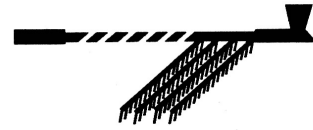


CALUMET



Newsletter of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society
December, 2008

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Web Site: WWW.INDIANPEAKSARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

- December 2,3** PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
December 10 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
December 11 **Christmas Party**, 6:00PM at St. Andrew's Church, See Page 2.
December 12 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
December 13 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
December 16 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
December 17 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
- January 1** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM, Location to be determined
January 8 **Presentation Meeting**, Anne Philips
January 9,10 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
January 13,14 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
January 21,22 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
January 27,28 PAAC Lab, Denver, See Page 2
- February 5** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM, Location to be determined
February 12 **Presentation Meeting**, Katy Putsavage, topic to be determined
- March 5** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM, Location to be determined
March 12 **Presentation Meeting**, Speaker and topic to be determined

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Membership Information

New Members:

Christine Strachan

Renewing Members:

Gretchen Acharya, Patricia Adler, William Butler, Tom and Ginny Cree, Cecil Fenio, Jeannie Hamilton, Dave Hawley, Sandy Jacobs, Michael Landem, Todd Marshall, Wanita and Steve McCowan, Isadore Million, Steve Montgomery, Donna Morgan, Ann and Dave Phillips, William Rosquist, Colleen and Calvin Schilling, Payson Sheets, Craig Skinner, and Clay and Lynda Volkmann

Glad you are with IPCAS!

Annual Christmas Party

The IPCAS Christmas Party will begin at 6:00 PM Thursday, December 11, in the basement Dining Hall at St. Andrew's Church, located at 3700 Baseline Road in Boulder. Our Christmas Party is a potluck dinner and fun get-together. The club provides the table service, utensils, and the beverages. Each person (or couple) attending brings one main dish and one salad/dessert to share. Bring your spouse or a friend, please. Plan on 25 people attending.

We also feature the White Mammoth Exchange. Each person brings a wrapped gift for exchange. Gifts should be something that you no longer need, no longer want, and are tired of looking at. Not-so-great gifts are the norm. The White Mammoth Exchange is very exciting and a fun end to our program year.



PAAC Lab, Denver

The Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) has archaeological collections that have yet to be completely processed for permanent curation. PAAC volunteers may receive credit toward certification at either the Laboratory Trainee or Laboratory Technician level by helping the State Training Coordinator in the cataloging and analysis of these materials.

The lab work is held at the Colorado Historical Society's Museum Support Center in east Denver (MSCD), typically on intermittent days in December and January, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Specific dates for the lab this winter are December 2, December 3, December 10, December 12, December 13, December 16, and December 17, 2008; and January 9, January 10, January 13, January 14, January 21, January 22, January 27, and January 28, 2009.

Prospective volunteers should contact the State Training Coordinator to participate. All supervised hours spent with specific materials in the collections apply toward the 40 hours of lab time required for certification. While the collection includes a variety of prehistoric and historical materials, a large majority is lithic (flaked stone and ground stone artifacts).

No prior experience is required in most instances. However, lab space and equipment for volunteers is limited, so if too many PAAC participants wish to volunteer on a scheduled lab day, preference will be given to those volunteers who have already earned the Lab Trainee certificate and are working toward the Lab Technician certificate, and others who have completed one or more of the following courses:

- a. Introduction to Archaeology, CAS & PAAC
- b. Introduction to Laboratory Techniques
- c. Prehistoric Lithics Description and Analysis

Prospective volunteers must complete the PAAC Candidate Application Form (PDF), and should be prepared to participate on a minimum of two days. Contact the State PAAC Coordinator at 303-866-4671 or kevin.black@chs.state.co.us

HELP WANTED

IPCAS PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, and SECRETARY

IPCAS elections for Officers and Executive Board are scheduled for the November membership meeting. The current Officers and Executive Board are in urgent need of assistance in running the organization for 2009. After 5 years as President and Co-President, I am stepping down but will continue to support the chapter by remaining on the board. At this time there are no volunteers to take either President or Vice President positions for the Chapter.

Neither position requires archaeology experience, or experience as board members. There is a lot of support from experienced board members in running the chapter and to provide backup coverage when necessary. A method of two people sharing the President position has worked very well in the past. Alternating responsibilities for introducing speakers and leading board meetings, etc. is effective if there are two people who would like to share the position.

Advantages to being on the executive board, whether as an officer or board member:

- Opportunity to work with a great group of folks and get to know other members of the organization at both the chapter and state level.
- Opportunity to influence the future direction and activities for the Chapter
- Chance to personally meet the speakers and learn who's who in the local archaeological community

The primary responsibilities of the positions, as managed by the current Officers and Board are:

President:

- Prepare agenda and run executive board meetings
- Primary focal point for receipt of information from other chapters and from the state organization.
- Prepare announcements and introduce speakers at general chapter meetings
- Serve as member of Board of Directors of CAS, including attendance at quarterly meetings when possible

Vice-President

- Provide back up support in absence of president
- Line up speakers (this is a shared responsibility with board)

Please consider providing support to the chapter by volunteering for one of these critical positions. If you are able to take on either of these roles, please contact me at 303-678-8076 or via email at cheryl_damon@msn.com

Thank you, Cheryl Damon, President, IPCAS

Officers Elected for 2009

President:

VP:

Secretary:

Treasurer : Katherine McComb

Professional Advisors: Bob Brunswig, Pete Gleichman

PAAC Coordinator: Cecil Fenio

CAS Representative: Kris Holien

Internet Manager: Cyndi Cree

Calumet Editor: Tom Cree

Archivist/Librarian: Kris Holien

Board Member: Joanne Turner

Board Member: Rick Pitre

Board Member: Anne Robinson

Board Member: Cheryl Damon

8th Century Syrian Church Discovered

By Albert Aji, The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria - Archaeologists in central Syria have unearthed the remnants of an 8th century church, an antiquities official said Thursday.

A Syrian-Polish archaeological team recently discovered the church in the ancient city of Palmyra, said Walid al-Assaad, the head of the Palmyra Antiquities and Museums Department. He did not say specifically when the church was discovered or the exact date the church was built. He said the church is the fourth and largest discovered so far in Palmyra - an ancient trade center that is now an archaeological treasure trove.

The church's base measures 51-by-30 yards, and archaeologists estimate its columns stood 20 feet tall and that its wooden ceiling would have been about 50 feet high, al-Assaad said. A small amphitheater also was found in the church's courtyard, where, experts believe, Christian rituals were practiced, al-Assaad said.

"In the northern and southern parts of the church there are two rooms that are believed to have been used for baptisms, religious ceremonies, prayers and other rituals," he said.

Ancient Palmyra, located some 150 miles northeast of Damascus, was the center of an Arab servant state to the Roman empire and thrived on caravan trades across the desert to Mesopotamia and Persia. Under the 3rd century Syrian Queen Zenobia, the city rebelled against Roman rule and briefly carved out an independent desert Arab kingdom before being reconquered and razed by the Romans.

Ancient Cave Yields Chinese History

By Randolph E. Schmid, The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A stalagmite rising from the floor of a cave in China is providing clues to the end of several dynasties in Chinese history. Slowly built from the minerals in dripping water over 1,810 years, chemicals in the stone tell a tale of strong and weak cycles of the monsoon, the life-giving rains that water crops to feed millions of people. Dry periods coincided with the demise of the Tang, Yuan and Ming dynasties, researchers report in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

In addition, the team led by Pingzhong Zhang of Lanzhou University in China noted a change in the cycles around 1960, which they said may indicate that greenhouse gases released by human activities have become the dominant influence on the monsoon.

The Wanxiang Cave is in Gansu Province, a region where 80 percent of the rainfall occurs between May and September. Chemical concentrations in the stalagmite indicate a series of fluctuations lasting from one to several centuries and roughly similar to records of the Little Ice Age, Medieval warm period and Dark Age cold period recorded in Europe. There were decade-long fluctuations between A.D. 190 and 530, the end of the Han Dynasty and most of the Era of Disunity, the researchers said. From 530 to 850 the monsoon declined, covering the end of the Era of Disunity, the Sui Dynasty and most of the Tang Dynasty.

The monsoon remained weak, with another sharp drop between 910 and 930, then it rose sharply over 60 and remained strong until 1020. The researchers found that after 1020 the monsoon varied but was generally strong until a sharp drop between 1340 and 1360: the mid 14th-century monsoon weakening. It stayed weak, with substantial fluctuation, until a sharp increase between 1850 and 1880.

According to the researchers, the 9th-century dry period contributed to the decline of the Tang Dynasty and the Mayans in Mesoamerica.

Evidence Puts Humans in North America 1,000 years earlier

By Randolph E. Schmid, The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - New evidence shows humans lived in North America more than 14,000 years ago, 1,000 years earlier than had previously been known. Discovered in a cave in Oregon, fossil feces yielded DNA indicating these early residents were related to people living in Siberia and East Asia, according to a report in Thursday's online edition of the journal Science.

"This is the first time we have been able to get dates that are undeniably human, and they are 1,000 years before Clovis," said Dennis L. Jenkins, a University of Oregon archaeologist, referring to the Clovis culture, well known for its unique spear-points that have been studied previously.

Humans are widely believed to have arrived in North America from Asia over a land bridge between Alaska and Siberia during a warmer period. A variety of dates has been proposed and some are in dispute. Few artifacts were found in the cave, leading Jenkins to speculate that these people stayed there only a few days at a time before moving on, perhaps following game animals or looking for other food.

The petrified poop - coprolites to scientists - is yielding a look at the diet of these ancient Americans, Jenkins said. While the analysis is not yet complete, he said there are bones of squirrels, bison hair, fish scales, protein from birds and dogs, and the remains of plants such as grass and sunflowers. The oldest of several coprolites studied is 14,340 calendar years old, said co-author Eske Willerslev, director of the Centre for Ancient Genetics at Denmark's University of Copenhagen.

"The Paisley Cave material represents, to the best of my knowledge, the oldest human DNA obtained from the Americas," he said. "Other pre-Clovis sites have been claimed, but no human DNA has been obtained." The date for the new coprolites is similar to that of Monte Verde in southern Chile, where human artifacts have been discovered, added Willerslev.

Newly discovered human fossil feces from a cave deposit in Oregon are the oldest evidence of humans in North America. The evidence shows humans lived in North America more than 14,000 years ago, 1,000 years earlier than had previously been known.

The Thanksgiving Tribe

Ken Larson, IPCAS Member, November of 1997

In North America, there are 18 Major Indian Language Groups, of which the Algonkian Language Family is one. The Algonkian Language and corresponding tribes are most dominant in Canada yet here in America you will find them also in New England, and down the Atlantic coast amongst the Delaware and Powhatan Confederacies. In the Great Lakes region you will find Algonkian speakers amongst the Ojibwa (Chippewa), Sauk, Fox, Potawatomi, Illinois, Menominee, Kickapoo and Shawnee. In the Rocky Mountains you will find the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Blackfoot Confederation and Gros Ventre speaking Algonkian language dialects, while way to the west in northern California you find two small Algonkian language tribes known as the Yurok and Wiyot.

This true story, however, is about two Algonkian speaking tribes of Massachusetts - specifically the Nobsusset of the Nausett confederation and the Wampanoag on the mainland.

In October 1995, I was driving with a fellow employee/friend along Route 6A near the town of Dennis (on Cape Cod) when I saw a sign that simply pointed across the road "Burial Ground of the Nobsusset Tribe of Indians". I quickly asked my friend to stop the car for I wanted to go and see this site. My previous experience had been that it would be very unusual to find a central burial ground for any Indian tribe - so why here?

Passing through an overhead hedge entryway between two large houses, we entered a burial ground on a hill overlooking a beautiful lake. The site was surrounded by a steel cattle bar fence, and inside some of the graves showed signs of disturbance with their remains exhumed long ago. My friend told me she had been driving that road for decades and had never before seen that road sign - yet this was my first trip on Rte 6A and I did see it. How strange for both of us I thought.

I later found after inquiring locally - that the Town of Dennis and the local Chamber of Commerce knew nothing about who was there. The Town kept the grass mowed and the Chamber was aware of this site ... however, no one in town knew anything about this tribe. Who they may have been, and what had become of them - with the knowledge of this tribe long ago forgotten by the locals.

I decided to do my own research. After looking for two years, I found someone in New Brunswick, Canada who knew who they were and what had happened to them. He told me the Nobscusset were a sub-tribe of the Nausett confederation. They had first met the French led by Samuel Champlain when he visited their home in the Brewster/Dennis area. He stated the tribe was not very friendly to Champlain or the French.

In 1614, English Captain Thomas Hunt came and captured many of them selling them into slavery. Captain Hunt also left behind an epidemic that killed 75% of the remaining tribe in just 3 years. Naturally, they began to bury their dead in large numbers and thus the beginning of the Nobscusset Indian burial ground that I saw (dating to the year 1614).

The Nobscusset were the first tribe to meet the Pilgrims on November 11, 1620 when the 'Mayflower' first dropped anchor off of Cape Cod with a ship full of hungry Pilgrims. Their ship had been blown off course by the strong northeastern winds.

Sending a landing party ashore to find food, they came across this same burial site where to their surprise the Nobscusset Indians had left bushels of corn for their recently deceased ancestors. To the Indians, corn was a sacred offering to the ancestors - while to the Puritans it was food for survival. The landing party quickly gathered as much as they could till suddenly Nobscusset warriors came running and quickly chased the pilgrims from the area.

Returning to the 'Mayflower' the Pilgrims then sailed off across Cape Cod Bay and landed (as we all know) further up the coast at Plymouth Rock on Dec. 22, 1620. There the Pilgrims remained starving and in hopeless conditions till the Wampanoag under Chief Massasoit taught them how to survive – giving these same Pilgrims later a reason for a '*Thanksgiving*' feast.

The man I found told me that in later years the Pilgrims returned to Cape Cod and made a re-acquaintance with the very first tribe they had met in 1620 - the Nobscusset. They then set about 'converting' the tribe; giving the Nobscusset a new name - "Prayer Indians".

Throughout New England other tribes too became "Prayer Indians". Unfortunately for the Nobscusset, you could say it put a bulls eye on their backs. While the Pilgrims converted the remnants of the Nobscusset, they did not socialize with them. Meanwhile, other tribes on the Cape became suspicious of these "Prayer Indians" fearing their new and strange ways. In the end, they were attacked and decimated in 1793 by other nearby tribes.

He told me too that the Town of Dennis in 1828 voted to put up the cattle bar fence and to maintain the burial grounds. So while the maintenance has been ongoing, the reason why has now been forgotten.

If perhaps someday you find yourself driving on Rte 6A on Cape Cod (Dennis) and you too see the same road sign as I did, now you know the rest of this Thanksgiving story.

By the way ... I did ask the man from Canada to send his historical information on to the Town of Dennis so the local people would know something about this tribe. Hopefully he did, so others will hear of their story.

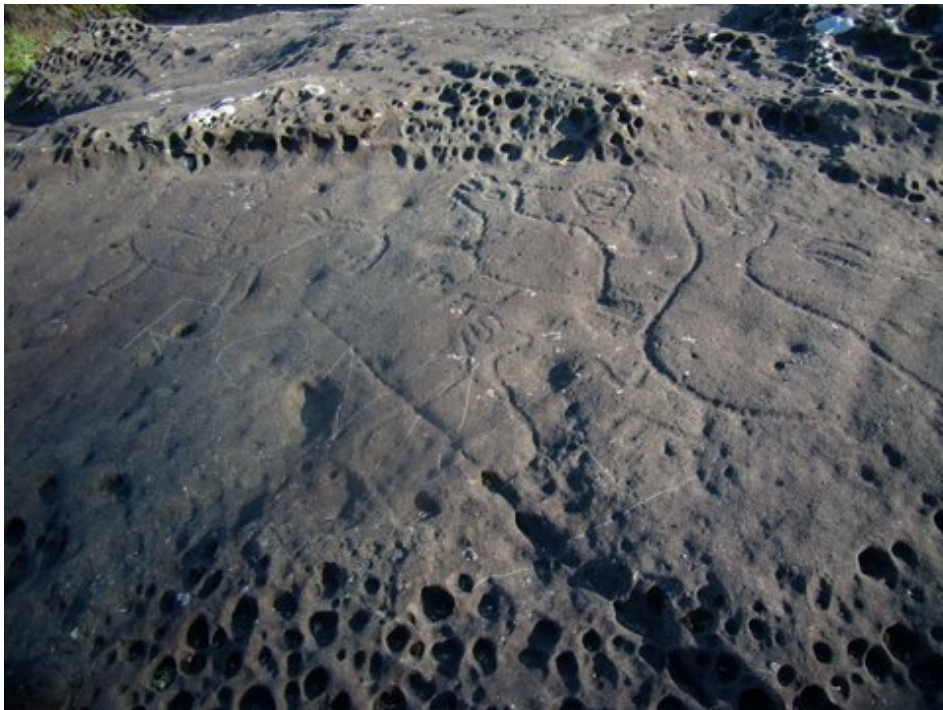
Vancouver Island Petroglyphs

Photographs by Doug Jensen



USS Beaver, West Coast Trail

These photographs were taken on a trail about four miles from the nearest road. The petroglyph panels appear to be historic.



Birds (and a horse on the left) at Stanely Beach on West Coast Trail

