement of other universes, both cosmic and terrestrial. He made me look closely at the wire arrangements inside the chest and neck of the bird. "Within our lifeforms and throughout the universe, everything is perfectly connected."



Meadowlark on display for a day. (photo by CP)



Lin Ostler, son Raini, and Joe. (photo by Lin Ostler) Burial service with rising cloud. (photo by CP)

Along with so many of his friends and the Town of Bluff, I will surely miss him,

Carol Patterson
Bluff, Utah



Photo Credit: Carla Ladenbarger



Announcements/Classifieds

- ❖ We need volunteers to help with editing the newsletter and to be the new Tech Person. (Descriptions on Page 4)
- ❖ Photo Favs-We will show you ours, if you show us yours! Please participate in the newsletter's Photo Favs, where your favorite rock imagery photos could be featured in our newsletter each quarter!

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 was the photo 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 need not 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 Craig Brazeau at (67chevypu@msn.com) or Anne Whitfield (annehwhit45@gmail.com)



Photo Credit: Flag Point site, Escalante-Grand Staircase, UT - Copy

Upcoming Events & Webinars

Webinars:

- January 22, 2026, at 7:00 PM (CRAA)
- February 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM (URARA)
- March 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM

Board Meetings:

- January 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- March 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM
- May 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM



Photo By: Carla Ladenbarger-Edge of the Cedar-Blanding Artist-Joe Pachak

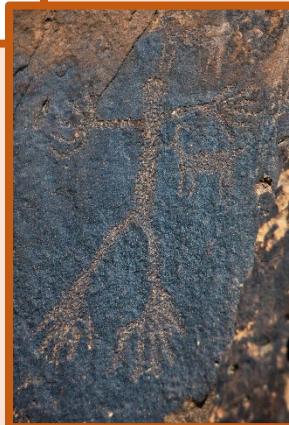


Foto Favs

Please email your favorite Rock Imagery photos to Jaimie.adams@enmu.edu to have them featured in our newsletter!



All Photos Credit:
Montrose, Colorado
Bob Huestis
2025 CRAA Field trip



Ten Steps for recording Pictographs and Petroglyphs:

Methods and Technologies

by Lawrence L Loendorf and Nancy Madaris Stone

University of Utah Press: 2025

Book Report, by Carol Patterson

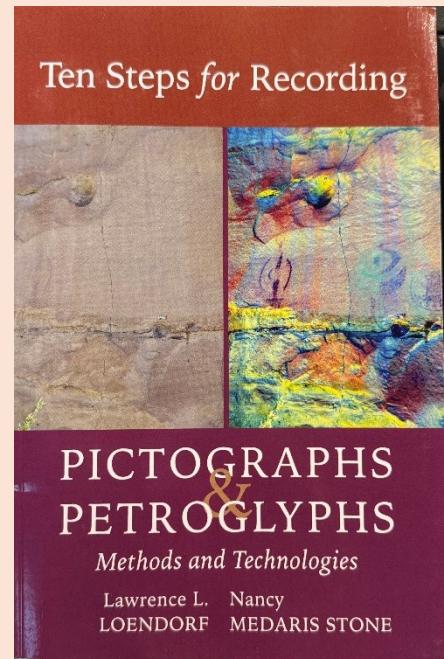
Here is a nice little book with ten steps for documenting pictographs and petroglyphs for anyone interested in documenting rock images. Pick it up for those of you signing up to crew on a documentation project.

This book is easy to read, and I appreciate the color photos that give a better idea of the landscape, rock surfaces, cave environments, and challenges facing crews who are recording the panels. It is a basic guide for the “systematic recording procedures using state of the art techniques coupled with knowledge of relevant ethnographic and historical data that is required to bring order and ultimate meaning to the universe of visual data represented in rock art.”

To achieve this, the authors focus on 10 essential steps in locating, photographing, tracing, and recording of primary types of rock art.

I appreciate what the authors say in the preface, “emphasizing the sensitivities of Native American Consultants regarding their cultural heritage and patrimony.” And encouraging professionals to include Native people on their team. “Native informants provide valuable insights overlooked by many archaeologists.”

In the introduction, they admit the term “rock art” is problematic. “Questions were raised about whether in some instances the images represent spiritual messages made with their healing power and ability to transmit positive energy to the environment. This view was articulated by some of the contemporaneous Native Americans who believe that paintings or engravings on rock walls were not art at all but were a mechanism of communication with the sacred. We have chosen to retain the term “rock art” even though scholarship increasingly indicates that the term does not begin to encompass the possible context in which these images were created.



One reason for our decision is that the term is so deeply a part of archaeological usage that the introduction of a more accurate term is problematic. Some evidence also suggests that some Native Americans think that certain North American rock drawings serve as an aesthetic as well as a religious and ritualistic purpose and therefore really are “art” in the conventional sense of the word. We believe that the current and future research and analysis will reveal much more about the context in which rock art was created and the purpose it serves in past societies. It will be from this knowledge base that the term to replace “rock art” should be a replacement appear necessary-- will emerge.” (pg. 1-2) I am disappointed in their decision to cop-out, rather than move forward as leaders using the term “rock imagery,” as others in the field of professional scholars are doing.

In general, it covers all the basics well. But it lacks some details that I think are important for a professional documentation process. It is beyond the scope of this report to provide illustrations of the finer results of tracing techniques that Alan Watchman and Jannie Loubser (trained at the Getty Institute) in turn taught me twenty-five years ago. Their system is far simpler and more effective than the laborious tracing on site with grids, on plastic sheets and SHARPIES??? That smear? Petroglyphs are pecked – not drawn with lines or solid infill. Pecking patterns replicated with computer generated ‘dot pattern’ infill is phony, untrue, false, and gentrified in my view. Petroglyphs have varying textures and dot patterns that have symbolic meanings and must be hand ‘pecked’ with pen-on-plastic for a true representation. Superimposition sequences should be done with varying shades of gray. Only the rock outline and cracks should be ‘drawn’ with thin black lines.

My only criticism of these 10 steps is with experience, wind, rain, heat, and sweat are alleviated with tracings done at home with permanent ink-on-plastic or mylar sheet fastened over high-definition color photographs. These photographs are processed in Photoshop for dehazing and magnification. It replaces Step Four and eliminates Step Nine. But I certainly agree with field checking the drawings once or twice as essential.

Having said all that, I do think it is a valuable book for fieldwork recording petroglyph sites. I recommend reading it and keep these steps in mind before you sign up for a recording project.

Carol Patterson.

Committee Reports

CRAA Financial Report Summary

Darwin Thompson Treasurer

Report Period: September-October 2025

August 31, 2025 -

CD Savings Account Balance - \$4,569.59

Checking Account Balance - \$7,400.74

Total \$11,969.33

September 31, 2025 -

CD Savings Account Balance -\$ 4,657.95

Checking Account Balance ----\$ 7,838.74

Total \$12,496.69

October 31, 2025 -

CD Savings Account Balance - \$4,657.95

Checking Account Balance- \$7,920.74

Total \$12,577.69

*No outstanding bills as of 11/10/25

* There will be a CAS annual membership dues increase effective January 2026

* No CRAA dues increase. We shall remain the same (\$8.00 for individual) until motion to increase and action taken.

Upcoming Field Trips:

By Craig Brazeau

Arizona: February 28th & March 1st of 2026

Field Trip: Hello CRAA Members! We are excited to announce our first field trip of 2026, scheduled for the weekend of **February 28 and March 1, 2026**. This two-day excursion will explore two rock art sites near **Tucson, Arizona**, where the Hohokam people left extensive petroglyphs carved into basalt rock.

- **Saturday, February 28:** We will visit **Cocoraque Buttes** in **Ironwood Forest National Monument**. Access to this site requires a sandy drive with four-wheel drive and good vehicle clearance. The hike is a few miles long and rated easy, though moderate bouldering is required to view the rock art panels.
- **Sunday, March 1:** We will visit the **Kings Canyon Petroglyphs** site in **Saguaro National Park**. This site is accessible via a paved parking lot suitable for all passenger vehicles, followed by a 2-3-mile hike along a sandy wash and rocky trail.

Both hikes are considered easy overall, with Cocoraque Buttes requiring additional bouldering to observe the petroglyphs.

To sign up for this field trip, please contact **Bob Huestis** (pinonbob3431@gmail.com) or **Craig Brazeau** (67chevypu@msn.com).

Rangely, Colorado April 18-21, 2026

CRAA will host its second field trip of the year to **Rangely, CO** and the adjoining areas during the dates of **April 18-21, 2026**. Rangely is approximately a 6 hour & 30-minute drive from Colorado Springs, and approximately a 5 hour drive from Denver. I recommend that you plan to arrive in Rangely Friday (April 17th) afternoon/evening to prepare for the next day's activities. The following is the itinerary for the trip.

Day 1: Canyon Pintado (April 18, 2026). The map shows eight rock art sites from Lookout Point down to the South Orientation Center, covering approximately 25-30 miles from Rangely. One of the sites, East Four Mile Draw, has a one-hour trail loop that allows visiting several features along the trail. Factoring in travel time on State Highway 139 and site visit time, these eight sites will probably require an 8-10 hour day.

Day 2: Dragon Trail (April 19, 2026) The map shows four rock art sites from the Shield Site down to the Carrot Men site, that is approximately 15 miles from Rangely. Factoring in travel time on the dirt/gravel County Road 23, visiting all these sites could require a 5-6 hour day. The afternoon of day 2 will be used to have a meeting at a Rangely facility where our membership could discuss issues concerning CRAA with the Board. This will be the memberships opportunity to provide feedback on our organization, and what changes, if any, they might like to see.

Day 3 and 4 (April 20-21, 2026) These days will be used to revisit some of the sites we visited during Day 1 and 2. We will spend more time in discussions with Carol (et al) concerning the significance of the various rock art in the area. Members can spend more time doing additional photographic recordings such as Full Spectrum Photography, capturing Drone imagery for use in a video production, and capturing more higher resolution images than the initial site visit times might allow. These activities might be of interest to some of our CRAA members who would be encouraged to participate! Please note, we will research all requirements for drone activity prior to flights to ensure we are in complete compliance with FAA and State regulations. Further updates will be provided to members wishing to fly drones during the days of the 20th and 21st.

Mid-April weather is still dicey (welcome to Colorado.) Please be prepared for Colorado Spring weather.

Please note that there may be limited availability for Motel rooms in Rangely. Making reservations early once you decide to attend is recommended!

I will provide Maps scanned from those provided by Carol Patterson to all those interested in attending this field trip.

Please sign up by responding to Craig Brazeau, 67chevypu@msn.com, or call/text 719-651-6172. Looking forward to seeing you there...

Logistics:

Motels

- ❖ Blue Mountain Inn & Suites 970-675-8888
 - Continental Breakfast (waffle machine etc.)
 - Typical in-room amenities
 - Wi-fi
 - Some dog friendly rooms
 - Clean, friendly

- \$118 (AAA discount \$99, Military ID \$75)
- April is sports season for local college, so book 1 - 1.5 months in advance
- ❖ Moosehead Lodge
 - Microwave & fridge
 - Slightly less expensive, under \$100
- Vernal, UT
 - Bigger town, more choices
 - Microtel <\$100; standard for what you'd expect at Microtel
 - Continental Breakfast · <https://www.mcconkieranch.com/> nearby. Awesome. Groups of 15 or more should give them a heads up; \$5 donation per person. May be weather dependent

Camping

- ❖ Rangely Camper Park
 - no reservations
 - \$15 no hookups
 - clean bathhouse with hot showers
 - opening weather dependent
- ❖ Kenny Reservoir
 - no reservations, no hookups, no bathhouse
- ❖ Silver Sage RV Park
 - Stay a night, a week, or a lifetime — might be hard to get a spot

Dining

- ❖ Gio's Family Dining 970-675-2670
 - Salads, pizza, pasta, American
 - Closed Sunday
 - We may be able to get a private room/space in restaurant for a pizza dinner Friday or Saturday evening (large pizza has 10 slices)
- ❖ California Wok 970-675-5888
- ❖ Dottie's
 - Burgers, pastas



PCMS Volunteer Archaeologist Assistant Program

CRAA Members are being granted the opportunity to volunteer to be Archaeology Assistants at the Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS). Volunteers would coordinate their availability with Kari Pittman, the head archaeologist at PCMS on an as needed/as available basis depending on Kari's needs. The program is still being developed, however, if you wish to volunteer to assist the on-site Archaeologists at PCMS the following information is provided.

1. You must complete in-person training for volunteers held at Fort Carson on the last Wednesday of every month, 1:340-3:00 PM at the Army Community Service (ACS) Main Center, their phone number is 719-526-1082. The ACS is Building #1526, located at 6303 Wetzell Avenue, Fort Carson, CO 80913.
2. You can register for the course at the following website:
 - a. Carson.armymwr.com
 - b. The Army Volunteer Corps website will be displayed.
 - c. To register for the in-person training, note in the second paragraph where it says "... click here to email us..." Click "here" and the email for the folks who conduct the training will come up. Fill out the required information and send it along. You should be contacted with a training date.
 - d. If you don't have a DOD ID card, you can get on base by going to the Visitor Control Center at Freedom Gate (Gate 1) off of Highway 115 to obtain a visitors pass prior to proceeding to the training location. You must present a Driver's License, Vehicle Registration, and Proof of Insurance to gain access to Fort Carson with your vehicle. I suggest using a map application to guide you to the appropriate building in Fort Carson.
3. Kari is busy setting up the procedures for her volunteers in her efforts at PCMS. I will keep you advised as to when she is ready for our contributions. Please let me know when you have completed the Fort Carson training along with a phone number and email contact information. I will ensure that Kari has your information.
4. If I can help in any way, please feel free to contact me with questions.

Craig Brazeau-719-651-6172 67chevypu@msn.com

CRAA Online Archives

To explore the archives:

1. Visit PuebloLibrary.org -This opens "The Digital Collection at Pueblo City-County Library District.

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.



6-fingers Las Animas Co.
Photo Credit: Anne Whitfield



Mokhali-Cave-Rock-art-of-tracks-and-trackmakers-from-Mokhali-Cave-after-1930 - Copy, Helm et al. Fig. 4-

PAAC Opportunities

Introduction to Historical Archaeology Online

We have a new online lecture series led by Dr. Holly K. Norton, the Colorado State Archaeologist. In this series, Dr. Norton provides valuable insights into the field of historic archaeology. Viewers will be introduced to historical archaeology, a brief history of the subfield, the identification of major artifact types including ceramics and glass, and applications of these methods in a case study of El Pueblo/Fariss Hotel site. The first episode is free, you can purchase access to the entire 5-part series for \$10.

[Watch the 1st episode here!](#)

[Purchase the full series for \\$10](#)

If you haven't seen our 10-part online lecture series, Exposing Hoaxes, Busting Myths, & Solving Mysteries, check that out online.

[All 10 episodes are available here!](#)

Spring 2026: We're bringing a lithics 101 workshop to the Western Slope. Stay tuned for more details in our Spring newsletter.

Fall 2026: We are currently taking requests from CAS Chapters for PAAC programs that they would like to offer their members. If you are a member of CAS Chapter and would like to host a PAAC workshop, please reach out to us directly.



Earn PAAC Credit Online

Earn PAAC credit when you participate in online lectures and webinars. Check out some of these online learning opportunities:

- [Crow Canyon Discover Archaeology Webinar Series](#)
- Check out [Colorado Archaeological Society chapter pages](#) for past CAS Seminar Lectures (often posted on their websites or YouTube channels)

CRAA Board of Directors & Committees

Elected Officers:

PRESIDENT:	Anne Whitfield	annewhit45@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT:	Bob Huestis	pinonbob3431@gmail.com
SECRETARY:	Mike St. Clair	stclair.mike@gmail.com
TREASURER:	Darwin Thompson	dthompson0481@gmail.com

The elected directors are:

Director	One Year Term	Jaimie Adams	jaimie.adams@enmu.edu
Director	One Year Term	Peter Farris	archeofaris@yahoo.com
Director	Two Year Term	Carol Patterson	urraca2fly@gmail.com
Director	Two Year Term	Jerry Grandel	ggradel1221@gmail.com

Committee Chairs/Appointed Positions:

Newsletter	Jaimie Adams (Chair)	jaimie.adams@enmu.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	ggradel1221@gmail.com	Kim Field-Littleton	TBA
Membership	Suzane Tucker	suzanne.tucker10@yahoo.com				
Education	Gerald Grandel (Chair)	ggradel1221@gmail.com	Craig Brazeau	67chevypu@msn.com		
CAS Representative	Darwin Thompson	dthompson0481@gmail.com				
Scientific Activities	Geral Grandel	ggradel1221@gmail.com				
CRAA Archive Liaison	Anne Whitfield	annewhit45@gmail.com				
History Colorado Representative	Darwin Thompson (Chair)	dthompson0481@gmail.com				

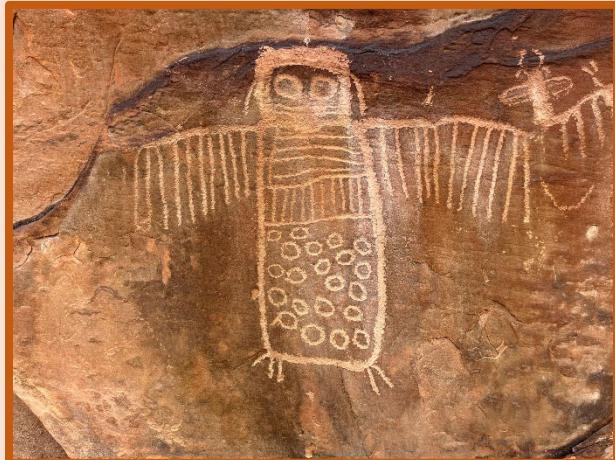


Resources/Other Important Contact Information

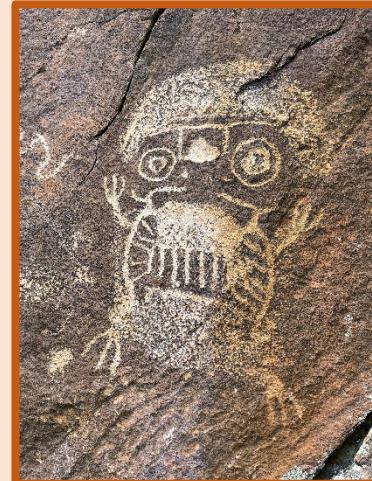
PAAC State Coordinator

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)



Torey Lake, WY Credit: Mike St. Clair



Dinwoody Lake, Credit: Mike St. Clair