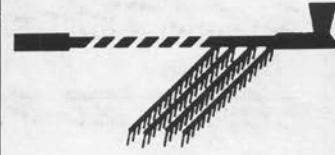


Oct 1994, Vol 2, No 8

CALUMET



Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

EXTRA - EXTRA

CAS COMES TO BOULDER

High Altitude
Archaeology:
A Research Symposium

Hosted by
The Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS
&
The Department of Anthropology
University of Colorado

University Memorial Center, University of Colorado, Boulder

SPEAKERS: Dennis Stanford Jim Benedict

Kevin Black Steve Cassells George Fritson Margaret Jodry

Bill Knight Kathryn Mauz Mike Metcalf Jeff Overturf

Bonnie Pitblado Mark Stiger Ken Singleton Sue Struthers

Oct 28, 29 1994

YA'ALL COME
YA' HEAR

CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EDUCATION EXPLORATION

IPCAS members - it's late. Do you know if your dues are paid? Put support first! Seriously, check your mailing label!!!

BE THERE THEN

The upcoming Symposium on High Altitude Archaeology takes place during the Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, will provide a forum for professional and avocational archaeologists to share their recent research and field experience in the Colorado mountains.

Probably the greatest amount of new information on Colorado prehistory in the last twenty years has come from investigations in the mountain and foothill environments, as result of land development and increased visitation there.

The following are some of the highlights in the evolution of high altitude research over that last twenty years. Most of the researchers responsible for the studies mentioned will be present at the symposium.

Comprehensive research began in the early 1980's with Jim Benedict's multi-disciplined analysis of sites in the Indian Peaks, along the Continental Divide, west of Boulder.

Benedict's careful work has provided a chronology of prehistoric mountain occupation, and the models of environmental exploitation that he describes as the "rotary" and the "up-down" systems.

Benedict has supported the "mountain refugium" view of high altitude occupation intensity, peaking during the althermal droughts on the Plains and Great Basin. This view suggests that during periods of drought on the plains, the mountains served as a refuge to humans seeking water and other resources, thus becoming a transcultural melting pot, especially during the period between 7,000 and 5,000 years ago.

Benedict's date of +/- 8,460 from charcoal at the Caribou Lake site showed that there had been late Paleo Indian use of the mountains.

In 1977 Hannah Huse reported the Granby Site, where for the first time indications of possible structures were found in an Archaic campsite dating to 7,000 B.P.

In 1981 John Gooding first reported on the Vail Pass Site at 10,000 foot elevation, with occupations extending back to 7,000 years B.P.

By 1980 the archaeological community was getting used to the idea that the high altitude environment was visited by prehistoric people earlier and more frequently than previously thought, and they were soon to be surprised by

evidence of even greater antiquity and more permanent settlement.

Kevin Black excavated a deeply buried component containing a paleo projectile point while working on the Cottonwood Pass Project in 1985. Radio carbon dating was not possible but Black estimated that the subsurface layer and the point date at 10,000 B.P.

Kevin Black and Mike Metcalf reported on the Yarmony Site in 1991, where they found the first definitive remains of Archaic pithouses in a mountain context. The two pithouses found dated to +/- 6,000 B.P. They interpreted the site as a winter habitation, and proposed that the lower elevations of the mountains may have supported year round occupations, rather than just seasonal visits by people from the plains.

Black has suggested that the Yarmony pithouse is a manifestation of an ancient and continuous cultural phenomenon which he has defined as the "mountain tradition", originating in a population movement from the Great Basin into the Rockies about 9,500 years ago as a result of environmental change, and characterized by transhumance exclusively between the foothills and mountains.

In 1993 forest Service archaeologist Bill Kight and a team of professionals reported on the removal and reinterment of the remains of a male individual, who live 8,000 years ago, from a cave in the White river National Forest. These were the first human remains found at high altitude, and they were returned to the Ute tribe, the most recent Native American inhabitants of the mountains.

Indications of very early Paleo Indian presence in the high mountains were reported by Chris York who described twelve paleo projectile points found during surface surveys in the San Juan National Forest in 1987.

Dennis Stanford and Peggy Jodry joined with Vince Spero of the Forest Service to investigate a Folsom sit at Black Canyon in the San Juan mountains, in 1992.

This Folsom discovery was truly surprising as it placed humans in the high altitude environs during the last major Ice Age prior to 10,000 B.P.

Another recent isolated find of a Folsom point at Rabbit Ears Pass, near Steamboat Springs, suggests a broad use of the mountains by Ice Age hunters.

Nearby to Rabbit Ears Pass, in Middle Park, George Frison and the University of Wyoming field school are working on several sites of Folsom age and perhaps even older.

Also near Rabbit Ears Pass, Doug Bamforth and C.U. field school have been investigating the Windy Ridge quarries, a primary source of quartzite tool stone for mountain people throughout prehistory.

Windy ridge quartzite, Kremmling chert, and Table Mountain jasper are the principle stone types found at high altitude game drives along the Continental Divide.

Jim Benedict did some of the earliest studies on these game drive systems. They seem to be a phenomenon unique to our northern Colorado region of the Rocky Mountains. The visible architectural remains consist of stone walls, upright stone cairns, and circular pits used as hunters blinds.

These game drives have been reused repeatedly over the millennia. Benedict provides a +/-7,650 B.P. date from a game procession area associated with a drive system on the east flank of Mount Albion.

In most cases these drive systems have been reconfigured many times by their users, some walls being abandoned as others were created. This may have been due to advances in weapons technology, changes in the size of human hunting groups, in the habits or the types of animals hunted, or changing climatic conditions. These revisions make the dating of the game drive systems very difficult.

Steve Cassells is attempting to use lichenometric dating on the complex Sawtooth game drive, west of Boulder, to interpret its transformation over time. This technique requires taking from each component wall many thousands of measurements of the diameter of lichen growing on the stones which has a known growth rate. Theoretically these lichen begin to grow on the exposed surfaces of the stones when they are unburied and installed in a wall. An average of these measurements will yield an approximate date for the wall.

Behind and between these highlight events are hundreds of professional and avocational contributors who are facilitating, financing, working in the field and laboratory, or teaching and debating about all this new knowledge.

Most of these people are members of CAS. Many are volunteers. Most others are the working poor - working to save and study the remains of human history in our beautiful, sacred mountains; creating a picture of the cultural evolution that has preceded us on this landscape, the knowledge of which will shape our regions future cultural identity.

The fact that you're reading this means that you are probably one of those contributors. THANKS! See you at the annual CAS meeting. Steve Montgomery - President

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Oct 15 / Comanche Creek field work. Call Tom Cree, 776-7004.

Oct 18 / IPCAS Board of directors Meeting, 7:30 pm, Boulder Police Dept, 1805, 33rd Street, Boulder.

Oct 28, 29, 30 / 1994 CAS Annual Meeting, Symposium on High Altitude Archaeology, University of Colorado Campus, Boulder.

Nov 22 / IPCAS general meeting, 7:30 pm, The Meeting Place, Crossroads Mall, Election of Officers for 1995, Speaker: Bob Brunswig will report on the 1994 results of excavations on the South Platte Project.

IPCAS ELECTIONS at NOVEMBER 22 MEETING

IPCAS will elect 1995 officers at the November 22nd General Meeting.

In lieu of a nominating committee the board of directors will be posting the nominations for the offices. Anyone interested in nominating someone (including themselves) should submit the name to a board member.

In addition to the four elected position there are appointed positions. If you would like to be considered for one, also let a board member know.

IPCAS EX BD MTG - 9/20/94

Attendees: Steve Montgomery, Ken Larson, Pamela Baker, Dock Teegarden, Tom Cree, Janet Stinson, Morey Stinson

Annual Meeting and High Altitude Symposium:

discussion of registration, fund raising, and logistics for the annual meeting took place. Addition brochures have been printed. Concern was expressed at the slow rate of mail delivery and subsequent slow rate of registrations being received. A book sale cannot take place by IPCAS at the symposium due to an exclusive contract of the CU bookstore with the University. It was determined that we do not have sufficient funds nor registrations at this point in time to support the up-front investment necessary to produce and sell shirts.

Newsletter:

Suggestions were made to attempt to add photos (of members engaged in archaeology) to the newsletter.

Membership Renewals:

A need was expressed to follow up on members who do not renew. The highlighting of the mailing label does not seem to be an effective remainder.

IBM Donation:

IBM has donated the following items to IPCAS: 4 bookshelves, 2 files, 1 dry board, 1 easel, 1 overhead projector, and 1 carousel projector. This will facilitate storage of our archives and presentation of monthly programs. Thank you

Submitted for the Secretary by Pamela Baker.

1994 INDIAN PEAKS OFFICERS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PRESIDENT Steve Montgomery 443-4414 ✓
 VICE PRESIDENT Ken Larson 469-2228
 SECRETARY Maureen Arthur 939-8342 ✓
 TREAS/MEMBER Jeannie Hamilton 443-9221

Please check one: Date: _____
 Individual \$25/yr New
 Family \$28/yr Renewal

DIRECTORS:

Hillary Reynolds 530-1229 Pam Baker 772-2888
 Sue Lippincott 828-3144 Ann Hayes 494-3773
 Dock Teegarden 494-6496 Leni Clubb (610)359-7835
 Tom Cree 776-7004

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Telephone _____

Please make check payable to: Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS

Mail To: P.O. Box 18301, Boulder, CO 80308

To receive membership card & roster, enclose a stamped, self-add envelope.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

CAS REPRESENTATIVE Bob Powell 494-9445
 PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR Bob Mutaw 666-0437
 PROJECT INFO OFFICER Laura Viola 442-2019
 PAAC COOR's Janet & Morey Stinson 530-7727
 CALUMET EDITOR Ed Grefrath 444-2091
 CAS ANNUAL DINNER CHAIRPERSON: Anne Mutaw

When you join the Indian Peaks Chapter of CAS, you will receive our monthly newsletter, **The Calumet**, & the CAS quarterly Magazine, **Southwestern Lore**. You will be informed of recent developments in Colorado Archaeology as well as field surveys to locate and record archaeological sites, travel opportunities to places of archaeological interest, courses and workshops in archaeology, and monthly meetings featuring guest speakers.

THE CALUMET --- INDIAN PEAKS CHAPTER

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 of the Colorado Archaeological Society

P. O. Box 18301

Boulder, CO 80308



1294

Montgomery, Steven C.
 1120 Pearl
 Boulder, CO 80302

Number on the mailing label above is the mon/yr your membership renewal is due.

