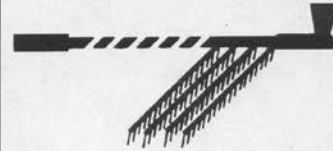


Apr 1995, Vol 3, No 4

# CALUMET



Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Apr 18** / IPCAS Executive Board Meeting; 7:30 pm, Boulder Police Bureau, 1805 33rd Street, Boulder.

**Apr 21** / State CAS Quarterly Meeting, hosted by Denver Chapter, VIP Room, Denver Museum of Natural History. Call Anne Mutaw 666-0437 for details.

**Apr 21 - 23** / Wyoming Archaeological Society and Wyoming Society of Professional Archaeologists, Spring meeting; Saratoga, Wyoming. Call Dave McKee (307) 326-9832.

**Apr 22,23** / Pawnee Grassland Excavations with Bob Brunswig begins. Also April 29 and May 23 - June 10. For info call Ton Cree, 776-7004.

**Apr 25** / IPCAS General Meeting; 7:30 pm, The Meeting Place, Crossroads Mall. Speaker will be **Steve Kalasz**, on "The Magic Mountain Site, Results of the 1994 Excavations".

**May 6** / National Pictographic Society Meeting (& fieldtrip); Springfield, Co. Call Bill McGlone (719) 384-6657.

**May 13, 14** / Spanish Diggings field trip out of Wheatland, Wyoming. (See article - Mar '95 NL). Call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414 for info.

**May 14 - 20** / **Colorado Archaeology Preservation Week**, IPCAS volunteers will take the Rock Creek Interpretive Trunk into Boulder County classrooms, Call Ann Hayes, 494-3773 for info.

**July 1 - 4** / CAS Annual Encampment, McPhee Reservoir, Cortez, CO.

**July 31 - Aug 5** / Caribou Lake Excavations with Bonnie Pitblado begins. Also Aug 7 - Aug 12. (See article - Mar '95 NL), Call Steve Montgomery 443-4414.

**July 17 - 21** / Devil's Thumb Valley Excavation with Jean Kindig. Call Jean Kindig, 443-1702.

**Oct 16** / CAS 1995 Annual Meeting, Montrose, Co. Symposium on "Western Colorado Formative".

## IPCAS GENERAL MEETING

April 25, 1995, 7:30 pm, The Meeting Place.

"The Magic Mountain Site; Results of the 1994 Excavations". by **Stephen Kalasz**.

The Magic Mountain Site (5JF223) is comprised of the buried remnants of multiple hunter-gather occupations stratigraphically superimposed in alluvial deposits within Apex Gulch. The Project area is located northeast of Heritage Square, Golden's large shopping and entertainment complex that was formerly the location of the Magic Mountain Amusement Park. A large housing development abuts the site to the north. The Harvard investigations at Magic Mountain led by Cynthia Irwin-Williams in 1959 and 1960 indicated that cultural deposits encompass a 5000 year segment of Plains prehistory. Suffice it to say that there is a long history of professional and avocational work associated with this site, one of the more prominent in the Central Plains region.

The 1994 investigations at the Magic Mountain site were performed through a State Historic Fund grant issued to Golden Landmarks Association, a non-profit civic organization formed to promote historic preservation in the area. It was believed that, given the site's past importance as a reference for prehistoric Plains archaeology, a new excavation would yield a wealth of information perhaps untapped in earlier projects. Significant advances in archaeological method and theory have occurred over the last 35 years and the Harvard work is now badly out of date. Additionally, the current project would emphasize public education and awareness of archaeological sites. It's

CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EDUCATION EXPLORATION

unique location ensured that children from a number of nearby schools would have the opportunity to experience a dig firsthand rather than through television. A professional firm, Centennial Archaeology, Inc., was therefore contracted to direct the field and laboratory operations. From August 1 through August 12, 1994 a small crew of professional archaeologists and geomorphologists completed a combined testing and coring plan for the site area. The primary purpose of this program was to delineate portions of the site that exhibited significant buried evidence of prehistoric activities but were relatively undisturbed by vandals, rodents, vegetation, and etcetera. Additionally, the coring data could be used to confirm or perhaps modify aspects of previous geoarchaeological investigations at the site. The second phase, a grid block excavation, was executed from September 6 through October 1. The block excavations were completed with a combined crew of professional archaeologists and local volunteers. The volunteer crew often included professional archaeologists not affiliated with Centennial Archaeology, Inc.; these dedicated individuals simply wanted to have the experience of working at the Magic Mountain site. A total of sixty volunteers worked at the site during the course of the block excavations. An important part of the excavation phase was the tour and lecture program set up for school groups and any interested member of the general public. Groups of children affiliated with Shelton Elementary, Ralston Elementary, Witt Elementary, Bell Middle School, Wheat Ridge Middle School, a home schooling program, and a local Girl Scout troop visited the site during the excavations, often accompanied by their parents. Some groups from the nearby Shelton Elementary visited more that once so they could get a more complete view of the excavation as it progressed. It is therefore conservatively estimated that close to 1000 student visits were associated with the current project. Additionally, the site was open to the general public during the excavation; visitors were invited to ask questions as they viewed the proceedings.

Excavation of the four by eight meter grid block produced over 35,000 artifacts including chipped and ground stone, ceramics, macrobotanical remains, and a diverse faunal assemblage. Most surprisingly, portions of one, possibly two structures were uncovered within the small excavation area. It is emphasized that these remains represent Ceramic stage occupation of the site. Because of the number of artifacts and features encountered in conjunction with time and budgetary constraints, excavations were terminated when the distinctive calcium carbonate layer that Irwin-Williams designated Zone C was contacted. The lower presumed Archaic stage deposits were unsampled in 1994. The six radiocarbon samples submitted had dates ranging from 1070 +/- 80 B.P. to 1790 +/- 60 B.P.; a clustering of dates between ca. 1100 and 1400 years B.P. suggest that the structures represent Early Ceramic period (Plains Woodland) occupation.

Stephen Kalasz received a Master's degree from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff in 1988. He and his wife, Margaret Van Ness (also an archaeologist) and daughter actually live within 2.5 miles of the Magic Mountain site. Stephen did his thesis on Apishapa phase architecture; a portion of which was published in Chapter 4 of *Memoirs of CAS*, No 4 (1989). Stephen has worked with the Pinon Canyon project in southeastern Colorado and also projects in Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Utah. He has been employed by Centennial Archaeology, Inc. since 1985.

## BE THERE THEN

IPCAS activities over the coming months reflect the many aspects of front range prehistoric culture, and our modern efforts to understand the character and dynamics of its evolution.

Steve Kalasz will speak on the Magic Mountain site at this month's general meeting. This site is famous in the annals of front range archaeology because of its rich stratified deposits representing a nearly continuous occupation. Harvard's Peabody Museum first excavated the site in 1959-60, and only one radiocarbon date was obtained. Because techniques of analysis have dramatically improved in the last 34 years, and because the site is such an encyclopedic chronicle of cultural sequence, a State Historic Fund Grant was awarded to the Golden Landmarks Commission in 1994 to reopen the site. The general public was invited to participate under the professional guidance of Centennial Archaeology's supervisor Steve Kalasz.

Bob Brunswig will begin work on the South Plate Project in the Pawnee Grasslands on the weekend of April 22 & 23. The work continues through June. Tom Cree will be sending, those who have signed up, information on where and when to meet. If you haven't enrolled call Tom @ 776-7004. The present plan is to meet on the 22nd at the forest Service maintenance shed in Stoneham at 8:30 am.

Dewey Baars, president of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, will guide a special IPCAS field trip to the Spanish Diggings on May 13 and 14. We'll visit quarries and some other famous cultural sites like Hell Gap. If you need Motel information, call me at 443-4414. The present plan is for everyone attending to get to Wheatland on their own steam, then meet at the Arby's parking lot at 9:00 am on both days to board vehicles for the tour. There are an abundance of 4-wheel drivers coming, so you'll have no problem if you need a lift. We're planning to have a little party in the Wheatland town park on Saturday, so I hope everyone will bring some drinks and snacks for this. I've got reports entitled "Spanish Diggings", "Hell Gap Revisited" and "The Sommer Site", that I will provide for the copy cost of about \$1.00 each. Anyone interested

**should** contact me beforehand and I'll bring them to the general meeting.

Those of us working at Pawnee Grasslands will probably see a lot of stone material from the Spanish Diggings area, as well as other related cultural phenomenon. It will be interesting to contemplate the connections between the activities and peoples in the converging corridors of the North and South Platte Rivers. Keep in mind the state line is an artificial boundary.

Having made your contribution to plains archaeological volunteerism, I hope you will also turn your interest to the mountains where **Bonnie Pitblado** is looking for volunteers to assist at the **Caribou Lake Excavation** during the first two weeks of August, (see article in March newsletter).

A new project, in the mountains, has also been announced. **Jean Kindig**, in an arrangement with the Forest Service, will be excavating an eroding hearth and possible ceramic period campsite in the **Devil's Thumb Valley** on July 17 - 21. It is very unusual to find ceramics at a high altitude camp, as Jean did in the summer of 1994. (See the article by Jean elsewhere in the Calumet for more information.)

In this issue you will find an article by **Leni Club** on the atlatl competition at the CAS encampment. How can one appreciate the workings of an Archaic game drive without having practiced the throwing of the dart themselves? Enrich your knowledge, exercise, and have fun when you take up this sport! I've had several inquiries on where to get an atlatl. Two excellent atlatl makers that I know are **Bill Tate**, 755-5591, and **Dennis DeSart**, 480-0344, both in Denver. Their prices are very reasonable, as are the shipping costs.

IPCAS volunteers **Maureen Arthur, Pam Baker, Carol Gleichman, Ann Hayes, Ellen Meehan, and Vicki Walsh** will make our chapter's contribution to Archaeological and Historic Preservation Week by going to the public schools with the Rock Creek Trunks, teaching students about prehistory using the trunk's interpretive materials. Thanks for the great contribution by those who prepared the trunks and to these generous volunteers for getting the word out about our region's fascinating past.

Steve Montgomery, IPCAS President

### **KUDOS : ROCK CREEK TRUNK**

Mary Jo Rosemayer, Volunteer Coordinator for Boulder County Parks and Open Space, had this to say about the Rock Creek Trunk: "Everyone raved over the incredible job that was done. You should be very proud. Thank you for all of your hard work. I speak for the staff as well as the volunteer naturalists when I say that you have provided us with a wonderful educational tool to be used for many years to come."

### **DEVIL'S THUMB CERAMIC SITE, (5BL102).**

Devil's Thumb revisited!!! Last summer a dedicated group of 12 spent 5 days excavating the Devil's Thumb site (5BL3440) with Jim Benedict. The site is in the kill area of a game driver system at an elevation of 11,200 ft. We excavated several 1 X 1 meter grids in two separate locations. One afternoon I "took a hike" to stretch my legs and walked west of the trail and across the drainage. I noticed some ceramic sherds, and when the crew came over to look, they found a few more. I requested permission from the USFS to excavate the site. It was granted by Bob Nykamp, the archaeologist for the Boulder Ranger District.

This summer, **July 17 to 21**, Monday through Friday, this site will excavated. This excavation will be a **PASSPORT IN TIME PROJECT** with the USFS. They will supply Llamas to carry our load five miles and 2000' up to our camp in the Alpine Tundra! We may have a cook tent and, most importantly, a privy. We are looking for CAS members to participate. A commitment for the full week would be preferable. If you can only do a few days, you will have to pack your own gear.

The campsite is located in the forest-tundra ecotone on a moraine between an unnamed pond (referred to as Devil's Thumb pond), and Devil's Thumb Lake at an elevation of 11,200' (3,414 m) on the west side of the Devil's Thumb Trail and west of the drainage between the pond and the lake in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. The site is located on USGS East Portal 7.5' Quad R74W, T1S in Boulder County, Colorado. The UTM designation is Zone 13; 441260 mE; 4424720 mN.

Please contact Jean, at 443-1702 (or 258-7964 after June 1st), to sign on as a crew member or if you need more information.

Jean Kindig, Principal Investigator

### **SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR NEWSLETTER**

May - Regular schedule	June - No Newsletter
July - Regular schedule	August - No Newsletter
Sept - Regular schedule	

### **LOST VHS TAPES???**

Kevin Black is missing a set of 7 VHS tapes on Lithic Analysis. Anyone who knows of their whereabouts should call him on 866-4671. Dankeschon

## FOOTPRINTS TO BE CONSERVED

A 90-foot-long trail of footprints made by some of our earliest known ancestors will be conserved beginning this June. The foot-prints of three people - two walking side-by-side - preserved in volcanic ash nearly 3.5 million years ago were discovered in 1977 by Paul Abell and Mary Leaky at Laetoli, just south of Olduvai Gorge in northwestern Tanzania. They predate stone tools found in the area by more than one million years, and attest that hominids were fully bipedal at an early date.

Through the trail was covered with sand and gravel soon after its discovery, acacia tree roots have penetrated several of the footprints, sand and gravel from reburial fill have become embedded in the soft ash, and the site has experienced severe surface erosion. The three-year project, sponsored by the Getty Conservation Institute and the government of Tanzania, will involve a detailed study of the footprints; surgical removal of tree roots and the application of a water-based acrylic to stabilize the prints; and eventual reburial under layers of fine sand separated by geotextiles impregnated with a slow-release herbicide. - A.M.H.S.

Reprinted: ARCHAEOLOGY magazine, March/April 1995.

## STATE CAS QUARTERLY MTG

The second quarterly meeting of the CAS Board of Directors will be held in Denver on April 22. Board meetings are open to all CAS members and I encourage everyone to attend. The Board itself consists of the current elected and appointed officers and active past-Presidents of the Society, Chapter Presidents, and elected chapter representatives.

These people, along with interested members, serve on the various committees established by our constitution or the Society President. Standing committees include Public Education, Publications, Membership, Audit, and Tesson fund. Other committees that were created ad hoc in the past year or so include Long range Planning, Ways and Means, and Constitutional Review.

All officers and board members of the Society serve on a voluntary basis and are expected to be versed in at least one aspect of the organization's functions. In order to thrive the Board needs the participation of members beyond those that are constitutionally designated.

As a Society we have been experiencing "growing pains". As an organization that is about to enter its sixtieth year we are structurally still in our childhood. For the past year the Long Range Planning Committee has been assessing this situation and in the next year we hope to start initiating specific remedies. Expertise in a variety of areas is needed

by the Board to reach these objectives. We need people with knowledge of foundations, fund raising, non-profit organizations, and grant writing.

Chapter members that have skills in any of these areas are encouraged to become participants in this process. This is your organization and your input into what it should offer is essential. Only with your assistance can we become a stronger and better Society.

Bob Mutaw, CAS President

## ATLATL OLYMPICS???

The TENTH ANNUAL ATLATL CONTEST will be held this year during the 1995 Annual CAS encampment at McPhee Reservoir Group Campground near Dolores, Colorado on Sunday, July 2nd starting promptly at 10 am.

Atlatls and Darts/Spears must be made from natural materials, but artificial sinew and modern glues may be used. New award plaques (introduced last year) will be presented to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners in three categories - under 16, Women and Men. The "GREATEST HONOR AWARD", our traveling trophy, will be awarded to the person with the lowest "coup" or score, between

the 1st place winners from the three categories. Only CAS members are eligible to compete for this award. If there are any "under 10" throwers this year, the time and place of their contest will be determined later. Participants may pick up contest rule sheets and safety rule sheets when they register for the contest on Saturday, July 1st or Sunday, July 2nd prior to the contest. Safety rules must be followed and participants must sign a Release of Liability form. A limited supply of atlatls and darts/spears will be available for loan to those who wish to try the sport of throwing and do not have their own equipment as yet.

We will again hold the "Free-for-all" contest with special handmade awards. Any type of equipment - modern or primitive - may be used, just so it resemble an atlatl and dart/spear.

This annual first weekend in July gathering of the Colorado Archaeological Society gives us all an opportunity to get together as a society, meet old friends and make new ones, and best of all, our children are welcome. Come join us for these three days of fun. You will be glad you did.

Leni Clubb, the Atlatl Nabob.



## SUM - EX BD MTG, 3/21/95

**Attendees:** Steve Montgomery, Kris Holien, Dock Teegarden, Donna Shay, Michael Landem, Anne Mutaw, Laura Viola, Ann Hayes.

**Minutes** of 2/21/95 were approved.

**Vice President's Report:** Membership survey form approved for mailing.

**President's Report:** IPCAS has become a "recognized cultural resource" through a signed agreement with the CU Museum, meaning that we can officially curate their materials, as we have already done with the artifacts and soil samples from the 4th of July mine site. The latter was a "cost share" agreement with the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest. We contributed the labor and ARNF paid the curation fee of \$350. (Steve Montgomery feels it is important to always have a contractual agreement with the Forest so that IPCAS doesn't end up paying the curation fees.)

Jeannie Hamilton, who keeps both membership and financial records for IPCAS needs help with membership processing. Someone in charge of "outreach" is sought. That person would contact members who have dropped out, persuading them to re-join if possible. IPCAS lost 25% of its old membership during the past year. There were some new memberships so that we did not shrink by 25%.

**Other Business:** Ann Hayes proposed a two and one-half day "Archaeology for Educators" workshop jointly sponsored by IPCAS and the Boulder Valley School district to be held before school resumes in August 1995, with credit available through Adams State College. Meg Heath, Chief Heritage Education Project Manager for the BLM at the Anasazi Heritage Center, would teach the workshop. Roseann Fulton, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator for BVPSD, offered free space at the Ed Center. She suggested that CAS publicize the workshop through the Colorado partnership (an alliance of schools in the greater metropolitan area), handle registration, and provide lunches for registrants. Discussion followed, with a decision to postpone co-sponsoring the workshop until August 1996, when there would be more lead time to plan it and fewer conflicts with our summer field program.

Submitted by Ann Hayes for Maureen Arthur, Secretary

## STONE AGE MASTER-PIECES FOUND

A gallery of superbly preserved Palaeolithic rock art has been discovered in a vast cavern near Vallon-Pont-d'Arc in southern France. The paintings and engravings of woolly-haired rhinos, bears and mammoths have been described by French archaeologists as one of the most important discoveries of the century, comparable in quality to the cave art at Lascaux 150 miles to the northwest and at Altamira in Spain. Named for its finder, Jean-Marie Chauvet, a government guard of prehistoric sites, the cavern contains at least 300 images created over 20,000 years ago. Archaeologists have not yet fully explored the Grotte Chauvet for fear of disturbing the site; they believe the cave, sealed by fallen debris for thousands of years, may contain more artworks. So far they have explored four great halls, each up to 70 yards long and 40 yards wide, connected by smaller rooms.

"Aesthetically this cave is as important as Lascaux," says Jean Clottes, France's preeminent rockart specialist who visited the cavern shortly after its discovery. "It's going to bring about just as many upheavals in our knowledge of Palaeolithic art as the discovery of Lascaux did in the 40s." Clottes says he experienced "one of the greatest shocks of my life" when he first saw the rock art. "The images are extremely beautiful... I felt as if I were in the presence of the greatest master artist or artists of all time."

Several features of the Grotte Chauvet are unique, according to Clottes. First, the majority of the animals - rhinos, bear, lions - were not animals hunted by Upper Palaeolithic people. At other such caves, animals that provided food were the ones most often represented, the cave also includes depictions of owls and hyenas not even found in other mediterranean caverns. Furthermore, says Clottes, a number of cave bear remains have been found. A skull on a rock near a wall covered with paintings suggests ritual activity. Clottes believes much of the art was created by the same person, or by artists who shared the same techniques and conventions.

The cavern was discovered by Chauvet and two explorer-friends, who had noticed a narrow hole out of which air was escaping. The three cleared debris from the hole, then lowered themselves down on a rope into a central chamber.

The French Ministry of Culture has announced that, in the interest of preservation, the site will never be open to the public. However, it is being studied and preserved so an accurate replica can be created for tourists. Meanwhile, French scientists are awaiting carbon dates of the images. - S.P.M.H.

Reprinted: ARCHAEOLOGY magazine, March/April 1995.



**1995 INDIAN PEAKS OFFICERS**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please check : Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Individual \$25/yr  New  
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Please make check payable to: Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS  
**Mail To:** P.O. Box 18301, Boulder, CO 80308-1301  
To receive membership card & roster, enclose a stamped, self-add envelope.

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**

**CALUMET**

*Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter  
of the Colorado Archaeological Society*

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