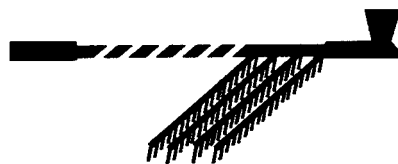


CALUMET

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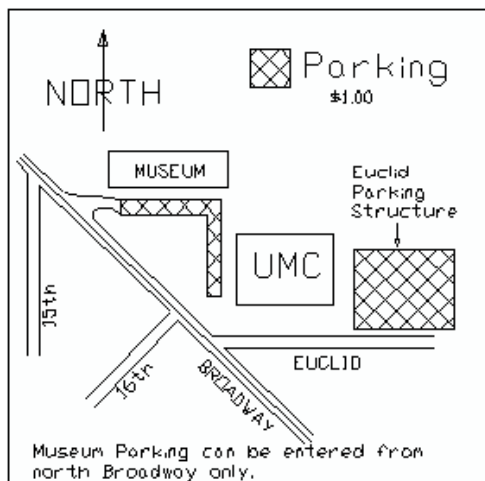
PRESERVATION
EXPLORATION



Newsletter of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society
September, 2002

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**General (lecture) meetings are held in the University of Colorado Museum, Dinosaur Room
Second Thursday of each Month, at 7:00 PM. The public is always welcome.**



The following is a situation that will last through next summer:

**I'm sure you noticed that our Museum parking lot 208 is off limits to non-permit holders, even at night. So, would you please pass that on to your members? They can park in the Euclid parking structure for \$1.25. Euclid parking lot is east of the Museum on Euclid. Just want to avoid tickets and towing.
Thanks, Carol Kliger**

After parking in the Euclid Parking Structure, walk west on Euclid to Broadway, follow Broadway on the sidewalk for one block and drop down into the Museum parking lot. It is only a few hundred yards.

September 5 Executive Board, 7:30 PM, The Atrium

September 12 Presentation meeting. Diane E. Sieber will present the paper that she presented at the recent Pecos Conference. The Dinosaur Room at the CU Museum, 7 PM.

October 3 Executive Board, 7:30 PM, The Atrium

October 10 Presentation by Nicole Branson, Topic: Manzanar War Relocation Center - a WWII Japanese-American internment camp in California. The Dinosaur Room at the CU Museum, 7 PM.

November 7 Executive Board, 7:30 PM, The Atrium

November 14 Presentation by Jim Pilkington, Topic: The Anthropology of Palau (a Pacific Island group). The Dinosaur Room at the CU Museum, 7 PM.

December 5 (Note the date change) Holiday Party. The Dinosaur Room at the CU Museum, 7 PM.

December 12 (Note the date change) Executive Board, 7:30 PM, The Atrium

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September Topic

Diane E. Sieber will present the paper that she presented at the recent Pecos Conference. The title of the paper is: "Noble/Savage: Early Spanish Ethnography in the American Southwest." Diane is the Associate Director of ATLAS and an Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at CU.

Reviews of her presentation at the Pecos Conference were very favorable, so this should be an entertaining and informative evening. Mark it on your calendar.

Another Great Garage Sale

The Annual IPCAS Garage Sale was very successful again this year - thanks to your great donations. Those who donated were: Maureen Arthur, Keith Bilby, Chris Cree, Tom and Ginny Cree, Cheryl Damon, Sheila Goff, Bernie and Kris Holien, Mike Landem, Cindy Miller, Jim Morrell, Russell Smith, Ernie Stiltner, Morey and Janet Stinson, Mort and Joanne Turner, Clay and Lynda Volkmann, and others. The club raised about \$1400 for the general fund.

Many thanks go to Clay and Lynda Volkmann, Cheryl Damon, Ginny Cree, and Sheila Goff. Without their setup and sale assistance, the event would not have happened.

Membership Renewals

Memberships that expired:

June, 2002 - Pam & Quentin Baker, and John McClellan

July, 2002 - Pat Bucknam, Connie Duras, R.J. Grigsby, and Jean Taylor-Smith

August, 2002 - Paul J. Weschler, and John & Kathy Wilson

Memberships that expire:

September, 2002 - Russell D. Smith

October, 2002 - Maureen Arthur, William Butler, Cheryl Damon, Sheila Goff, Tom & Beverly Meier, Elizabeth Novak, Barbara Stiltner, Joanne & Mort Turner, and David Yanoski.



"Amazing! The mummified remains of a prehistoric cave-painter—still clutching his brush! ... Seems he made an enemy, though."







Aspen Art - PIT Project

July - South Central Wyoming

This project located, photographed, and illustrated hundreds of carvings on aspen trees that were made by sheep herders, and others, from 1880 to the present. The pornographic images (and there were many) have not been included. There were many carvings that were difficult to identify or interpret, due to age.



A portrait by Elloy Trujillo, June of 1980



A horse from 1972, artist unknown.



A Carving from 1900



A "pirate" or "soldier" from the 1950s.

Spotted Pony Excavation



Byron Olson



Mike Landem, Cheryl Damon, Kris Holien



Rolland Douglas



Caroline Olson, Sarah Drummond



What to do with them there "artefact" finds

Rufus DaDigger

Many people, who are not qualified archaeologists, find artefacts every day. These can be chance finds while browsing junk shops, digging the garden, or clearing out the attic. Or artefacts can be the results of deliberate searches - for example, by a metal-detecting enthusiast. If you have found an artefact, what should you do with it and how do you find out about it?

Before we go any further, just what is an artefact? An artefact is any item that has been made by a person in the past. It is a piece of evidence for past human activity. Of course, this encompasses a huge range of items from prehistoric stone tools to Victorian gas lights, but all artefacts are important in their own context. Each one is a piece of evidence that helps us to put together a picture of our past.

If you find an artefact, often the first instinct is to clean it – DON'T! Many modern household cleaners contain powerful chemicals and abrasives that can easily damage old fabrics. There are also lots of 'old wives tales' encouraging us to rummage through the cupboards and make up concoctions of spices, ketchup and even toothpaste to bring artefacts 'back to life'. These are misleading, sometimes dangerous, and often ultimately damaging to anything they are applied to. Even if they don't cause damage to the artefact itself, they can destroy some of the information that could have been obtained from it. Many artefacts can themselves contain important evidence. For example, an old ceramic beaker can still carry traces of the elements it contained or a brooch could still have some delicate applied decoration in place. These things can be lost completely by over-zealous cleaning. Put the artefact into a plastic bag, like a sandwich bag or zip-lock something.

So how do you find out about your artefact? Ask the old fella down the road who knows everything? Not quite.

By far the best resource is your local museum. Homer Simpson complained that 'Nothing interesting ends in "eum".' However, if you actually go to one, you may be quite surprised (as was Homer). Museums have access to a wide range of specialists. They can also identify a huge variety of items from our past, and will have a detailed knowledge of artefacts that may only be known in your local area.

When you take the artefact to your museum, ask to see the curator or curatorial assistant. They will be able to tell you what it's made of, if it's rare, where there are other examples and how it was used, as well as giving you an estimated date for when it was made and advising you on how to look after it. If the curator is not a specialist in the same area as your particular artefact, they can still get the item identified for you by drawing on the experience of other specialists within the museum.

The museum may want to record your artefact for the archaeological record. Every artefact is a piece of evidence that helps us to build a picture of the past. If you find something and keep it in your shed without showing it to a museum, nobody else will be able to share the excitement of the find. Show that 'hummer' off! Every bit of evidence helps our cultural heritage and there are many gaps in our story. You never know, your artefact could be a very important find: share the knowledge.

Finally, many people worry that if they show any find to a museum, they will want to take it away from them. This is not true. Museums want to record information about finds so that everyone can find out about their past. Only if your find is classed as 'a treasure', will a museum want to acquire it (and even then they will have to pay you for it). Remember a trip with a find to your museum can benefit archaeology as a whole and also be a great help to you.

And you can brag to the boys at the bar that you 'really found somthen'.

Book Review

It's About Time - A History of Archaeological Dating in North America

Edited by Stephen E. Nash

It's About Time takes the reader through the methods of dating currently in use. Written in 2000, *It's About Time* is very topical. Details are provided on many methods of dating (archaeochronology) that are used in archaeological projects, today. Separate chapters are devoted to describing dating techniques in stratigraphy, ceramics, tree-rings, radiocarbon, archaeomagnetism, obsidian hydration, luminescence and how these methods are combined. Each descriptive chapter has been written by an expert in that field.

The first chapter was written by the Editor in order to place into perspective the timeline of dating developments in archaeology. This chapter is a little difficult to read because of the numerous references to persons and texts. In fact, it seems like the Editor is trying to name and cite every person that ever did anything in archaeology. But the individual chapters devoted to dating techniques are, for the most part, easy to read and understand. There are some interesting charts that greatly assist in understanding the topic under discussion. In fact, a couple of the topics would have benefited from more, or any, charts.

There is also a very interesting chapter regarding the comparison of dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) and Navajo historical records, both official and verbal tradition. The last chapter describes the historiography (method of collecting and reporting history) of dating events.

This is a very good book to read for the technology information or just browse for general knowledge of the techniques that are available.

Executive Board Minutes

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM at Alterra at The Atrium in Boulder.

Attendees: Cree, Ferguson, Holien, and Landem.

Secretary's Report (Holie): May Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report (Goff): Balance is \$3091.98.

Vice President's Report (Ferguson): Nothing to report.

President's Report (Landem): The May program by Dr. Jim Benedict was very successful and well attended with 64 in attendance. \$52 was spent for refreshments. Bob Powell has resigned from IPCAS Board of Directors and as CAS Representative.

Unfinished Business: Follow-up on June Garage Sale: recommendation from Cree- to next year make the Sale a volunteer activity and have volunteers sign up for specific days/times to price and sell. Members who had signed up for Spotted Pony Excavation will soon be receiving reminders from Bryon Olson. Landem will be working to arrange for Bruce Burgess of Price, UT, to lead Nine Mile Tour in October.

New Business: The CAS Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 27 at The Atrium and hosted by IPCAS. Landem, Smith and Holien (later replaced by Rosquist) volunteered to assist set-up and refreshments for the Quarterly Meeting.

Open Floor: Holien reported of a successful field trip/tour to Rocky Mountain National Park on Saturday, June 29. Approximately 20 people attended the tour of the Park's Museum Storage Facility by Curator Christy Baker and a field trip to a couple pre-historic sites led by Dr. Bill Butler. Holien will send thank-you letters of appreciation to Baker and Butler.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. - Kris Holien, Secretary -

This newsletter is published each month, except June, July, and August, by the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society. The views expressed in articles or editorials appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the membership or the Executive Board of the Indian Peaks Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society.

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Please check the chapter web-site at: <http://www.indianpeaksarchaeology.org>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - INDIAN PEAKS CHAPTER

____ **Individual** \$25 / Year ____ **New** ____ **Date**
____ **Family** \$28 / Year ____ **Renewal**
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