



Pictures From The Past



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

May 2021

Volume 12, Issue 2

Inside This Issue

Monthly Webinar.....	2
CRAA Leadership.....	2
Rock Art Blog.....	3-4
Opportunities At Home.....	5
Self-Guided Rock Art Tour.....	6-8
Upcoming Events.....	9
How to Use Zoom.....	9

Upcoming CRAA Events

- Board Meeting: May 18, 7:00 PM
- Webinar: May 20, 7:00 PM
- Annual Meeting: Nov. 4-5



**Colorado Rock Art
Association**

<https://coloradorockart.org>

MAY WEBINAR

Dr. Richard A. Rogers

Searching for Flute Players, Finding Kokopelli:

*Phalluses,
Fallacies, &
Fantasies*

Thursday, May 20
7:00 PM MDT

Join via Zoom!



Please join the Colorado Rock Art Association for our May webinar! The full webinar description is available on page 2; Zoom instructions are on page 9.

DATE: Thursday, May 20, 2021

TIME: 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Join anytime after 6:45 PM!

LINK TO JOIN:

Short link to access: <http://tiny.cc/CRAA>

OR: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6136944443?pwd=aGIwV2pJWUE0aVMweE1XQmRXTW56Zz09>

MAY WEBINAR:

Searching for Flute Players, Finding Kokopelli:

Phalluses, Fallacies, & Fantasies

Thursday, May 20, 2021. 7:00 PM

*Presented by Dr. Richard Rogers,
Northern Arizona University*

In the contemporary Southwest, commercial Kokopelli imagery, traditional flute players in rock art and other media, and the Hopi katsina Kookopölö have merged into a single figure whose meanings and functions obscure the iconography of the region's indigenous cultures.

This presentation begins by distinguishing flute players and Kookopölö from contemporary Kokopelli imagery. After detailing how traditional flute players became "Kokopelli," Kokopelli's relationship to contemporary culture is examined through tourist merchandise, popular books, novels, television appearances, commercial signage, and other appropriations and interpretations of both flute player imagery and Hopi stories.

Concerns over Kokopelli's supposed "castration" and Kokopelli's construction as a hypervirile rock star points to anxieties over masculine sexual potency as central to the contemporary cultural significance of "Kokopelli the hump-backed flute player." Traditional flute player imagery and the Hopi katsina Kookopölö have not only been colonized by the meanings attached to contemporary Kokopelli commodities, but Kokopelli graffiti now literally populates rock art sites in the western U.S.

About our presenter:

Dr. Richard Rogers is a Professor of Communication Studies and Associate Faculty in Women's and Gender Studies at Northern Arizona University. A rock art enthusiast, avocational archaeologist, and cultural critic, he has explored the rock art and archaeology of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin for more than 25 years. His research focused on intercultural communication, cultural appropriation, and gender, race, and ethnicity, and has appeared in a variety of academic journals, "American Indian Rock Art," and his 2018 book, "Petroglyphs, Pictographs, and Projections: Native American Rock Art in the Contemporary Cultural Landscape."

2021-22 Colorado Rock Art Association Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Teresa Weedin
Vice President: Joel Hurmence
Secretary: Betsy Weitkamp
Treasurer: Darwin Thompson

BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Faris
Bob Huestis
Steve Main

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Membership: Donna Morgan
Website: Joel Hurmence
Newsletter: Erica Schmitt
Field Trip Coordinators: Betsy Weitkamp
CAS Representative: Anne Whitfield
Education: Betsy Weitkamp

To contact any of the members listed, please email: coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com

Rock Art Blog: Carrizo Canyon

Baca County, Colorado

Peter Faris first published this on his website on October 14, 2009. With his permission, we are pulling this classic out of the archive. This petroglyph site is located along Carrizo Creek in the Comanche National Grasslands, and is close to Picture Canyon, featured in the April 2021 CRAA newsletter.

Do you have photos of this site? Please see page 5 to learn how to submit your photos to the CRAA Archive.

“*Sports*” - Animal Freaks in Rock Art

By Peter Faris

The descriptive term of “*sport*” in the natural world is used to define an animal that is somehow different or non-typical for its species. According to Webster, it is an “animal or plant that shows an unusual or singular deviation from the normal or parent type; mutation.” I discussed elsewhere my opinion that in a culture that endows all of nature with spirit power, the sighting of a unique animal - a *sport* - would be interpreted as a spiritual occurrence by the witness.



Photo: Anne Whitfield. Carrizo Springs, 2004.

Along Carrizo Creek in southeastern Colorado, there is a remarkable petroglyph panel that includes three very strange animals. On the right side is a deer with a head of antlers that has 27 or 28 points depending on how you count it – definitely a *sport*.

The topmost animal of the three appears to be a desert bighorn sheep with a partially curled set of horns; another set of horns grows out of the first set, another set grows out of that set, and so on. These stacked sets of horns climb up the rock face and disappear over the top ridge. Between the deer and bighorn is a third animal which can be interpreted as a Push-Me-Pull-You - a quadruped with an antlered head at each end. This animal has a normal head on the left side, and what appears to be a second head with large, looping horns on the right side. There are a couple other quadrupeds on this panel, but they seem essentially normal.

An Ancient Boone and Crockett Club?

I wondered for many years about the possible meanings of the animal with the 28-point antlers. Not unrealistic enough to be dismissed as entirely fantasy, but not completely accurate and realistic. Then one day, while browsing through an outdoor magazine, I ran across an article that described a deer hunt that bagged a non-typical buck. This article mentioned the Boone and Crockett Club, which maintains records of animals taken by hunters, has a category for non-typical (*sport*) deer. Visiting the Boone and Crockett Club list of non-typical mule or blacktail deer, you find a picture of deer antlers with 28 points, just like the deer on Carrizo Creek.

Rock Art Blog: Carrizo Canyon *continued from page 3*

Could the petroglyph be a picture of a real deer seen, or even bagged, by a Native American hunter – could this panel be a prehistoric Boone and Crocket register? Even if this explains the deer with 28-point antlers, it does not address the other two figures.

Tangled in a net?

In his book *Thunder and Herds: Rock Art of the High Plains*, Lawrence Loendorf proposed (p. 138) that some figures with outsized or exceedingly complicated antlers have shamanic purpose. Loendorf stated, “the antlers of a number of quadruped figures resemble **nets** as much as they do antlers and, on some figures, the net-like antlers have replaced the figure’s head entirely. Since, in reality, the antlers of deer captured by net hunting are invariably entangled in those nets, it is easy to appreciate why antlers and nets might have become combined in the hunter’s mind and substituted for each other in an instructional rock art panel.” This seems to be a possibility. In addition to these theories, there will be a certain number of people who will credit hallucinogenic plants, or entoptic images.

Prime specimens?

Another possible motive for these sorts of exaggerations is to emphasize the traits of the animal that the exaggerated organ is believed to represent. In the case of phallic figures, whether human or animal, if the phallus is exaggerated we have no trouble crediting an intended emphasis on fecundity and sexuality. If the example is a bear with an emphasis on its claws or teeth, we automatically assume that the meaning has something to do with fierceness and danger represented by that animal. Just like the bear’s claws and teeth are its weapons, the antlers of the deer, and the horns of the bighorn sheep are their weapons. Perhaps this is an attempt to portray the greatest and most macho of each of these species, perhaps with spiritual meanings.

As for the Push-Me-Pull-You, other than vague hints of trying to show more than one aspect of a creature in a single image, such as its physical presence and its spiritual meaning at the same time, I haven’t the faintest idea - do you? *Reprinted with permission from rockart.blogspot.com*

Getting there: Carrizo Canyon

37.13537, -103.01238

Hidden in the heart of the Comanche National Grassland, the east fork of Carrizo Creek is a lush oasis. A source of year-round water, this area provides a marshy home to numerous bird species, channel catfish, and soft shelled turtles. Vegetation including willows, cattails, wild grapevines, calabaza plants, and fields of wild tomatillo grow in along the creek.

Carrizo Canyon is easy to explore, with the Forest Service providing staircases to get in and out of the shallow canyon.

Adapted from the USDA and Springfield Co. websites



Map of trail loop at Carrizo Canyon

Opportunities at Home

Crowd Sourcing the CRAA Archive

“Sheltering in Place?” “Keeping your Social Distance?” Now you have time to go through your favorite photographs of rock art - and you can help the CRAA while doing so!

Here’s how it works:

At the CRAA Archive in Pueblo, we have been scanning and digitizing images for about four years - it is a slow process. A finding aid was developed for public access to these materials, and one collection is currently available online. Another collection currently awaits digitization.

You can help us by sending your own digital images for the Archive collection. Each month, we are focusing on a different site. This provides us with an ongoing collection of images that can immediately be linked to the Archive. Photos will be reviewed by a committee, and images that yield the most information and interest for researchers will be selected for inclusion. Images will be made available to anyone worldwide who has a computer and internet access, and might also be featured in future issues of “Pictures from the Past!”

Let’s get started!

The first featured site is Carrizo Canyon/Carrizo Springs. This is a public site in southeastern Colorado that many members have visited, and is notable for its images of deer and other animals with “funky headgear” (see this month’s rock art blog). Do you have images of rock art at this location? Please share them with us!

1. Email photos to: **CRAA_Archive@yahoo.com**
Submit up to 3 attachments (images) per email. You may submit multiple emails.
2. Images should be in JPEG or JPG format
3. Please include the following information:
 - Photographer’s name (*you will be acknowledged!*)
 - Date the photo was taken
 - Location (*we will be sensitive about the issue of location*)
4. Inclusion of some type of “scale” is helpful
5. Enhanced or “D Stretched” images accepted. Please indicate this, and include the unenhanced image as well.

An example of information included with the photo on page 3:

A. Whitfield, 03-28-2004, Carrizo Springs (Enhanced for viewer clarity)

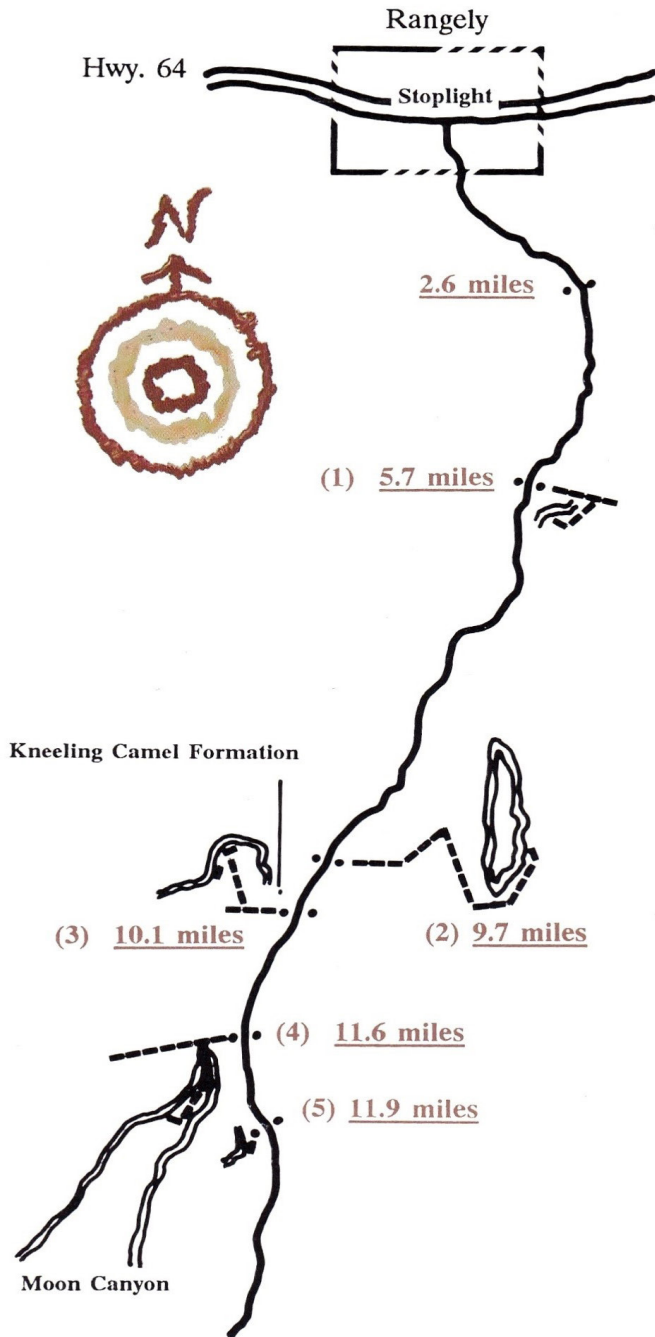
What other sites would you like to see?

Contact annehit45@gmail.com with suggestions and any questions. This is your opportunity to share your photos with others who love rock art, while making the images part of your legacy, a gift for future generations.

Self-Guided Rock Art Tours

Rio Blanco County, Colorado

MAP OF DRAGON TRAIL



Rio Blanco (“White River”) County has a long history of human inhabitation, beginning when the Fremont and Ute peoples migrated into the area from modern-day Utah. This month’s self-guided rock art tour begins 90 miles north of Grand Junction in the town of Rangely winding its way along Dragon Trail/CR-23.

The following self-guided tour comes to us from Peter Faris, Board Member, Colorado Rock Art Association.

Dragon Trail

By Peter Faris

The northwestern corner of Colorado is contains a wealth of rock art. Some of it has been publicly advertised by the town of Rangely to attract tourism. The map and quotations are from a brochure they published, the photographs are mine. One of these locations is the Dragon Trail, south of Rangely off of Colorado State Highway 139. Much of what they call Dragon Trail conflates with Canyon Pintado, also south of Rangely.

“Dragon Trail was named after Dragon, an old gilsonite mining town, now a ghost town, located 21 miles north of Baxter Pass at the mouth of Dragon Canyon in Utah.”

Starting at the stoplight at Colorado #139 and Hwy. 64 in Rangely and drive south on #139. (Note that the map marks the 2.6 mile point as where the pavement ended when the pamphlet was printed.)

**Note from the editor: these sites are on Rangely Dragon Road/ CR-23, not CO-139. In Rangely, South White Ave. becomes Big Park Rd, which then becomes Dragon Trail/CR-23. The road spurs that lead to these sites may be rutted or washed out.*

From Dragon Trail, you can follow the Dragon Douglas Trail east to CO-139. Heading north towards Rangely along CO-139 provides additional rock art viewing opportunities.

Self-Guided Tours Rock Art Tours: Dragon Trail *continued from page 6*



Photo of #1: "Shield Site" Erica Schmitt 2020

1) "5.7 miles - Turn left (east) for 0.3 miles. Where the road forks, go right (south) through the gate and bear left for 0.2 miles. Remember to close the gate behind you. The figure will be on the cliff just to the right of the road. It is a decorated shield figure 3 feet high.



2) "9.7 miles - Turn left onto the dirt road. It is hard to see but is at the top of a slight hill and has pinyon trees right by the turn. You will be heading east; then northerly. Go 1.3 miles. The road will fork. Go down the hill 0.4 miles. There will be a low ridge capped with rock in front of you. Park here. The panel at this location is on the opposite side of the ridge before you. You may walk further up the road and have an easy hike to the ridge near a standing rock pillar at the south point of the ridge. The panel is about 100 yards past this pillar and faces east. It is done on a dark red stone above eye level - a petroglyph panel that is marked by soaring carrot-shaped figures attended by many sheep figures, deer, meanders and lesser man-like figures. This is a Fremont masterpiece."



Photos of #2: "Carrot Men" Peter Faris

Self-Guided Tours Rock Art Tours: Dragon Trail *continued from page 7*



3) “10.1 miles - This turn off is to the right (west). Go 0.15 miles to the rather obscure track that turns right into the grass; then go up toward the low cliff face ahead of you 0.1 mile. Here you will find incised horses left by the Ute, their depictions of a white man (top hat and great coat), and some pin-up art left by a Basque shepherd, as well as a historic inscription.” (The Basque pin-up art has been badly defaced since.)



4) “11.6 miles - Moon Canyon turns off to the right (west). Go 0.3 miles, pull off the road and park. Just to the left (south) of the road is a small gully. Walk down the gully (there is a good trail) until you see the painted figures on the roof of the overhang. The BLM has a descriptive sign. There is both pecked and painted art at this locale.”

5) “11.9 miles - Look to the right of the road. There are low cliffs showing above the trees. Just over a fence toward the south corner of the cliff you will find running over the rocks four little sheep figures, about one to two feet above the dirt. The figures are 8-10 inches high. The walk is 50 yards from the main road.”

Photo of #3: “Crook’s Brand” Peter Faris

The pamphlet containing these directions was printed many years ago and some landmarks described (like trees, a gate, etc.) may have changed over the years. It ends with the statement: “for more information contact the Rangely Museum, 200 Kennedy Drive, Rangely, CO 81648. Phone: (970) 675-2612

Upcoming Events

Conferences, meetings, webinars

Information is current at the time of writing. Please contact the event sponsors to ensure accuracy.

CRAA Events:

May 18 Monthly Board Meeting

Please join via Zoom anytime after 6:45 PM. Meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

May 20 Monthly Lecture

“Searching for Flute Players, finding Kokopelli: Phalluses, Fallacies, and Fantasies”

Presented by Dr. Richard A. Rogers

Please join via Zoom anytime after 6:45 PM. Meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Nov. 4-5 CRAA Annual Meeting

To be held via Zoom.

Details to follow.

CAS Events:

Oct. 8-10 CAS Annual Conference and Member Meeting

To be hosted by the Chipeta Chapter in Montrose, CO. Details to follow.

How to connect via Zoom:

Starting at 6:45 PM on the webinar date, you can join through Zoom. If you haven't used Zoom in recent months, please visit zoom.us and update to the latest version of the software prior to the meeting.

To connect to the meeting, please follow the instructions below:

1. Follow one of the links below to automatically connect to the meeting:

Short version of the web address: <http://tiny.cc/CRAA>

OR Long version of the web address: <https://zoom.us/j/6136944443?pwd=aGIwV2pJWUE0aVMweE1XQmRXTW56Zz09>

2. If the links do not work, go to zoom.us and click “Join a Meeting” at top right of the screen.

Enter Meeting ID **613 694 4443**

Password **674219**

Need assistance? Email coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com with a description of the issue you are experiencing. The email account will be monitored from 6:45 PM until 7:15 PM.