

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, October 15

IPCAS Executive Board Meeting

7:30 pm. / Boulder Police Bureau.

1085 33rd Street, Boulder.

Wednesday, October 16

Denver CAS presents

Dr. Douglas Bamforth

ÒWarfare and Violence Among the Indians on the Great Plains Before ColumbusÓ

7:30 PM. Ricketson Auditorium

Denver Museum of Natural History.

Tuesday, October 22

Boulder Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

Professor A. Trevor Hodge,

Dept of Classics, Carlton University.

ÒRoman Aqueducts and

Water SupplyÓ.

7 PM, CU Museum

15th & Broadway in Boulder

October 27 - 29

Picketwire Canyon Rock Art Tour

with Dr. Deb Dandridge

Trip is presently filled.

For information call Janet Lever

772-4554

Tuesday, November 26

Dr. Peter Gleichman:

ÒThe Final Word on Rock CreekÓ

7:30 PM, The Meeting Place Crossroads Mall in Boulder

Dixon to Speak on Ancient Remains at Alaskan Burial Site

Dr. James Dixon, our October speaker, is Curator of Archaeology at the Denver Museum of Natural History

and a recognized authority on the migration routes of early man from Asia to the Americas. He will explain how recent discoveries in the coastal caves of Southeast Alaska are opening a new frontier in North American archaeology. Excerpts from a report by Dr. Dixon follow herewith. Ed.

. . . My interest in the archaeology of the Northwest coast began in the 1970s while I was doing graduate work in caves with a Danish archaeologist. I realized that caves can be spectacular repositories of artifacts, often pointing to evidence of early habitation. I started teaching at the University of Alaska Museum in 1974, and did much cave excavation north of the Arctic Circle during the next 15 years. It

wasn't until 1990 that the southeast Alaska caves were brought to the attention of scientists. The Bering land bridge theory of population dispersal from Asia to North America was a ground-breaking idea that seemed to validate the origin of Americans from the Far East. It is clear from the brief field reconnaissance recently undertaken by myself and others that southeast Alaska's caves hold great potential for the discovery of remains that might date to the late Pleistocene, when humans first entered the Americas.

Most of the caves to date have been discovered by the Tongass Cave Project, a group affiliated with the National Speleological Society and the U.S. Forest

Service. . . .

In 1992, scientists documented twenty-two caves and rock shelters that contain evidence of past human occupation and use. These caves are among the few in the region that contain preserved art spanning the last 4,500 years. More than 60 paintings were discovered on the walls of one cave alone. In addition, organic remains such as wood, fibers, feathers, and bone are also well preserved in caves throughout the region. . . .

Each summer new and important discoveries are made. On an expedition in the summer of 1995, I headed out again to Alaska's waterlogged coast. With helmets, head lamps, notebooks, trowels, brushes, cameras, and, most important, knee pads, we headed into the dark, dank caves. Our most exciting find was a caribou bone that was later found to be about 10,500 years old. Because caribou are now extinct in this region, this discovery provides further evidence that the northwest coast was not completely severed from the rest of the continent by glacial ice near the end of the last ice age. It could also imply the existence of isolated ice-free pockets large enough to support these large animals. . . .

On our 1995 expedition, we found a previously unknown cave system on one of the outer islands that contained multiple stand-up passages several kilometers long, and a black bear skeleton associated with the fragment of a barbed bone projectile point. Radiocarbon dating of the bear bones suggests that the bear died in the cave about 9,000 years ago. Assuming that the bone tool and the bear bones are the same age, this may be the oldest evidence for human occupation on Prince of Wales Island, and one of the oldest dates for human occupation in southeast Alaska. I predict that as research and exploration continue, even earlier evidence of humans will be discovered, possibly predating the famous discoveries at Folsom and Clovis, New Mexico.

. . . .

- James Dixon

Volunteers Needed to Survey the St. Vrain Drainage

The following is based on an article by Michael Oberndorf who is the Project Director for the St. Vrain Drainage Cultural Resources Survey and Testing Project.

The St. Vrain Drainage Cultural Resources Survey and Testing Project came about in the spring of 1995 as the result of the discovery of two hunting blinds, 5BL5661 and 5BL5662, on the sides of Deadman Gulch, a tributary to South St. Vrain Creek on the eastern edge of the Roosevelt National Forest, near Lyons. In the process of recording the sites, it became clear that they were an under-reported type of archaeological site in the mountains-foothills from 5,500' to 10,000' in elevation all along the Front Range.

It was therefore decided to do some preliminary research in the literature and in the field, and create a project that would fill some part of the massive data gap in the database for the eastern front Range. The project is now half way through its second year and is expected to last at least three more.

The St. Vrain drainage was chosen because it was seen as a place in which a continuous transect could be taken, moving westward and upward from the likely winter camps along the hogbacks (Benedict, 1992), making a direct connection with the high altitude sites along the continental divide in the Peaceful Valley/Buchanan Pass/Sawtooth Mountain area.

As a working hypothesis, I suggest that small groups traveled up the ridge system between North and South St. Vrain Creeks, leaving their winter camp aggregations along the hogbacks in May/June. From these camps, the physically fit members of the groups continued into the high country, joining other groups in the fall for communal hunting, trading, and social activities.

It is possible, too, that rites of passage, involving rituals like the vision quest were undertaken at this time. By the end of October, I suggest that the groups

had returned to the hogbacks for the winter.

Anyone interested on becoming involved in the project may call me at at 303-364-2249. Beginners are welcome

--Michael Oberndorf

In Praise of PAAC and Kevin Black

Kevin Black is Assistant State Archaeologist. As such he is responsible for teaching PAAC classes state-wide. The acronym means Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification. Kevin's intensive but fascinating courses are offered twice yearly in Boulder and at other locations throughout the state. For information about classes, call our PAAC Coordinator, Morey Stinson at 530-7727. Ed.

In late June I participated in a PAAC archaeological survey near Cortez on land owned by the State Land Board of Colorado and leased by the Blanco Trading Co. Although I have surveyed before, this was an opportunity to work with Kevin Black on a survey crew of four people with Mesa Verde to the East and Sleeping Ute to the West.

During the five days I was in Montezuma County, we located and recorded a dozen sites including Paleo Indian, Historic Indian, and/or Historic. This provided an opportunity to combine practical experience with techniques learned in Basic Site Survey, Ceramic Analysis, and Lithic Analysis, PAAC classes I'd previously taken with Kevin. During this session we learned much about conducting a survey, drawing site maps, describing cultural resources, compass use and locational work.

Kevin's skills as a PAAC instructor shine in the field. He never once lost his professionalism, his standards of excellence or his sense of humor.

-- Ann Phillips

Groon Cabin Challenges Ingenuity of IPCAS

Survey Team

This Cultural Resource Survey of the Groon cabin was authorized by Bob Nycamp, Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest Service archaeologist, because of the necessity of removing the cabin from NFS land. IPCAS members have often helped with such projects, and will continue to do so. Ed.

On Saturday morning, June 8, Tom Cree rounded up his crew, loaded them into "The Brown Shoe Box" and drove up Boulder Canyon. Our destination was the Groon Cabin somewhere northwest of Sugarloaf.

On the way up, Tom, Jim Morrel, Karen Good, and I puzzled over maps that were fuzzy and hard to read. We doubted that the cabin gate would be unlocked, as the owner could not be contacted prior to our visit.

Was this a scavenger hunt, a PAAC training class, or a Forest Service map reading test? Heads together, we tried to decipher maps, translate directions, and spot road signs. And we discussed what we would do if the gate were locked.

Finally we located the drive leading to the cabin -- and did find the gate locked. "Now", I thought, "I'll learn to dismantle a locked gate. Wrong. It was gather packs and climb over it!

Now past the gate, we hiked up a fine road next to North Boulder Creek, looking for artifacts. We saw lots of flowers, animal tracks, and many pretty rocks, but no lithics. Suddenly, at the end of a small mountain meadow, there sat the Groon Cabin, right in the flood plain.

Out came forms (lots of them), graph paper, pencils, and camera. We all went to work.

The site consisted of the main cabin built in 1934 on the unpatented Trudy's Hope Placer, a second cabin built in 1954 to house a crusher but later remodeled into a small cabin with a great porch, two small storage sheds, a

pump house, and a small wishing well. The site sits in the flood plain and there is no sanitary disposal for the sewage. Otherwise, the cabins are in good condition. They will eventually be removed and the site restored to meadow. We thought about recycling one of those cabins as a clubhouse and library for IPCAS, if only we had the land to set them on and money to move them. Any donors out there?

To sum up, we found the site, did our work, had a great day in the mountains, and a lot of fun. A copy of our report will be filed with the Arapahoe Roosevelt National Forest office and the IPCAS library.

-- Martha Patterson

Dinwoody Rock Art Tour
and Documentation

Mike Landem, an admirer of Dinwoody rock art, penned this account of an independent tour of several sites in the Bighorn Basin. The tour was led by BLM archaeologist Mike Bies.

We left Longmont on Friday, spending the first two nights of the tour in the Fountain of Youth Campground in Thermopolis, Wyoming, a crowded RV camp beside the railroad tracks whose one redeeming feature was a vast pool of hot mineral water.

Two marmots and a family of feral cats lived in the cliff beside the pool. Two large soft-shell turtles swam in the algae-lined canal of warm water that flowed beside our tents, begging dog food from the RV people. An unused hot spring capable of heating a small city boiled continuously just over the fence from us.

On Saturday morning at nine we met Mike Bies, the BLM archaeologist out of Worland who would lead the tour. He had already obtained permission from the land-owners whose private property must be crossed to visit the first three areas.

I would like to stress that the only way to see most of these sites is in the company of Mike Bies or by special arrangement with the BLM. Three sites that the public is encouraged to visit are Castle Gardens, Legend Rock, and Medicine Lodge Creek.

We drove for several hours to reach the first sites, then spent the remainder of the day hiking various ridges and draws in the area. Some magnificent panels were to be found on very small, isolated rock outcrops.

The panels were almost all pristine and undamaged except for natural weathering. The art was amazing, some single figures measuring three meters across and one and a half meters high. There was a possible solstice figure, the famous Split Boy, Water Ghost Woman. Some figures had four fingers; others six. A few had short wings instead of arms.

The oldest date on rock art in the Bighorn Basin is 10,600 years B.P. This was a cation ratio and complementary carbon date recently obtained from the desert varnish layered over a small, realistic animal figure. Dinwoody seems to be a strictly Archaic phenomenon: 6,000 BP to 1,500 BP.

Cation ratio dating involves removing a tiny speck of desert varnish from the inside of one of the pecks, sectioning it, and studying the colors of each layer. The various colors are said to correspond to varying climatic conditions. A micro-sample of each color is then taken and dated, together with carbon obtained from bacteria locked within the varnish.

While still controversial, cation ratio dating is showing a close and consistent correlation with the accompanying carbon dates for any panels over 1,000 years old. Panels under 1,000 years old are not dateable by this method. Rock art dates can be used to date artifacts by association.

On Sunday we visited Legend rock. Golden eagles drifted overhead. A slow creek of warm mineral water flowed at the cliff's base. Hamilton Dome stood across the valley, bristling with oil wells. "If you hike there," Mike told us,

Take a gas detector and set it to one part per million. If it goes off, get out quick.

Janet Lever, with Mike's permission, whipped out a huge sheet of clear plastic and a dozen fine-point soft tip pens and we did a tracing of one of the panels. This is among the latest techniques for directly recording rock art. The art is protected by the plastic and never touched by human hands. However, any contact with the rock has the potential for damaging it and the only acceptable method of recording rock art for the casual visitor is photography by natural light. The panel she chose had never been recorded by this method and the original will be sent to Mike for his research. Working in shifts, it took less than an hour to complete the tracing.

The ancient and barely-discernible figures pecked into the uneven surface of the rock slowly emerged from the tips of our pens. Every peck, every natural crack, and all the exfoliations are carefully traced with different colored pens. Later, at home or in the lab, the drawing is completed, copied and reduced. Mike had to go back to work on Sunday afternoon. He recommended that we visit Medicine Lodge Creek on the east side of the Bighorn Basin, where a completely different tradition of art exists.

Medicine Lodge Creek was excavated in the late sixties by George Frison and a very young George Ziemans sporting pork-chop side-burns. They found over sixty different cultural horizons at the base of a cliff 200 meters long and 25 meters high which is literally covered with art from one end to the other. The styles and subject matter vary greatly. Some are painted in many colors, some ancient, ghostly figures of pure hematite lurk in the background, nearly obliterated by subsequent paintings; many others are incised. The largest incised elk I have ever seen covered one wall, two arrows protruding from its chest.

Two crystal clear streams of icy-cold Bighorn water joined just below our camp. The cliff caught first light (a real asset in the winter), the many trees provided deep shade at mid-day, slick-rock sandstone canyons led upstream through the foothills into the Bighorns themselves.

The cool voice of the stream and the songs of many rare birds blended to make our last day a most enjoyable one.

Waldo R. Wedel

Waldo Wedel of Boulder died Thursday, August 27 at Frasier Meadows Manor Health Care Center in Boulder. He was 87.

He was born September 10, 1908, in North Newton, Kansas, and attended Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, as well as the University of Arizona in Tucson. In 1936, he received the first doctorate in archaeology given by the University of California at Berkeley.

He worked for the Smithsonian Institution from 1936 until his retirement in 1976, specializing in prehistory and human ecology of the Great Plains.

He received the award in biological science from the Washington Academy of Sciences in 1947 and was president of the Society for American Archaeology in 1948. In 1965 he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. From 1968 to 1970, he was president of the Plains Anthropological Conference. He received honorary doctorates from Bethel College (1971), the University of Nebraska (1972), and the University of Kansas (1986), as well as the Society of American Archaeology's Distinguished Service Award (1986) and the first Plains Anthropological Distinguished Service Award (1991).

Since 1933, he published more than 120 papers and monographs, as well as three books.

Contributions may be made to the Archaeological Conservancy, 5301 Central Ave. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87108-1517

September IPCAS Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order on 5/21/96 at 7:30 pm. at the Boulder Police Bureau.

Present: Avery, Braitberg, Cree, Hayes, Holien, Landem, Montgomery, Morrell, Owens. Patterson.

Secretary's Report (Holie)

August minutes approved.

Treasurers Report (Owens)

Balance \$2,990.20. 86 paid memberships. Expecting payment from Alliance Francaise for \$457.

Vice Presidents Report (Avery)

Lecture schedule changes: Jim Dixon in October and Pete Gleichman with the final Rock Creek Report in November.

Co-President's Report (Cree)

Ongoing volunteer activities with Michael Oberndorf at the St Vrain Drainage.

Co President's Report (Landem)

Gifts for Mary mauz will be a poster and a T-shirt. Janet Lever and Courtney Yilk will be March lecture speakers. Picketwire Rock Art Tour will be October 27, 10 person limit. Contact Janet Lever. Need check for \$200 to buy 20 copies for resale at chapter meetings. Blue Mountain survey is on hold for now.

Old Business

Book inventory scheduled for October board meeting. Martha will bring books and shelving to the Police Bureau. Cree will type up inventory and shelf list. Avery volunteered attic for storage space.

New lecture facility: Morrell checking Unity Church. Braitberg checking CU Museum. Motion to purchase \$25 gift certificates from Tattered Cover for speakers' honorarium. Passed.

New Business

Preserve Unique Magnolia Asso.. (PUMA) looking for volunteers for oral history interviews. Hayes needs assistant editor for CALUMET who could take over editorship in the future. Hayes gave final report of Project Archaeology workshop. 14 attendees. Hayes will follow up with Megg Heath as to teachers' respondees to evaluate workshop and decide whether to hold it again next year.

-- Kris Holien, Secretary