

PASTIMES

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeological Society

Volume 33, No. 3, March 2013

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Historic Indian village site along Wolf Creek, Ochiltree County, Texas

Photograph by Scott Brosowske



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Next PAS meeting: *Wednesday, March 20th, 7 P.M., At Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, 2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, TX.*

Guest Speakers will be Kathryn A. Harrison and Dick Zahm, *examining the Washita Battle and the ongoing role of the National Park Service in preserving and interpreting this event.*



Pages 4-6

“A Palmillas Dart Point Embedded in a Bison Vertebra from an Unknown Site”, by Christopher Lintz.



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Last PAS meeting: Guest Speaker Ken Weidner presented “The History and Evolution of Silver and German Silver Ornaments”.



Pages 8-9

Responses from Rolla Shaller and Chris Lintz on our request for more information on the article on petroglyphs in the last issue.



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3RD ANNUAL PERRYTON STONE AGE FAIR:

Fair 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Dinner and Raffle 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm, April 13, 2013. *Co-sponsored by Courson Archaeological Research and the Museum of the Plains, Perryton, Texas.*



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CALL FOR FINAL PAPERS:

SOUTHWESTERN FEDERATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

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Upcoming Events...

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Minutes from last PAS Meeting are unavailable at this time.

Preserving and Protecting the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

The Washita Battlefield National Historic Site protects and interprets the setting along the Washita River where Lt. Col. George A. Custer led the 7th U.S. Cavalry on a surprise dawn attack against the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle on November 27, 1868. The attack was an important event in the tragic clash of cultures of the Indian Wars era. This presentation examines the Washita Battle and the ongoing role of the National Park Service in preserving and interpreting this event.

Kathryn A. Harrison and Dick Zahm will present this topic at the Panhandle Archaeological Society meeting Wednesday, March 20, at 7 PM at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, 2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas.

Biographies:

Kathryn A. Harrison

Kathryn has had an eclectic career, having been a high school history teacher in Brownsville, Texas, a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, and a Peace Corp Volunteer in Barlinek, Poland. But, she loves the National Park Service best having served at Mesa Verde National Park, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve. She's been at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in Cheyenne, Oklahoma since December 2008 and is the park's Education Coordinator.

Dick Zahm

Dick began his career with the National Park Service in June of 2002 at the Pea Ridge National Military Park. He came to the Washita in 2004 and has assumed the role of Natural Resources Manager as he has developed strong partnerships with the Southern Plains Network, the Great Plains Trail, and the Nature Conservancy. Dick is the park's ADA coordinator and the COTR for a multitude of park projects from the building of the new visitor center, to the creation of the park's Native Garden – a partnership he developed with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe.



Kathryn Harrison and Dick Zahm

A Palmillas Dart Point Embedded in a Bison Vertebra from an Unknown Site

By Christopher Lintz, Cultural Resource Specialist, Wildlife Division, TPWD

Over the past decade, I have volunteered as an archaeological specialist for the biannual public Identification Day held by the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas. This event enhances public awareness, and is structured like the Antiques Roadshow, except the specialists do not discuss price values of the public's materials. Typically the "experts" include specialists in identifying rocks, minerals, fossils, bones, snakes, and artifacts. The event is also similar to television program "Pawn Stars" for "you never know what will walk through those doors."

This past December, one of the more memorable items brought for identification was a dart point firmly embedded in the neural arch of a bison vertebra (Figure 1). The owner, Mr. Dan Hutton of Georgetown, said that he purchased the specimen from a curio shop in Fredericksburg sometime between 1980 and 1982. He recalled that the shop owner said that the item was acquired from a "local rancher". But after more than 30 years, it is very unlikely that anyone would be able to trace the specimen back to a specific archaeological site. Mr. Hutton was interested in knowing whether his purchase was the real thing, or something fabricated and foisted on unsuspecting buyers. The importance of this unproven artifact rendering it worthy of this note and the recovery of such a specimen is not only rare and interesting, but it also provides some insights into game procurement practices.

The bone element is the first thoracic vertebra, which is the spinal bone below the neck and immediately in front of the hump. The point is embedded in the middle of the neural arch at about a 60° angle from the horizontal plane on the left side. The point is held fast in the bone and a substance, possibly calcium carbonates, is at the contact between the bone and the point on the exterior. The point penetrates through the neural arch to a depth of about 1.47 cm (88 %) into the spinal cord opening. A small bone splinter is adhering to the inside of the neural arch.

The projectile point is classified as a Palmillas dart point (Turner, Hester and McReynolds 2011: 145). The point is a moderately large and relatively thick corner notched dart head with slight shoulder barbs, relatively wide and deep corner notched, a markedly expanding stem, pointed-to-angular basal tangs, and a convex base. The dimensions of the dart head are provided in Table 1. All dimensions were measured using spreading calipers; however, the specimen length is approximated, since the bone prevented accurate measurement of the specimen.

Table 1. Dimensions of the Palmillas dart point embedded in the bison thoracic vertebra.

	cm		cm
Point Length	4.30	Stem Length	1.25
Shoulder width	3.10	Blade Length	3.05
Thickness	0.75	Notch width (L&R)	0.47
Stem width	1.38	Notch depth Left	0.62
Base width	1.85	Notch depth Right	0.72

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A Palmillas Dart Point ...Continued from Page 4

The dart point is made of a dark gray/very dark gray (10YR 3.5/1) coarse chert or fine quartzite with mottles of light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) mottles and very tiny white specks throughout. The precise kind of chert used to make the point is uncertain; the colors are within the range of variation of Edwards Cherts, but the color and texture are not common for this central Texas chert. The texture and some color aspects may also be within the range of variation of Potter chert/quartzite found within the Texas panhandle and the dissected Redbed Plains to the east.

The association of Palmillas style dart points with bison kills is relatively well known for bison kill sites the Rolling Redbed Plains, especially in the southeastern corner of the Texas Panhandle between the Pease River and the Salt Fork of the Red River. The series of sites includes Twilla, Collier, Strong, Doc Bell, Hoover, Finch, Sitter, RO Ranch, and Buzzard Roost (Tunnell and Hughes 1955; Hughes 1977, 1989; Lintz et al. 1991). A series of seven radiocarbon dates on bison bone collagen from these kill/camp sites range from $2,335 \pm 100$ B.P. (380 ± 100 B.C. $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ fractionation corrected, Beta-1927) to 980 ± 100 B.P. (A.D. 970 ± 100 , not corrected for $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ fractionation, RL-572). Most dates from these kill sites overlaps the range of bow and arrow use for the southern Plains area, and suggests that atlatl and dart points persisted in use after the appearance of the bow/arrow technology; especially in the hunting of larger herbivores. Perhaps the technology was used by people from the Lake Creek (Plains Woodland) or the Palo Duro complexes.



Figure 1. Left side and posterior view of bison vertebra within embedded Palmillas dart point.

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A Palmillas Dart Point ...*Continued from Page 5*

One interesting aspect of these Transitional Archaic and Late Prehistoric I period bison kills in the lower panhandle is that most are found near the constricted heads of arroyo gullies. The setting suggests that the hunting tactic involved driving small herds of bison into the mouths of arroyo and when the animals were constrained by the topography inside the incised gully, the hunters would dispatch the herd.

In this regard, the 60° angle of the spear head in the neural arch in the present specimen strongly suggests that the dart was thrown from an elevation above the animal, similar to that expected in an arroyo kill situation. The occurrence of the dart head in the first thoracic vertebra suggests that the hunter was probably trying to hit the lungs, or other vital organs in the upper chest. That about 2 cm of the chert point base sticks above the outside of the neural arch, perhaps reflects the presence of a wooden foreshaft wider than the dart head that stopped the projectile's penetration when the wooden foreshaft hit the bone. The 1.47 cm penetration into the spinal cord might not have inflicted the fatal blow, but the wound would have probably immobilized the bison and sealed this animal's fate.

In summary, the style of point embedded in the bison vertebra is similar to comparable points found in other bison kill sites. The presence of calcium carbonate crust on the outside helps solidify the bone and point together and is probably derived from soil formation processes. The presence of a small interior splinter of bone strongly suggests that the specimen is a genuine archeological specimen and not fabricated for the tourist trade. While it is unfortunate that the location of the kill site remains surrounded in mystery, the recovery of this specimen is a rare occurrence, and provides some insights into bison hunting and procurement strategies.

References Cited

Hughes, David

- 1977 Analysis of Certain Prehistoric Bison Kills in the Texas Panhandle and Adjacent Areas. M.A. Thesis, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.
- 1989 Terminal Archaic Bison Kills in the Texas Panhandle. B.C. Roper, editor.
In the Light of Past Experiences: Papers in Honor of Jack T. Hughes. Panhandle Archeological Society Publication 5: 183-204, Amarillo.

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- 1991 Additional Radiocarbon Dates from the Twilla Bison Kill Site, Hall County, Texas. Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society (for 1989) 60:257-266.

Tunnell, Curtis and Hughes, Jack

- 1955 An Archaic Bison Kill in the Texas Panhandle. Panhandle-Plains Historical Review 23:63-70.

Turner, Ellen Sue; Hester, Thomas and McReynolds, Richard

- 2011 Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians. Taylor Trade Publishing, Lantham.

February PAS Speaker Ken Weidner Presented the History and Evolution of German Silver and Silver Ornaments used by Southern Plains Tribes

This presentation examined the history and evolution of the use of Silver and German Silver ornaments used by the Southern Plains tribes. It used primary sources, historic invoices, museum examples, and actual silver artifacts recovered from archaeological contexts. The principle focus was on the pre-1874 period ornaments, not the later, more elaborate silver, which flourished during the later reservation era. Early trade in sheet German Silver, tools used in metalworking, and the decorative techniques used were discussed.



Ken Weidner with Dog bonnet

Chris Linz and Rolla Shaller Respond to Request on News Article

In our last issue we featured a 1959 Amarillo, Texas newspaper clipping about a supposed Thunderbird among petroglyphs located north of Amarillo. We requested help from our readers about additional information.

Chris Linz sent us this colored version (right) of the article we featured last issue from the Chimney Rock Art Site in the Texas panhandle and a copy of a page from "The Rock Art of Texas Indians" (below).

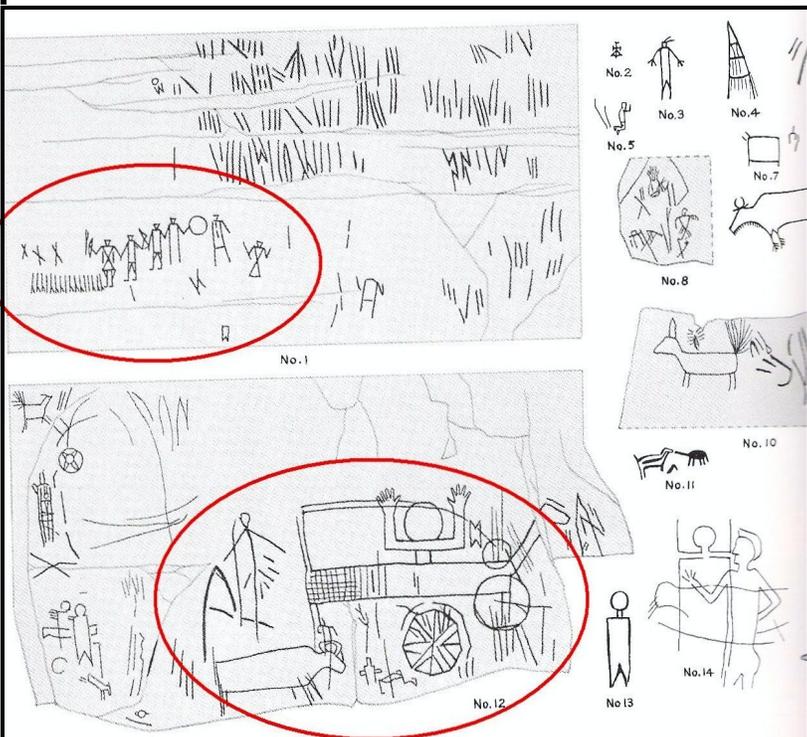
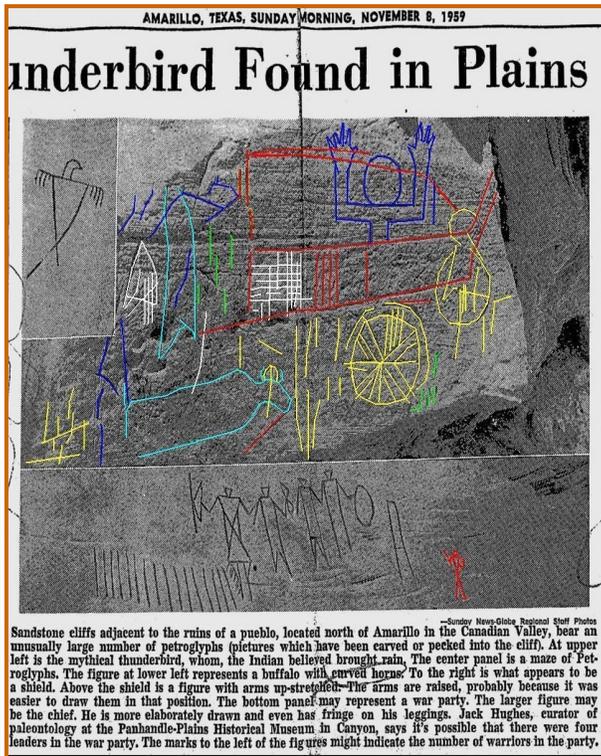


Plate 159. Chimney Rock. Copied July 22, 1941. Scale: Nos. 1-15, 3/8" to 1'

PLATE 159

Chimney Rock. These petroglyphs had been scratched or lightly carved into the soft sandstone of Chimney Rock and the bluff at the end of the mesa. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are on the east side of Chimney Rock. Only the bottom row of petroglyphs on No. 1 can be reached now without the aid of a ladder. Nos. 8, 10, and 12 are on the point of the mesa directly across from Chimney Rock. The other designs are scattered along the bluff for about one hundred yards west of the point. Nos. 14 and 15 seemed to be different from the other designs but looked like Indian work. Two or three other lightly scratched designs similar to No. 14 looked so modern that they were attributed to the white man and were not copied. No. 15 was scraped smooth like the buffalo designs at Mjuares Creek, Plate 154.

weapons, and warriors reflects the major of such tribes as the Kiowas, their Kiowa confederates, and the Comanches. Ar peoples could have inscribed these probably during the last half of the century.

At another site three miles from the Alibates Creek at the Alibates Creek a few miles west of Borger in Hutchinson are some very different petroglyphs (No. 1). The rocks are hard enough so glyphs would last many centuries, and like historic petroglyphs in the Panhandle may well be the work of the people at the ruins, though there is no direct ev

Chimney Rock Art Site copied July 22, 1941

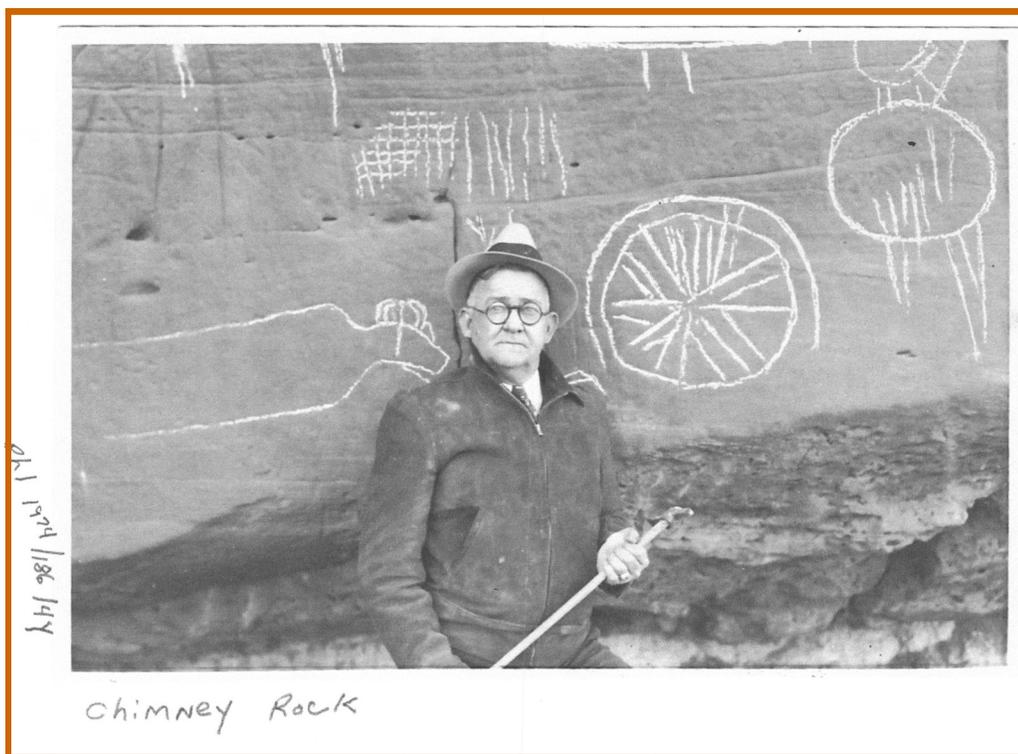
Forrest Kirkland and William Newcomb

1967 (1996 reprint) *The Rock Art of Texas Indians*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Page 214 (Plate 159, No.1 and No.12).

Continued on Page 9

Petroglyphs... continued from Page 8

Rolla Shaller provided these pictures and this information: "The rock Art in the newspaper article is at the other Chimney Rock, North of the Canadian River on the Bivins ranch. There are ruins there. This site was recorded by the Texas Rock Art Recording Task Force in March 2006, (41PT133). Also there during the recording were, Rolla S, Lisa Jackson, Jeff Indeck, Scott Brosowske, Alvin Lynn and Joe Falkenberry. There may have been other PAS Members also. Hope this helps."



3RD ANNUAL PERRYTON STONE AGE FAIR

Fair 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Dinner and Raffle 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

April 13, 2013

Co-sponsored by Courson Archaeological Research
and the Museum of the Plains, Perryton, Texas

We are very excited to announce that the third annual Perryton Stone Age Fair will be held at the Museum of the Plains, Perryton, Texas on April 13, 2013! The fair will run from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The fair will again be followed by a catered dinner and raffling of door prizes for exhibitors. The fair will again be free for all exhibitors and visitors. We will have a total of 100 tables (72" x 30" in size) available for exhibiting collections. This year exhibitors have the option of setting up their collections at the museum on either Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Please let us know if you are interested in setting up on Friday so that we can plan accordingly. We have also learned from our mistakes last year and will label all of the reserved tables so that everyone will know where to set-up. Motel/Hotel discounts will be again available. Buying, selling, and trading of artifacts is prohibited. As always, armed security guards will be present at the fair. We will have additional information posted on the CAR webpage in the upcoming weeks. For additional information or to reserve table space contact Courson Archaeological Research by phone at 806-434-0157 or email at sbrosowske@pphm.wtamu.edu. Please pass on the word of our fair to all interested parties. We are looking forward to having another fantastic fair this year and seeing all of our old friends (and making new ones)! Take care.



**49TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTHWESTERN FEDERATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
MIDLAND, TEXAS, APRIL 6, 2013
HOSTED BY THE MIDLAND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

The 49th Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies (SWFAS) Meeting will be held in Midland, Texas on Saturday, April 6th at the Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. The meeting will start at 9AM with check in at 8:30AM.

Papers from avocational, student, and professional archeologists, as well as historians, are welcome and appreciated. All presenters will have the opportunity for their papers to be published in the SWFAS transactions. Each of the five member archeological societies (Concho Valley, Iraan, Midland, Southeastern New Mexico, and Panhandle) are responsible for presenting at least one paper per society on a topic involving the SWFAS area (western Texas and eastern New Mexico). A printed copy of the paper and an electronic copy in Microsoft Word format will be needed by October 1, 2013 for publication in the SWFAS transactions. Presenters will be given 30 minutes for each program. **Please send your paper's title, a brief abstract, and a short biographical sketch by March 15, 2013 to the street or email address below.** If you have any special requirements for your presentation, please let us know. Slide (carousel) projectors and a computer (as well as a projector) for a PowerPoint presentation will be available. If you need a table for informational displays, please contact us.

The SWFAS board meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6th, during lunch. At least one voting representative from each member society should attend the board meeting.

**PLEASE SEND ALL PRESENTER INFORMATION BY MAIL OR EMAIL. PLEASE SEND ALL REGISTRATION FORMS AND REGISTRATION FEES BY MAIL.
CONTACT JACK LOWDER IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.**

Jack Lowder
4009 Fairwood Dr.
Midland, TX 79707
Phone: (432)-697-5656 Email: jack.lowder@suddenlink.net

**49TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE SOUTHWESTERN FEDERATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES**

REGISTRATION FORM

The registration fee for the annual SWFAS Meeting is \$10.00 per person. The registration fee will cover refreshments and meeting materials. Please make your check payable to Midland Archeological Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Upcoming Events

Panhandle Archeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center
2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas
March 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm

35th Annual Flint Hills Conference

Manhattan, Kansas
March 22-23, 2013

Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies

April 6, 2013, 9:00 AM -5:00 PM
Sibley Nature Center, Midland, Texas,

80th Anniversary Celebration of Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC)

Palo Duro Canyon State Park
Saturday April 6, 2013

3rd Annual Perryton Stone Age Fair

Museum of the Plains
Perryton, Texas
April 13, 2013 from 10 am to 5 pm

Panhandle Archeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center
2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas
April 17, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Panhandle Archeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center
2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas
May 15, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Courson Archaeological Research Summer Field School

Perryton, Texas
May 26-June 7, 2013
[http://www.coursonarchresearch.com/2013 field school/index.html](http://www.coursonarchresearch.com/2013_field_school/index.html)

Texas Archeological Society

Summer Field School
June 15-22, 2013
Hondo, Texas

Pecos Conference

August 8-11, 2013
Flagstaff, AZ.

Texas Archeological Society

Annual Meeting
October 25-27, 2013
Del Rio, Texas

PAS January Meeting Minutes

No Minutes available at this time.