

PASTIMES

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeological Society

Volume 33, No. 4, April 2013

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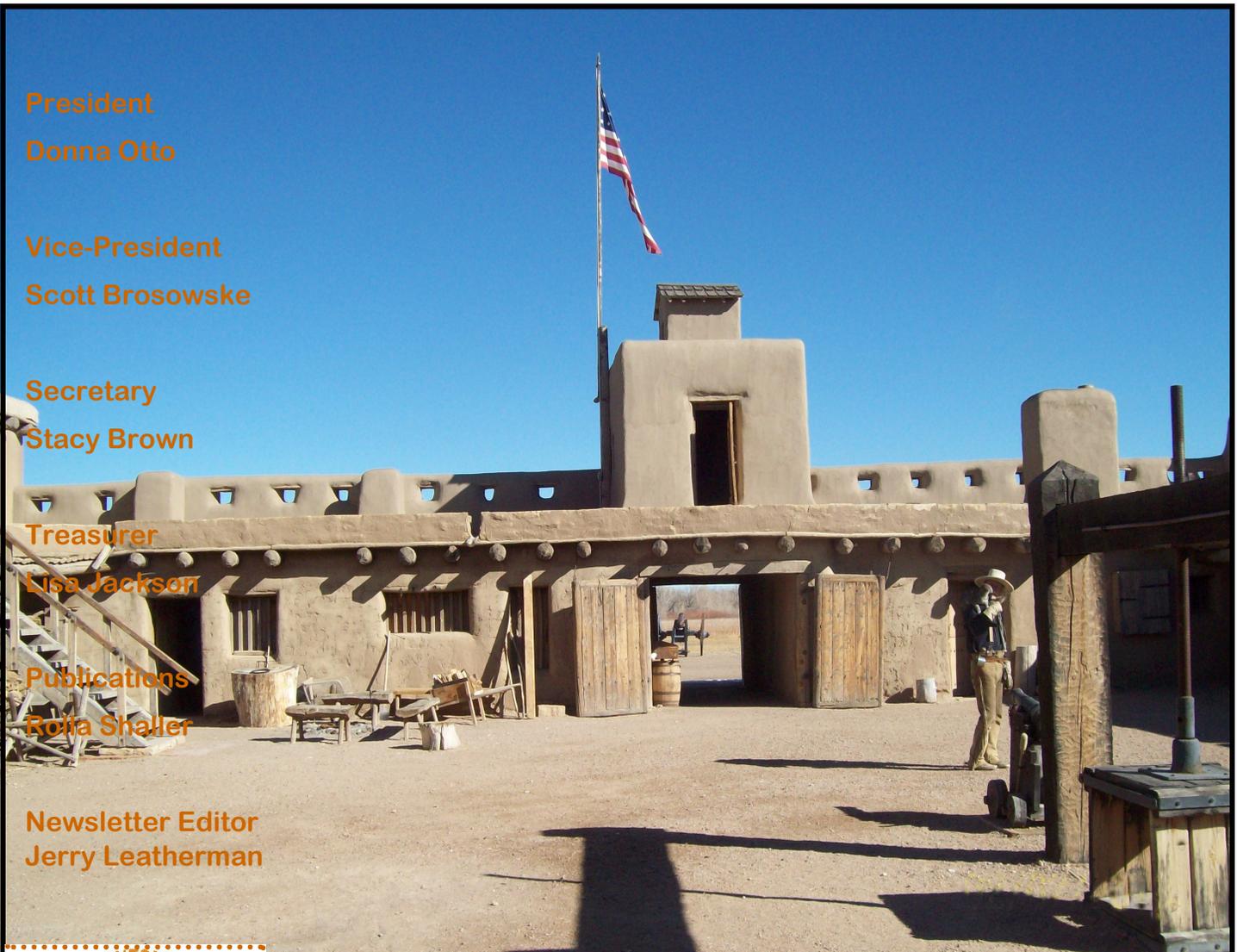
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Jerry Leatherman



Reconstructed "Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site"

North through front gate; Right is hide press with small cannon north of it, and larger cannon in front of fort.

near La Junta, in southeastern Colorado

Photograph by Jerry Leatherman



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Next PAS meeting: *Wednesday, April 17th, 7 P.M.,*

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, 2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, TX.

Guest Speaker will be Dr. Paul Carlson, *Texas Tech University*, speaking on the "Myth and Misconception in the 1860 Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker".



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"Cleaning and Restoring, a Rare Colt Revolver Cylinder"

By James R. Coverdale



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Last PAS meeting: Guest Speakers Kathryn Harrison and Dick Zahm presented "Preserving and Protecting The Washita Battlefield National Historic Site".



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Old West Heritage Rendezvous:

May 30-June 1 at the Kwahadi Kiva Museum of the American Indian

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PAS field trip in mid-June to Blackwater Draw multi-component site in New Mexico.

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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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Upcoming Events...

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Minutes from last PAS Meeting.

Myth and Misconception in the 1860 Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker

On Wednesday night, April 17th, Dr. Paul Carlson will be the guest speaker at the Panhandle Archaeological Society meeting at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, 2301 North Soncy, Amarillo, Texas.

Paul Carlson is Professor Emeritus of History at Texas Tech University. He has published numerous articles, essays, and reviews plus several books, some of which have been published in Europe and one of which was a History Book of the Month Club selection. He is a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association, a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas, and a member of the Texas Institute of Letters. He lives with his wife, Ellen, in Ransom Canyon, near Lubbock, Texas.



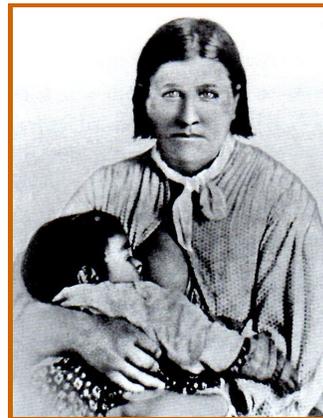
On a cold December morning in 1860 Federal troops took Naduah (Cynthia Ann Parker) from her Comanche friends and relatives. In the Anglo world of Texas the event was hailed as a wonderful accomplishment. Neither the 34-year-old Parker (Naduah) nor her Comanche family saw the capture that way.

Anglo reports of the kidnapping gave Texas Rangers credit for the capture. The reports were (and are) full of misconceptions and errors. People who were not there left reminiscences that suggested they were and such reports are likewise full of errors. Sul Ross, who led the Rangers, gave conflicting reports of what happened, and his always shifting reports formed the basis of many subsequent and incorrect accounts.

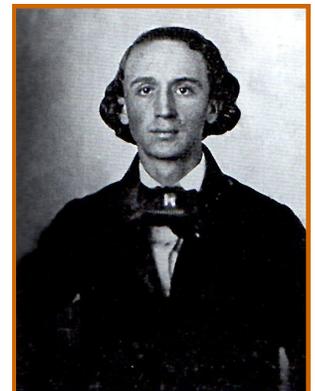


1930's replica of Parker's Fort, site of the 1836 massacre of the Parker family and the kidnapping of Cynthia Ann Parker.

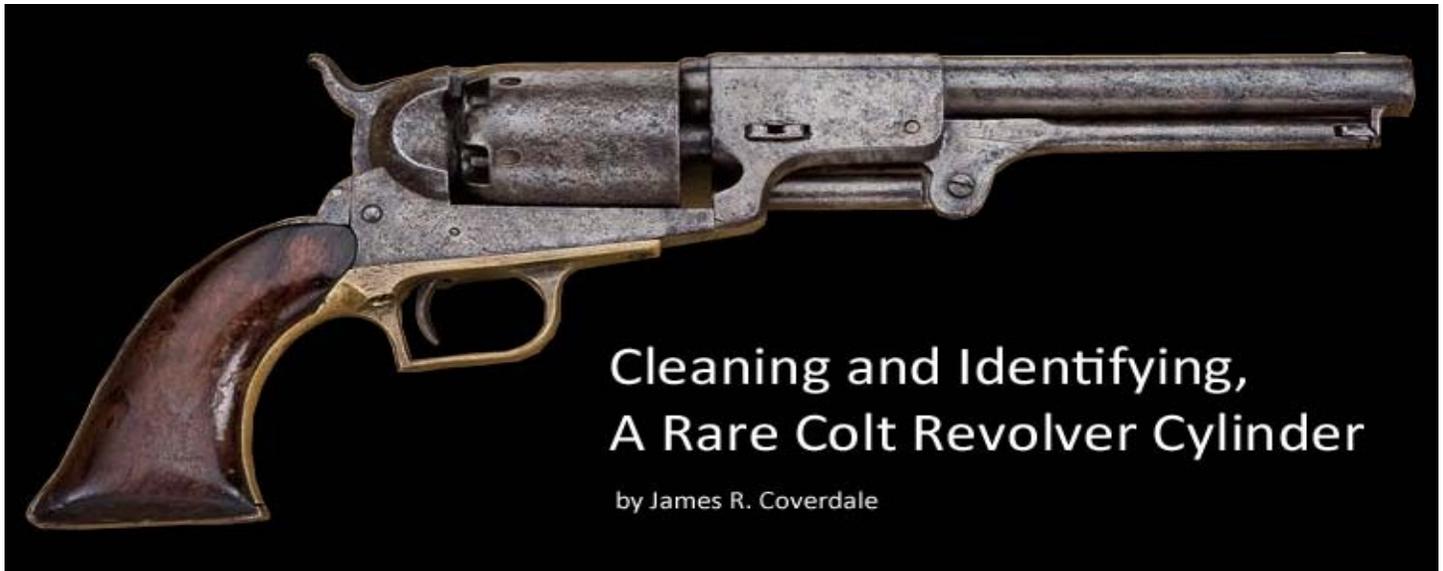
The presentation will examine such misconceptions, folklore, and outright errors about the so called battle of Pease River; errors that in the 21st century continue to be made in books and articles. Why is that?



Cynthia Ann Parker and her daughter, Prairie Flower, circa 1862



Texas Ranger Sul Ross, later became Governor of Texas.



Cleaning and Identifying, A Rare Colt Revolver Cylinder

by James R. Coverdale

In 2012 I was contacted about a gun related artifact that had been recovered from a historic period site in Briscoe County, Texas. The artifact was a rusted and partially loaded revolver cylinder that had been recovered from beneath a Mesquite tree. The area where the cylinder was found had been traveled by Indians, Comancheros, and several military expeditions, any one of which could have lost this revolver cylinder. Several wagon harness hardware artifacts had been recovered a short distance away. These other artifacts may or may not have been associated with the cylinder.

The cylinder was sent to our laboratory at Courson Archaeological Research for cleaning and stabilization. After cleaning in the electrolytic bath the serial number 1124 was revealed. Research of Colt "Walker" model serial numbers would indicate that this serial number belonged to an 1847 Colt "Transition Model" Walker pistol (*Dixie Gun Works* 2007 catalog).

In the summer of 1846 Samuel Colt designed a large caliber (.47 cal.) five shot revolver that he hoped would be adopted as a new sidearm by the U.S. military. Colt submitted a prototype of the new design to Secretary of War William L. Marcy. Colt also showed the prototype to Captain Samuel H. Walker of the U.S. Regiment of Mounted Riflemen. Capt. Walker, a former Texas Ranger, advised Colt about improvements that should be made to the prototype revolver. Capt. Walker suggested an improved hand grip design, better sights, and a reloading lever. Colt took his new friend Captain Walker's advice and made the appropriate changes plus a few more. Colt added a sixth chamber to the cylinder and reduced it to .44 caliber. Officially known as the U.S. Model 1847 Holster Pistol, this revolver would later be known as the Colt "Walker Model" in honor of Captain Samuel H. Walker who died at the Battle of Huamantla, Mexico on November 13, 1847 (*Samuel Colt: Arms, Art, and Invention - Herbert G. Houze* 2006).

In early October 1847 Colt assembled some Colt "Walker" model revolvers using parts produced for Colt by the Whitneyville Connecticut Armory of Eli Whitney, and parts from Colt's new Hartford Connecticut factory (*Samuel Colt - Houze* 2006). These Whitneyville/Hartford pistols later became known as "Transition Model" Walkers.



Continued on Pages 5-6

Rare Colt Revolver Cylinder ...Continued from Page 4

When compared to the Colt "Walker Model" production of 1,100 revolvers, and the "Dragoon" 1st, 2nd, and 3rd models combined production of 19,607, the 240 Colt "Transition Model" Walker pistols are the rarest of these early .44 caliber revolvers.

Before starting the cleaning process, artifact photos were taken to document the original condition of the cylinder. Then I began the initial cleaning of the artifact to remove any loose rust or dirt. As mentioned earlier, when the cylinder arrived at the CAR laboratory, several of the chambers were still loaded. Clearly seen in three of the six chambers are the lead round ball bullets. My recommendation was to remove these lead bullets and unused gunpowder. This way the entire cylinder could be submerged in the electrolytic bath. The owner wished to leave the bullets in place and so the face of the cylinder was not cleaned except with a brush and toothpick. The chambers of the cylinder that appeared unloaded were cleared of debris.



The chambers of the cylinder that appeared unloaded were cleared of debris.

Prior to electrolysis a Dremel Moto Tool was used to clean a tiny area on the inside wall of one of the unloaded chambers. This provided a rust free area of contact for the negative electrical wire clamp. A metal can was used as the positive anode that surrounded the cylinder and attracted the rust from the cylinder. A custom built device was utilized to suspend the cylinder so the face and bullets were not submerged in the bath. The electrolytic bath process was run for approxi-

mately 48 hours. The artifact was closely monitored and was periodically removed from the bath and gently scrubbed with a brush. The rear of the cylinder where the percussion cap nipples are located required some special attention because of the many nooks and crannies around the nipple recesses. The thin metal crown of the nipples remained mostly intact. The nipple ignition channels were plugged and had to be cleared before light could be seen through the empty chambers. Once it was determined that as much of the rust as possible had been removed, the artifact was towel dried, and then allowed to air dry for 24 hours before being sprayed with a Teflon



Continued on Page 6

Rare Colt Revolver Cylinder ...*Continued from Page 5*

Silicone lubricant to inhibit rust from returning.

The cylinder surface was originally engraved with a scene depicting the July 1844 Battle of Walkers Creek in present day Kendall County, Texas. Texas Ranger Samuel H. Walker was wounded during this battle between the Texas Rangers and Comanche Indians (*Samuel Colt - Houze 2006*). Regrettably due to wear, and years of exposure to the elements all but minute traces of the scene are gone. Most gun parts are usually stamped with some type of maker's marks or serial numbers. These marks will sometimes identify the company that produced the part or a person who was in charge of inspecting the parts at the factory. Beside the serial number 1124, no other marks were observed. Some pitting on the surface of the cylinder occurred due to rust, but overall the final results of the cleaning were satisfactory.

Further research may reveal the shipping destination and purchase information for Colt revolver number 1124. Some Colt company archives are still available on Colt Walker revolvers although they are limited. There are around two dozen known Colt "Transition Model" Walker pistols still in existence, mainly in museums and private collections. This recovered Colt "Transition Model" Walker revolver cylinder is a very unique artifact of Texas Panhandle and Colt revolver history. Hopefully it will now be preserved for many years to come.



Colt Walker Model Cylinder Scene

March PAS Speakers Kathryn Harrison and Dick Zahm Presented The Preservation and Protection of the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

This presentation included a documentary DVD describing the historical events leading up to the morning of November 27, 1868, when Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer led 700 troopers of the 7th Cavalry in a devastating charge into the sleeping village of Cheyenne “Peace Chief” Black Kettle, camping along the Washita River bank, in Indian Territory, just west of present day Cheyenne, Oklahoma. Black Kettle and his wife, Medicine Woman Later, were among 30 to 60 Cheyenne killed in the snow and mud.



Chief Black Kettle

This is the same Black Kettle whose village on Sand Creek in Colorado Territory was attacked November 29, 1864. Troops under the command of Colonel J.M. Chivington attacked and destroyed village while Black Kettle was pursuing a policy of peace with the whites and believed his village to be under the protection of the U.S. Army. At least 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho men, women and children were reported killed and horribly mutilated. It came to be known as the Sand Creek Massacre and resulted in a massive public outcry as well as months of retaliatory raids by Cheyenne, Arapaho and Lakota warriors.

The night before Custer’s attack Black Kettle returned to his village after a 100 mile trip to Fort Cobb, where he and Arapaho Chief Big Mouth unsuccessfully petitioned the post commander for peace and protection. Still confident of their safety, he resisted the entreaties of some of his people to move their camp closer to the larger Cheyenne, Arapaho and Kiowa camps downriver.

Visiting the Park

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is on Okla. 47A, two miles west of Cheyenne, Okla. Cheyenne is located on U.S. 283 about 30 miles north of I-40 and about 20 miles east of the Texas border. Park headquarters and visitor center are in shared facilities with the Black Kettle National Grassland District Office, located one mile west of Cheyenne at the junction of Okla. 47 and 47A. A self-guiding trail and overlook are open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Food, lodging, RV parks, gasoline, and services are available in Cheyenne and nearby communities. Camping, fishing, and hiking trails are available in the Black Kettle National Grassland.

For information contact www.nps.gov/waba or the following:

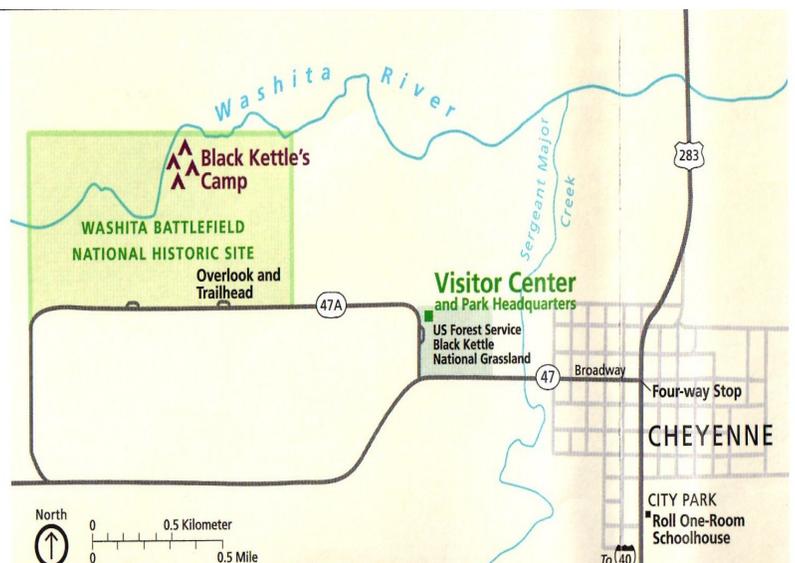
Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
580-497-3318

USFS, Black Kettle National Grassland
580-497-2143

Elk City Chamber of Commerce
580-225-0207

Sayre Chamber of Commerce
580-928-3386

Hammon City Hall
580-473-2281



OLD WEST HERITAGE RENDEZVOUS

MAY 30 & JUNE 1, 2013

at the

**KWAHADI KIVA MUSEUM
OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN**

9151 I-40 EAST - AMARILLO, TEXAS 79120



Featuring

OLD WEST REENACTORS

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For more information,
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y_benz@yahoo.com



Event sponsored by
the Frontier Regiment
of the High Plains,
the Plum Creek Brigade,
the Sons of Confederate Veterans
and the Kwahadi Kiva
Indian Museum

A visit to the Eastern New Mexico University archaeological field school at the Blackwater Draw Site, directed by Dr. David Kilby, on a weekday during the second week in June. This will be the last of three weeks that the school will be operating there, before moving on to Chaco (see attached flyer). It has been suggested that we visit the Blackwater Draw Museum before going to the site. The drive from Amarillo to Portales is two hours, so we will bring a lunch and find someplace to picnic either before or after the site visit. Final details may not be available until May, after the field school itself has gotten organized.



**Blackwater Draw (the Clovis Site)
And Arena Alta Chaco Site**
May 28-June 29, 2013



View of Kutz Canyon from the Arena Alta area.

ENMU is sponsoring a 5-week summer field school spanning over 12,000 years of prehistory, working at both Blackwater Draw near Portales, and Arena Alta near Bloomfield, New Mexico. The Blackwater Draw Site is widely recognized as one of the most significant archaeological sites in North America. It consists of a series of Clovis, Folsom, Late Paleoindian, and Archaic period kill and camp localities situated around the margins of a Pleistocene spring-fed pond. Work here will consist of excavation and stratigraphic profiling of Paleoindian and Archaic deposits near the South Bank.



The second half of the field school will be spent surveying and mapping Arena Alta, a largely undocumented Chaco-era pueblo, and a segment of the Great North Road that connects this and others sites with Chaco Canyon. Students will receive training in excavation techniques, site mapping, archaeological survey, sediment and stratigraphic description, and field-based artifact and faunal analysis.



Costs: Students will need to enroll in Anth 482/482L or 583 for 6 credit hours. Tuition will follow the published tuition schedule for ENMU summer session (www.enmu.edu). There is an additional fee for this class. On-campus housing is available to out of town students for an additional cost; students will camp at Salmon Ruins while at Arena Alta. *Deadline for applications is April 12, 2013.*

For more information and application:
Dr. David Kilby
Dept. of Anthropology and Applied
Archaeology, ENMU Station #53
Portales, NM 88130
Phone: (575) 562-2583
email: david.kilby@enmu.edu

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.



Upcoming Events

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

2013 Science Day at Lamar Elementary School in Amarillo

Friday, May 10. We have done this for the past two years and our presence there has been appreciated. The students range from Kindergarten through 5th grade, and all are hearing impaired to some degree. We see 10-11 different classes throughout the school day, each for 22 minutes, and lunch is provided. PAS contact Paul Katz (Katzes-PRIAM@msn.com) if you can help on this day.

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)

Old West Heritage Rendezvous

Kwahadi Kiva Museum of the American Indian
9151 I-40 East, Amarillo, TX 79120
May 30-June 1, 2013

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 Meeting Minutes

PAS Minutes
February 20th, 2013

- **Treasurer's report-current account balance of \$2163.73.**
- **Publication report-no publication report for this month**
- **A call has been made for SWFAS papers. They are due Mar 15th.**
- **The Perryton Stone Age Fair will be held April 13th.**
- **The updated constitution and by-laws have been completed with following changes:**
 - **Changed conviction of vandalism to knowledge of vandalism for membership consideration and/or dismissal**
 - **Ethics have been rewritten to match state definition**
 - **Amendment to include voice, phone, or electronic means of communication are acceptable**
 - **Nomination of officers will be every 2 years**
 - **Vacant offices may be filled by a member in good standing**
- **Alvin Lynn wanted to clarify that selling and buying artifacts was included in bylaws; it is covered in the ethics section**
- **The corrected constitution and bylaws will be sent to the membership for a 30 day review.**
- **Eastern New Mexico State University is conducting field work at Black Water Draw the last week in May/first week in June. Wednesday the 12th would be a good time for a PAS field trip.**
- **It was brought up that an updated membership list would be helpful in identifying members who are late in dues. Lisa will work on that.**
- **Meeting was adjourned.**

March 20th, 2013

26 members present.

Treasurer's report-current account balance of \$2,698.50 including \$55.89 in expenditures and \$105.00 in deposits.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

Publication report \$1,139.15 in account, \$5,000.00 in CD account. State sales and franchise tax has been turned in.

Publication report was accepted.

SWFAS conference will be held April 6th. Rolla and possibly Donna will attend.

The Perryton Stone Age Fair will be held April 13th.

The updated constitution and by-laws has been printed, reviewed and all updates were approved and accepted.

Scott has been compiling and reviewing the membership and mailing list and has found a large number of past due members who are still receiving newsletter. It was recommended that a letter be drafted to send to overdue members.

Eastern New Mexico State University is conducting field work at Black Water Draw the last week in May/first week in June. Wednesday the 12th would be a good time for a PAS field trip. 8-12 members are interested.

Jerry Leatherman is requesting articles for the newsletter.

Ed Benz brought flyers for the Frontier Regiment hosting an Old West Heritage Rendezvous May 30th to June 1st.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05.