



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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Inside This Issue

Field Trips : Pinon Canyon
Maneuver Site Photos.....
..... page 2

Pecos River, Texas Field Trip
..... pages 4-6

Ochre Pigments in
Pictographs page 7

Holiday Rock Art themed gift
ideaspage 12



President's Corner

By Anne Robinson, CRAA President

Time to start making plans for 2018. We are excited to announce the details for our first 2018 field trip in this issue. Teresa Weedon will be leading a trip to see rock art sites in the Pecos River Area of Texas. Sign up soon, we expect the trip will fill up quickly. Details are on pages 4-6.

With the holiday season coming up, you might want to consider purchasing some rock art inspired jewelry or pottery. We have suggested some ideas in this issue on page 12. If you have other ideas, please share them with us.

We are looking for member input for Field Trips in 2018. Let us know if you have a field trip you would like to see, if you would be willing to lead a trip or you know someone who could lead a trip for us. Field Trips are an important part of the Colorado Rock Art Association. Please join us to make the 2018 field trips better than ever.

If you are interested in coming to a Colorado Rock Art Association Board meeting we will be meeting on December 2 at the Ford Warren Library in Denver. Contact Anne Robinson (annerco@yahoo.com) if you are interested in attending. We will be discussing design ideas for a new website and upcoming field trips, lectures and possibly a symposia for 2018, in addition to other items.

Happy Thanksgiving for you, your family and friends.

CRAA Photos – September 2017 (photos by Betsy Weitkamp)
Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site Field Trip





Upcoming Rock Art Field Trips 2018



Field Trip – March 2018 – Sign up now! Pecos River, Texas Rock Art Field Trip

Visit incredible rock art sites in Texas on this five-day trip. Sign up now as space is very limited.

Title: Pecos River, Texas Rock Art

Leader: Teresa Weedin – email: weedin@comcast.net, or call 303/366-7843 (we screen our calls so leave a message and will call you back), or 303/748-6705 (my cell, same screening info as above)

Description: We will be visiting several private ranches and one state historical park to view the famous Pecos River Style rock art.

Dates: March 5-9, 2018 (Allow 2 days either side to travel there if driving.)

Road & Driving Conditions: Most roads will be on private ranches and will vary from day-to-day. You may be required to drive over rough two-tracks and/or bare limestone.

Vehicle Requirements: 4-wheel drive, high clearance is highly recommended.

Hiking Distance & Difficulty: Moderately strenuous on average; some sites are easy, some more strenuous. Most sites will require hiking down into a canyon to the site and then back out; there may or may not be a trail! One site requires you to use a nylon rope to descend into the canyon (use as an aid) and then back out. Another site requires you to cross a narrow ledge with a limestone cliff face on one side and a drop-off into junipers and prickly pear cactus plants, which hopefully will stop you before you continue falling into the river! Snakes will be coming out now so be aware. Rattlesnakes are quite common and grow to a large size!

Lodging information: Closest town is Comstock, TX with has one motel (Comstock Motel 432/292-4484; some rooms have kitchenettes). Del Rio, TX is about 30 minute drive and has most of the major brands (<http://www.drchamber.com/Lodging>).

Camping information: Seminole Canyon State Historical Park (<http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/seminole-canyon>). They do not have a group area, but I have called and requested that our group have sites as close to each other as possible; sites are on a first-come, first-served basis. You can RV here with electrical and water hookups, or tent camp. Showers and restrooms are available in a separate building. Reserve by phone: (512) 389-8920 (tell them you are with the Colorado Rock Art Association; this is the Group Reservations number). To see prices and types of campsites, go to <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/seminole-canyon/fees-facilities/campsites>. They take Visa, MasterCard and Discover and charge the first night to your card when you make the reservation.

Fees: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN CAMPING/LODGING RESERVATIONS AND FEES AND STATE PARK ENTRANCE FEE \$4.00/day, INCLUDING THE \$5.00 PER PERSON FATE BELL SHELTER FEE.

Costs: The cost will be \$35 per day per person for the activities Monday-Friday.

Sign up information: Email Teresa Weedin with the following information:

- Names of all attending
- Address, All phone numbers, Email
- Will you be camping or staying in a motel?
- Do you have a 4x4, high clearance vehicle?
- How many people can you carry comfortably? Many of the ranch roads are rough!

Maximum number of trip participants/ Minimum number of trip participants: 15-20, including me.

All trip participants must agree to the Colorado Rock Art Association code of ethics and the Colorado Archaeological Society code of ethics.

All trip participants must agree to the Colorado Rock Art Association Field Trip Policies.

All trip participants must sign the Colorado Archaeological Society Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement.

Details for this particular trip: There will be additional information that I will send in early February for those signing up. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Weedin, weedin@comcast.net, or call 303/366-7843 (we screen our calls so leave a message and will call you back), or 303/748-6705 (my cell, same screening info as above).

Getting there: It is a good, long two-day drive from Denver to Seminole Canyon State Historical Park, or Del Rio. Unfortunately, due to increased oil and gas production in the Roswell and Carlsbad, NM areas, traffic on 285 can be a pain and cause delays! Also, there is much tanker truck activity as the drivers are now paid by the load instead of by the day. Use caution if going Hwy 285. Alternatively, I-25 through El Paso to I-10/20 can be a mess because of construction on the interstate on the west side of El Paso. Kind of a damned if you do, damned if you don't situation. Just plan accordingly; no matter what direction you come. If you wish to fly, Midland/Odessa (MAF), El Paso (ELP) or San Antonio (SAT) are your best options. You may get the best fare and rental car rates to/in San Antonio; then it will be about a 5-hour drive, depending on traffic in San Antonio. MAF is the closest location (about 3.5-hours). ELP will give you a change in time zones (you lose an hour) and about a 5-hour drive.

Please plan accordingly if you fly and drive so you can be there to start Monday, March 5th. (All driving times are approximate.)

Weather: While the weather may be gorgeous in Trans-Pecos Texas, it may not be so wonderful between here and there. Please watch the weather and if a storm is predicted for Colorado and/or New Mexico, leave EARLY. My last trip down, the storm heading to Denver moved south and I hit it south of Pueblo. Raton Pass closed and I ended up sleeping in the cab of my pickup in the Trinidad Wal-Mart parking lot (along with lots of truckers and Spring Breakers trying to make it back to Texas)! My trailer was iced over and I couldn't open it.

Here are the sites we'll be visiting: Fate Bell, White Shaman (full day); Painted Shelter, Halo (full day); Curly Tail Panther (this will take 1/2 day); Meyers Spring (full day); Shumla Institute presentation (still working on arrangements so stay tuned!)

Resources:

<https://www.wittemuseum.org>

<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/>

<https://shumla.org/>

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/>



Curly Tailed Panther, Texas

Ochre Pigment in Pictographs?

By Peter Faris



Ute pictographs, Shield Cave, Glenwood Canyon, Eagle County, Colorado. Photograph: Peter Faris, 1991.

Humans have been using naturally occurring ochre as a pigment almost as long as we can trace the human lineage. Ochre has been found in Neandertal burials, and even earlier in hominid contexts.

In its use in rock art ochre is found in a range of colors from yellow to brownish red. Yellow ochre ($\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$) is a hydrated iron oxide, and red ochre (Fe_2O_3) is the anhydrate of yellow ochre, which turns red when heated because heat drives off the water. This was described by Paul Bahn (1998): "the colour of ochre is modified by heat, and Palaeolithic people very clearly knew this, since even in the Chatelperronian of Arcy there were fragments at different stages of oxidation still in the hearths. Yellow ochre, when heated beyond 250°C , passes through different shades of red as it oxidizes into haematite." (Bahn 1998:100)



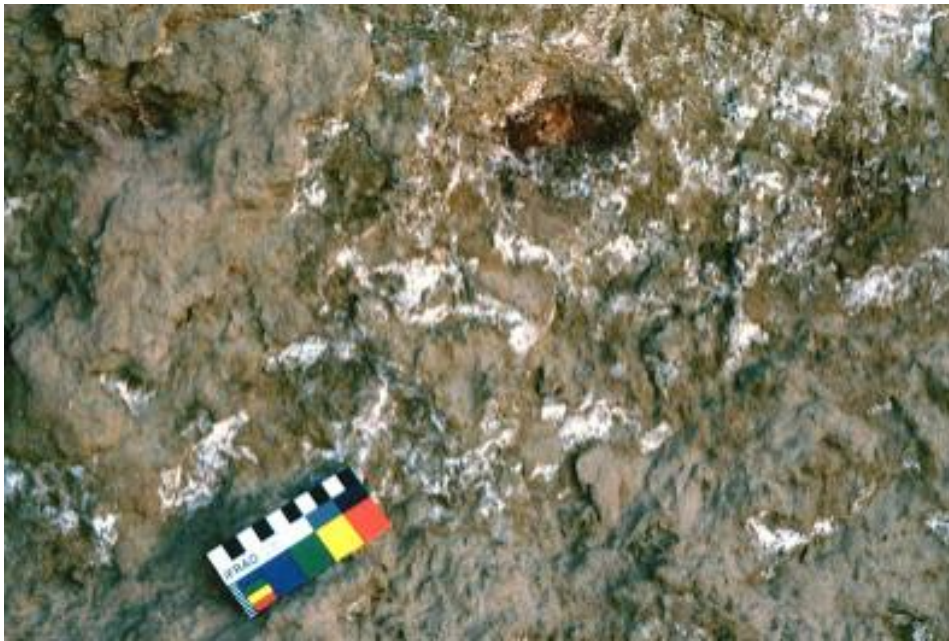
Ute hearth with fragments of red and yellow ochre.
Shield Cave, Glenwood Canyon, Eagle County,
Colorado. Photograph: Peter Faris, 1991.

An excellent example of this can be found at Shield Cave, in Glenwood Canyon, Colorado. In the back of shield cave is a vein of yellow ochre which gives every indication of having been extensively mined. In roughly the middle of the floor of the cave is a stone hearth which includes samples of not only the original yellow ochre, but deep red colored ochre apparently produced by roasting the mined yellow ochre in the fire. At the mouth of the cave are painted a number of red pictographs of shields, as well as figures on horseback produced by Ute artists. (see my 1991 photograph above of samples of ochre on one of the rocks around the fire place).

All of the natural materials for producing pictographs is present at this site. Inside the cave is the pigment and the fire pit for preparing it. At the mouth of the cave the vertical cave walls provide the surface for painting upon, and outside the cave on the slopes can be found not only the wood for the fire pit, but yucca plants to provide yucca juice for the vehicle and binder of a paint, and yucca leaves for brushes.



Fremont/Barrier Canyon style pictograph, Westwater Canyon, Grand County, UT. Photograph: Peter Faris, Oct. 2001.



Ochre nodule in cliff face. Westwater Canyon, Grand County, UT. Photograph: Peter Faris, Oct. 2001.

In other locations I have noticed the presence of ochre naturally in the vicinity of painted images that may have been done with the local pigment. In Westwater Canyon, Grand County, Utah, captivating painted figures can be found on the canyon walls. Ochre nodules may also be discovered in areas of the cliff face with careful search and the talus at the bottom of the cliffs might have been mined for ochre nodules already weathered from the rock.



Probable Fremont pictographs in Wild Horse Draw,
Canyon Pintado, Rio Blanco County, CO.
Photograph: Peter Faris, July 2005



Ochre nodule in cliff face. Wild Horse Draw,
Canyon Pintado, Rio Blanco County, CO.
Photograph: Peter Faris, July 2005.

This is also the case in Wild Horse Draw off of Canyon Pintado, in Rio Blanco County, northwestern Colorado, where painted images may be found on cliff faces that also contain ochre nodules which would serve as the pigment. They also may have been prehistorically recovered by searching the talus at the cliff bottoms for nodules which had weathered out of the rock.

In both these instances the other materials for creating the paintings are available locally as well with yucca cactus readily procured. Yucca sap or juice would make an excellent paint vehicle and binder as it contains natural latexes which would polymerize upon drying, and the leaves of the yucca can be made into effective brushes.

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>. This article is from his blog.

REFERENCE:

Bahn, Paul G., and Jean Vertut
1998 Images of the Ice Age, Facts on File, New York., p. 100

Rock Art & Archaeology Conferences 2018

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA)

Dates: June 1- 4, 2018

Location: Grand Junction, Colorado

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

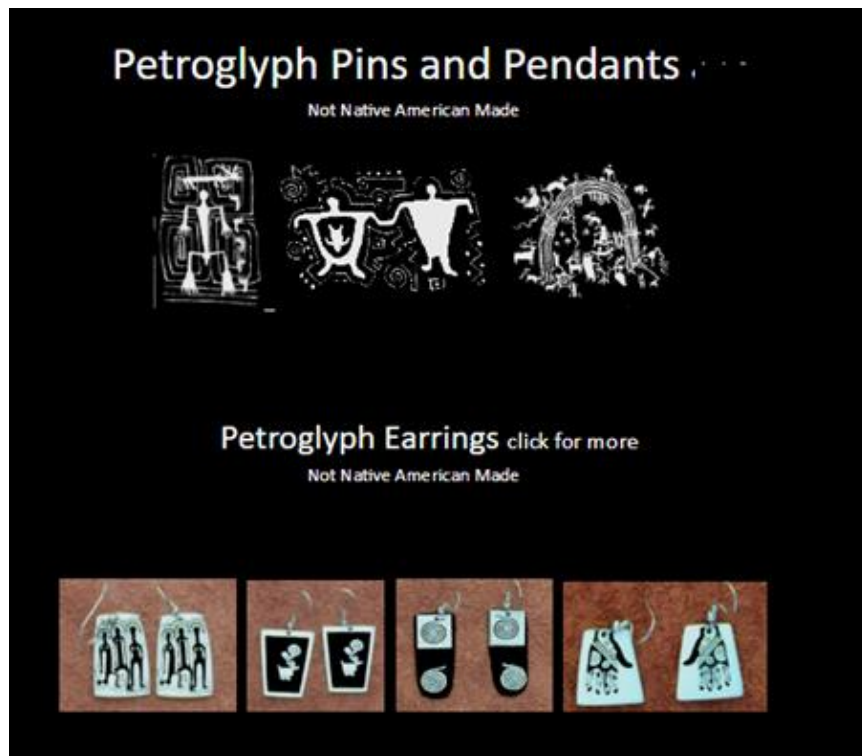
Join Colorado Rock Art on Facebook Friends who like Colorado Rock Art Association

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. From the Facebook application search for "Friends Who Like Colorado Rock Art Association."

Ideas for Rock Art Inspired Gifts

Pins, Pendants and Earrings – Alice Seely

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



Pottery and sculpture – Janet Lever-Wood

Website: <http://blueglyphclayarts.com>



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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. Also if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please let us know.