In Plain View: Considerations Of Style In Prehistoric Barrier Canyon Style Rock Art.

With David Sucec / BCS PROJECT

In Utah and on the Colorado Plateau, the visitor to most prehistoric rock art panels commonly sees a cast of familiar representational image-forms—sheep, deer, snakes, birds, plants, and the human figure.

We see that it is not unusual for some prehistoric images to be painted or pecked over earlier created images. Often the superimposed and superimposing figure-forms appear to be in different styles and the juxtaposition not only suggests a difference in time but, probably, the individual image-maker's affiliation with a particular culture group.

On the Colorado Plateau, and in Utah, the major Prehistoric painting style is called Barrier Canyon and is thought to be the work of individual Hunter-Gatherers, with its origins in the Early Archaic (ca. c.e. 6,750/5,600). In the Barrier Canyon style, the dominant figure is almost always without appendages and has a ghost or spirit like appearance—the Spirit Figure. The best-known figure is tagged the "Holy Ghost" and is found in the Canyonlands National Park's Horseshoe Canyon annex.

This presentation will discuss the motif method of designating prehistoric rock art style, image-maker choices, and will touch on intentions, cultural affiliations, chronology and distribution of figures made in the Barrier Canyon style. And, finally, will address the problem of distinguishing between the Barrier Canyon and the Fremont styles.
Chipeta February Speaker
David Sucec

David is a visual artist, independent curator and scholar and is the Director of the BCS PROJECT. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. David received the Utah Humanities Council’s Research Fellowship, 1991. He has a Masters of Art in Painting with a Minor in Art History from San Francisco State University, and has finished additional studies in Art History and Archaeology at the University of Utah, the Utah Museum of Natural History, and the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education.

BCS PROJECT—a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the appreciation and preservation of Utah’s prehistoric art. The BCS PROJECT is in the process of creating a photographic inventory of Utah’s oldest prehistoric painting style—the Barrier Canyon style. Distinguished Utah photographer, Craig Law, is the Project Photographer.

Meet Your New Vice President: Dan Elsner

Hiking and exploring are my passion and archaeology has provided an additional layer of interest. My family moved to Grand Junction in 1983 and a new world of rock art and dwellings opened up for exploration. I don't have any formal training in archaeology so I joined the club about 6 years ago to learn.

Mayan culture has interested me and I have visited many sites in Central America. The highlight was being in Izapa Mexico on 12/21/2012 for the initiation of the new Mayan calendar. Izapa was the location where the first stela depicting the Mayan calendar was found.

I hope to continue in the footsteps of previous vice presidents and provide excellent speakers in the future. If you have any suggestions please pass them on to me.
Site Stewardship, Field Trips, and Other Random Notes
by Bill Harris

The Site Stewardship Program numbers for 2015 are still trickling in, but so far 25 site stewards visited 33 different sites. Over 160 hours of volunteer time have been tabulated for the year. A few stewards have dropped out of the program, so we’ll be looking to find stewards for those sites. Right now several stewards have been assigned more than one site, and a few sites have more than one steward. Surprisingly 11 of the site stewards aren’t Chipeta Chapter members – fertile ground for recruitment.

The chapter will be organizing a field trip to the West End later this year. The dates for the outing are April 29-May 2, 2016. The plan will be similar to last year’s outing. We’ll set up camp at the Ballpark Campground along the San Miguel River near the old town site of Uravan. Participants can camp, but there are no facilities except porta-potties are available. BYO everything. Folks who don’t want to camp can get a hotel room in Naturita at the Rim Rock Hotel – newly remodeled. We’ll be visiting some of the sites we did last year, but have added others, so repeat offenders will be covering some new ground. Access to most of the sites is by 4WD road and hiking over rough terrain. To sign up call Bill Harris, 249-8055. Details later this spring. Limited to 12 participants.

Glade Hadden, BLM archaeologist, has promised to provide a copy of the site survey we did with the BLM last spring in Spring Creek Canyon. The survey made way for the construction of 3 miles of new trail that is scheduled to be built later this year.

This year’s Celebrate Cedar Mesa is scheduled this year for March 4-6, 2016 in Bluff, UT. Visit the friends of Cedar Mesa website for more information. Some great speakers have been lined up, and the usual opportunities to visit with old friends and make new ones.

Report on the First Quarter CAS Meeting
Niwot Colorado, January 23rd, 2016
by Nick Ard

The first quarter meeting took place at the Left Hand Grange Hall #9 in Niwot on January 23rd. About 50 people attended, representing all but one of the CAS chapters. Discussion on a variety of issues occurred with no action taken until the board approved $100 dollars to assist with reconstruction of the web site. Treasurer, Preston Niesen requested that each chapter send in their annual treasurer’s report. The second quarter meeting will be held on April 23rd at History Colorado in Denver. The July meeting is scheduled for Pueblo on the 23rd also. This year’s annual meeting will be held on the CMU campus October 7-10 in Grand Junction.

Terri Hoff reported on the status of the Alice Hamilton scholarship. The scholarship is supported by three funding sources: the annual raffle, the silent auction, and sales or contribution of chapters. State treasurer Niesen added that sales of T-shirts, etc. by chapters are taxable to the chapters. A suggestion was made to provide an Alice Hamilton donation check box to the web site membership sign up or renewal pages and each chapter was asked to investigate this possible addition.

The communications & technology chair noted that the CAS Facebook page now has over 1260 members representing both professional archaeologists and advocates. Holly Norton, state archaeologist, talked about the profound changes occurring at the state level with History Colorado. Since June 2015, 37 positions have been lost to layoffs or retirements. During 2015, Kevin Black reported that PAAC classes were fewer in 2016 than 2015 but averaged higher attendance individually.

Going forward, CAS intends to set up state level site steward training classes, possibly in April, somewhere on the east slope. In anticipation of renewing memberships on line, the website administrator suggested that future membership categories will have to be further simplified. Southwestern Lore, the CAS journal will at some point be digitized, with savings going to other purposes. This year, the bulk of membership dues, $20,000, will be used to publish Southwestern Lore.

An internet policy revision governing CAS chapter and individual publication of archaeological sites on the web and in writing was proposed for ratification by the newsletter coordinator. The policy in its current form was tabled by CAS and has been resubmitted to each chapter’s board for further review.
Code of Ethics

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge:

- To uphold State and Federal Antiquities Laws.
- To support policies and educational programs designed to protect our cultural heritage and our State’s antiquities.
- To encourage protection and discourage exploitation of archaeological resources.
- To encourage the study and recording of Colorado’s archaeology and cultural history. To take an active part by participating in field and laboratory work for the purpose of developing new and significant information about the past.
- To respect the property rights of landowners.
- To assist whenever possible, in locating, mapping and recording archaeological sites within Colorado using State Site Survey forms.
- To respect the dignity of peoples whose cultural histories and spiritual practices are the subject of any investigation.
- To support only scientifically conducted activities, and never participate in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit or misrepresentation about archaeological matters. To report vandalism.
- To remember that cultural resources are non-renewable, and do not belong to you or me, but are ours to respect, to study and enjoy!

Signature: ______________________________ Other Family Signature: ______________________________

Check One: **Annual Dues** (includes state CAS dues)

- _____ Individual with Southwest Lore*.................. $30
- _____ Individual senior (no Southwest Lore*).............. $20
- _____ Family with Southwest Lore*.......................... $35
  (Family = 2 or more members, same household)

*Southwest Lore is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is mailed quarterly. Most of our members elect to subscribe, and it helps support CAS.

Date: ___________________  Membership Application
Name: ___________________________ ___________________________
Street or RR Address: __________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: __________
Telephone: _________________________________________________________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________
(email required to receive Chipeta & CAS newsletters & field trip info)

Make checks payable to “Chipeta Chapter CAS” and mail the signed application to:
Dennis DeVore
353 Dakota Circle
Grand Junction, CO 81507
CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

- **President:** This position is open. Please contact a board member if you are interested in volunteering.
- **Vice Pres:** Dan Elsner, elsner.dan@gmail.com
- **Secretary:** Annette Butts, annettebutts63@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Jim Douras, mtncpa@montrose.net
- **CAS Rep:** Nick Ard, nradr@bresnan.net

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter:** Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu
- **Membership:** Dennis DeVore, ddv48@mac.com
- **BLM Liason:** Bill Harris, trlgpa@skybeam.com
- **Library:** Linda Manske, cc-manske2@bresnan.net

OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS

- **Scholarship** Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Bill Manske, trlgpa@skybeam.com

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

The next PAAC class for us is April 16 & 17: It is on “Research Design and Report Writing.” Contact Beverly Kolkman for more information.

PAAC Contacts

**Kevin Black**
kevin.black@state.co.us
Assistant State Archaeologist / PAAC Coordinator
303.866.4671

**Beverly Kolkman**
bk7753@msn.com
Chipeta PAAC Coordinator
970.250.8893

Chipeta March Speaker

Paul Reed of Salmon Ruins will be our presenter in March with a program called “The Greater Chaco Landscape: A Fragile Resource at Risk.”

He will talk about the wonder and diversity of Chaco and the current threats it faces from oil and gas development.

Baldridge Hall, United Methodist Church, South 1st and Park, Montrose.

Field Trip Committee

George Decker - gdeckercc@gmail.com
Ed Horton - hortoned@gmail.com
Carol Patterson – Urracapro@aol.com
Bill Harris - trlgpa@skybeam.com

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader