



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

By Anne Robinson, CRAA President

There is still space in the Nine Mile Canyon Trip in September. Nine Mile Canyon is often billed as the longest art gallery in the world, Nine Mile Canyon is home to over 10,000 petroglyphs. Folks come here time and time again and see new things every time. The trip will be led by Keith Fessenden. Participants will want to stay at Nine Mile Ranch in either their lodging or in the campground. Don't miss this special trip. Space is limited. Details on page 2.

The Colorado Archaeological Society Annual meeting will be held October 28 & 29th at History Colorado in Denver. This is a great chance to hear many speakers talk about archaeology and to socialize with others who share an interest in archaeology and rock art. Details on page 7

We are still looking for volunteers who are passionate about rock art and want to make a difference in the Colorado Rock Art Association. We have the following positions open.

- **1 Board Member position**
- **Field Trip Coordinator**
- **Newsletter Editor**

Please join us for one of these positions. We would love to have you. If you want to make a difference in rock art this would be a great place to do it

If you are interested in these positions please contact us at coloradorockartassociation@yahoo.com. Working on the CRAA board is a great way to help shape the direction of CRAA.

Upcoming Rock Art Field Trips 2017

Field Trip – September 2017 Nine Mile Canyon Field Trip



Join us for a field trip to Nine Mile Canyon in Utah. Nine Mile Canyon is 40 miles long and filled with spectacular Rock Art. Often called the world's longest art gallery. The Rock Art is attributed to the Fremont Indians from about 1000 years ago.

Dates: Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24
(camping on Friday night, September 22 and Saturday night, September 23)

Hiking: Trip will have many stops. Hiking distance is minimal. Walking distances will be short.

Driving: Two-wheel drive cars should be able to make this trip.

Meeting location: Nine Mile Ranch (website: <http://9mileranch.com>) in Utah
We will meet at 9 Mile at 08:30 the morning of Saturday 23rd.

We will leave Nine Mile Ranch as close to 09:00 Saturday as possible.

Camping/ Lodging: Nine Mile Ranch Camping, cabins, rooms.

Saturday Night: Potluck dinner at Nine Mile Ranch- bring a dish to share, your own utensils, silverware, camp chair and drinks.

Trip Leader: Keith Fessenden

To sign up contact Keith at 303.907.5184 or khfessenden@gmail.com.

Last day to sign up: September 15, 2017

Maximum participants: 15

Saturday Night: Potluck dinner at Nine Mile Ranch - bring a dish to share, your own utensils, silverware, camp chair and drinks.

You are heading into an isolated area. Be sure to get a full tank of gas before heading to Nine Mile Canyon Ranch from either Myton or Wellington. There are no gas stations any closer than Myton or Wellington.

Trip Duration: Two days, we will try to end around 3 pm Sunday but if you need to leave earlier just let Keith know.

Road & Driving Conditions: Much of the driving will be on paved roads, however there will be some driving improved dirt roads.

Vehicle Requirements: Two-wheel drive automobiles should be able to make the trip; extremely low clearance vehicles are not recommended. We can arrange carpooling at Nine Mile ranch.

Hiking Distance & Difficulty: Most of the trip will be via automobile with stops along the road with short hiking distances. These short distances will not be strenuous. However, on Saturday afternoon those who would like to, including the trip leader, can visit some sites on higher levels. These sites are visible from the road

Items to bring: Broad brimmed hat, sun protection, plenty of water and snacks, lunch, rain is always possible, hiking boots, all of the items needed for a long day trip.

Lodging information: The only camping and lodging in the canyon is at Nine Mile Ranch (website: <http://9mileranch.com>) in Utah Camping/ They have camping, cabins, and rooms. They will also provide dinner Friday evening. More information will follow on this after you sign up.

Food/Social: Those staying at the Nine Mile Ranch will be getting together Friday evening around six.

On Saturday, we will have Potluck dinner/Group Happy hour

Sign up information: (provide email and phone of trip leader to sign up for the trip)

Membership policy: All Participants must be CRAA member or CAS Member. CRAA members can sign up anytime space is available. CAS members can sign up within 45 days of the trip, if there is space available.

Dogs: Dogs on leash only where allowed by BLM.

All Trip Participants must sign the Colorado Archaeological Society Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement.

Make sure to get gas before coming up the Nine Mile Canyon to the ranch. There are no gas stations nearby. For the day of the trip, make sure you bring water, lunch, sun protection, sturdy shoes or boots, appropriate rain and weather gear.



Field Trip – March 2018

Texas Rock Art Trip

Visit incredible rock art sites in Texas such as the White Shaman Preserve, The Curly Tail Panther, the Lewis Canyon site, Myers Springs, Halo Shelter, Painted Shelter and the Fate Bell Shelter and Hueco Tanks. Tours will all be guided.

This is a very preliminary itinerary and is subject to changes.

Dates: Monday, March 5 through Friday, March 9, 2018. All-day for five days.

These dates do not include travel dates. Plan two days for travel on each end of the trip.

Nearest Towns: Comstock, Texas and Del Rio, Texas. Hueco Tanks is near El Paso, Texas

Trip Leader: Teresa Weedon

Road & Driving Conditions: All kinds of driving conditions, including roads that require 4-wheel drive and high clearance.

Vehicle Requirements: 4-wheel drive recommended, high clearance required for some trips.

Hiking Distance & Difficulty: Hikes will vary in difficulty with some hikes being extremely difficult and others being easier. Hiking distance of the longest hike is 1.5 miles. Several hikes may be done in a single day. Terrain includes poorly defined trails with steep drop offs, loose rock, through thick brush, uneven terrain, large boulders. Elevation change is up to 250 feet. One hike with steep drop offs may be impossible for people afraid of heights. Another hike describes a rope-assisted climb in and out of a canyon.

Cost: Cost of tours is still to be determined, but will likely be approximately \$150 - \$200. This doesn't include food, transportation or lodging costs.

Sign up information: Sign up will open later this fall.

Colorado Rock Art Field Trip Requirements

Must be Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) member or Colorado Archaeological Society Member (CAS) to participate in field trips. CRAA members can sign up anytime space is available. CRAA members get first priority for sign up.

All trip participants must agree to the CRAA Code of Ethics, the CRAA Field Trip Policies, the CAS Code of Ethics, the CAS Social Media Policy and the CAS Cultural Resources Protection Policy and Guidelines. See the Colorado Rock Art Association website and the Colorado Archaeological Society websites for the specific policies or ask the trip leader.

All trip participants must sign the Colorado Archaeological Society Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement. Some field trips may have additional releases that need to be signed.

Take a PAAC Class this fall Learn about Archaeology in Colorado



PAAC courses are a great way to expand your knowledge of Colorado archaeology at a reasonable cost. Classes are offered around the state in evening and weekend formats. No prior archaeological knowledge or experience is required.

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. [Click here](#) to go to the History Colorado PAAC website.

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 (also sometimes a fee for the meeting room)

Fall 2017 - Five Classes

Sign up now for a PAAC class to learn more about Archaeology in Colorado.

Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis

Dates: Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9:30, October 3, 10, 17, 24, November 7, 14 (NOTE: NO CLASS ON October 31)

Location: Loveland (Medical Center of the Rockies)

Instructor: Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

To sign up, contact: Dave Swinehart at 970-397-7589 (cell) or swinehart53@gmail.com

Host Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter: Northern Colorado

Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis class covers ceramic technology, methods of manufacture, physical/stylistic analyses, and basic Colorado ceramic characteristics.

Archaeological Practice in Colorado

Dates: October 14, all day

Location: Durango (Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College)

Instructor: Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

To sign up, contact: Tish Varney at 970-259-4099 or tishvarney@att.net

Host Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter: San Juan Basin

Archaeological Practice in Colorado includes a basic summary of the field of archaeology, common terminology, and Colorado's place in North American prehistory. Also describes the PAAC program in detail, and the functions of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) including interactions with the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado. State & federal laws protecting archaeological resources and codes-of-ethics also are covered.

Prehistoric Lithic Description and Analysis

Dates: November 3rd (evening), 4th & 5th all day

Location: Pueblo (El Pueblo History Museum)

Instructor: Chris Johnston, Assistant State Archaeologist

To sign up, contact: Barbara Sabo at 719-547-2383 (home) or barbsabo@yahoo.com

Host Colorado Archaeological Society Chapter: San Juan Basin

The Prehistoric Lithic Description and Analysis class will look at stone tool technology, methods of manufacture, morphological/functional analyses, and common tool classes in Colorado.



Rock Art & Archaeology Conferences 2017

Conferences are a great way to learn more about archaeology, see wonderful archaeological sites and a great way to meet others who share your interest. Avocational archaeologists are welcome at all of these conferences.

Stone Age Fair, Loveland Colorado

Saturday, September 23 - 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Sunday, September 24 - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Website: <https://www.stoneagefair.com/>

McKee 4-H, Youth & Community Building Larimer County Fairgrounds at The Ranch

Loveland Archaeological Society Presents the 2017 Loveland Stone Age Fair Featuring

- Displays of Prehistoric Artifacts McKee 4-H, Youth & Community Building Larimer County Fairgrounds at The Ranch
- Public is Welcome!
- Admission is FREE!
- NON-COMMERCIAL - NO BUYING OR SELLING OF ARTIFACTS
- ** PROGRAMS ** Saturday, September 23, 1:00 P.M. Dr. Jack Hofman Associate Professor of Anthropology, Kansas University Dr. Spencer Pelton University of Wyoming
- ** DEMONSTRATIONS ** Bob Heid – Beadwork Artifact Identification Table

- ***STONE AGE FAIR SPONSORS*** The Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc. ARC Air Compressors Mr. Joe Mosier Dr. Grayson Westfall, Dr. Laura Brunner, Anna and Jackson Westfall Stone Age Fair – a Northern Colorado Tradition Since 1934

Utah Rock Art Research Association

October 6 – 9, 2017 in Green River, Utah

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

Papers and field trips on Utah Rock Art. Always a popular conference for Colorado Rock Art Members.

The annual URARA symposium will be held in Green River, Utah October 6-9, 2017. The city is located on the Green River, a major tributary of the Colorado River.

The event includes two days of field trips (at least), two days of fabulous speakers and the business meeting. There will a dinner, auction, delicious Green River watermelons, fun and renewing of old friendships.

The rock art in the Green River is among the best in the state. The beautiful canyons of the San Rafael Swell are located to the west, Canyonlands National Park is to the south and the Bookcliffs to the north

Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) Annual Conference

Saturday, October 28, 2017 at History Colorado in Denver –

- Lectures,
- Silent Auction,
- Keynote Speaker and Banquet.

Sunday, October 29, 2017 –

- Field Trips to be announced

Friday, October 27, 2017 –

- CAS Board Meeting and possibly additional field trips

Costs: \$40 basic rate for CRAA and CAS members, \$35 for banquet, student discounts, see website for specifics.

Registration and more information go to <http://cas-denver.org/annual-meeting>.

The Denver chapter is hosting the 82nd Conference and Annual Meeting of the Colorado Archaeological Society for 2017. The meeting will be on October 27th, 28th and 29th at the History Colorado Museum, located at 1200 Broadway Street in Downtown Denver. You can register online to attend, and find information on speakers, field trips and more.

Keynote Speaker – banquet on Saturday, October 28th

Dr. Michael Waters of Texas A & M University

Title: Forging a New Understanding of the Late Pleistocene Peopling of the Americas

Abstract: Archaeological and genetic evidence accumulated over the last few decades show that the 80-year-old Clovis First model no longer explains the exploration and settlement of the Americas by humans at the end of the last Ice Age. Evidence from archaeological sites in North and South America are providing empirical evidence that people occupied the Americas by 15,000 years ago. Studies of modern and ancient genomes confirm this age estimate and tell us

who these people were and where they came from. This archaeological and genetic evidence is rewriting our understanding of the First Americans.

Biography: Michael Waters is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M University. He is known for his expertise in First American studies and geoarchaeology. He has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles and book chapters and is the author of "Principles of Geoarchaeology: A North American Perspective" and other volumes.

To register for the Colorado Archaeological Society Conference - <http://cas-denver.org/annual-meeting>

Silent Auction Items Needed, Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting

We are looking for donations for the Silent Auction! We will have a silent auction at the CAS Annual meeting and the proceeds will go to the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund for scholarships for students in archaeology. Please consider donating items for the auction; there are many possibilities, including books, various items that relate to archaeology or even those that aren't archaeological. How about offering a trip to a historic area? For questions please call Betsy Weitkamp at 303-722-1656 or email at elaw@q.com.

Rock Art & Archaeology Conferences 2018

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA)

Dates: June 2018 (exact dates TBD)

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."

August 21, 2017 Solar Eclipse – Lessons Learned and Theories Burned

By Peter Faris



Photograph Becky Green Bowman,
August 21, 2012, Knoxville, Tennessee.

We were lucky enough to reach a location (Wheatlands, Wyoming) to view the August 21, 2017 solar eclipse in totality. I will omit any whining about the traffic, and the price gouging for motel rooms, and will focus on the ideas that came out of observing this amazing phenomenon.



August 21, 2017 eclipse in partial
phase, the moon's encroachment on
the Sun is not visible. Photograph
Peter Faris, August 21, 2017.

One lesson that was immediately apparent as we watched the eclipse proceed was that the old wife's tale about explorers saving their lives from primitive natives by correctly predicting an eclipse must be totally untrue. As the moon proceeded to cover the sun the appearance of the sun did not vary. The world got dimmer, and cooler, but the brilliance of the remaining portion of the sun made it impossible to see a bright disk being consumed by the dark moon. The sun remained an unbearably bright light in the sky up until literally just a moment before totality. The process of a "sky monster" eating the sun could not, I repeat could not, have been viewed without proper eclipse filters.

I also believe that this would apply to eclipse mythology such as this.

"To the Vikings thought that an eclipse occurred, when a pack of wolves chased the sun across the sky and then captured the celestial orb. Meanwhile in Vietnam, it was a giant frog that devoured our nearest star. And in the Pacific Northwest, the Pomo Indians rationalized that the culprit was a giant bear. Even in ancient China, people believed that a giant dragon was the cause of the sun's demise." (<https://owlcation.com/>)



Photograph by Becky Green
Bowman, August 21, 2017,
Knoxville, Tennessee.

As was observable during the August 21, 2017 total eclipse, you do not see any sort of diminishing crescent during a solar eclipse, indeed you do not see anything removed from the disc of the sun until it is literally in the "diamond ring" phase of the eclipse immediately followed by the blackened disc of totality.



Pinhole projection of partial eclipse.
Photograph Peter Faris, May 20, 2012.

In order to see the bite being taken out of the sun you either need proper eclipse filters, or you need to use the pinhole camera technique to project its image on a white surface.

This realization should be applied to any rock art identified as a representation of an eclipse. If it shows a crescent it is probably not an eclipse, because the creator of the rock art would not have seen a crescent when observing the eclipse supposedly being pictured.



Raftopolis Ranch, Moffat County,
Colorado. Photograph Peter Faris,
September 1987.



Pecos rock art, Texas.
Photograph Teresa Weedon.

On February 9, 2013, I posted a column titled A Possible Total Eclipse Of The Sun In Rock Art, showing a petroglyph from northwestern Colorado which shows the sun as a disc surrounded with triangular prominences or flames. This was followed on February 23, 2013, with another posting titled Another Possible Solar Eclipse Symbol In Rock Art about my identification of the Zia Sun Symbol as a possible representation of a total solar eclipse. Both of these cases show a symbol that can be interpreted as the totality stage of a solar eclipse. A definite disc surrounded by rays or prominences.



Chaco Canyon, New Mexico.
Photograph phys.org,
Public Domain.



Chaco Canyon, New Mexico.
Photograph newsweek.com,
Public Domain.

A widely reported recent example of a petroglyph from Chaco Canyon which supposedly illustrates a solar eclipse does indeed show rays or prominences (flames?) around its edges, but it lacks the circle defining the blackened interior of the sun obscured by the moon. For this reason, while I accept it as a possible sun symbol, I certainly cannot accept it as an illustration of an eclipse. To my thinking it just does not fit all the criteria to illustrate a total eclipse.

REFERENCES:

<https://owlcation.com/stem/The-Myth-and-Reality-of-Solar-Eclipses>

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2013 A Possible Total Eclipse Of The Sun In Rock Art, February 9,

<http://rockartblog.blogspot.com/2013/02/a-possible-total-eclipse-of-sun-in-rock.html>

2013 Another Possible Solar Eclipse Symbol In Rock Art, February 23,

<http://rockartblog.blogspot.com/2013/02/another-possible-solar-eclipse-symbol.html>

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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.