

PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Panhandle Archeological Society

February Vol. 31, No. 2

The Panhandle Archeological Society will hold its next meeting on Wednesday February 16, 2011, at 7:00pm, at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center Science Building, 2301 N. Soncy Road, in Amarillo, Texas. Our program will be presented by Daniel Kerr.

Tracing ?Traces? in Texas-Archaeology, History, and Preserving the Panhandle's Pastore Past.

Explores prospects of preserving the archaeological heritage of Hispano "pastores" who migrated to the western Texas Panhandle from New Mexico in the nineteenth century. Outlines Elo J. Urbanovsky's 1973 preservation-assessment of a site in northeastern Oldham County, "Plaza de Los Pastores," and situates the location among other Panhandle plazas. Finally, details the author's efforts to locate the settlement of Eugenio Romero and Manuela Duran near the former town of Romero.



Daniel Kerr

Dan was born in Bryan, Texas, an Aggie, but grew up in Borger. After receiving a bachelor's degree in journalism from Texas Tech University he practiced the craft for five years before entering graduate school. In 2004 he received a Master's degree in English from West Texas A&M University. Last May he received a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Kansas, where he studied environmental history with Donald Worster and Karl Brooks. His biography of Casimiro Romero is under consideration by Oklahoma University Press. *Sheepdogs and Barbed Wire: The Life of a High Plains Don* describes a man who was in the process of "becoming" American on the semiarid plains of Texas in the late nineteenth century. The manuscript reveals crucial details about Romero's early years in the Santa Fe trade, on the turmoil of pioneer Tascosa, and on his multifaceted business in Dodge City, Kansas. Dan is a 2009-2010 recipient of the Excellence in West Texas History Fellowship.

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Paul Katz

Vice-President:
Jeff Indeck

Secretary:
Vacant

Treasurer:
Lisa Jackson

Publications:
Rolla Shaller

Newsletter Editor:
Scott Brosowski

Panhandle Archeological Society

Minutes of the January 19, 2011 Meeting

President Paul Katz called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center. Approximately 19 members were in attendance. Lisa Jackson introduced her guest, Cindy Meador. Chance Coberley, husband of the speaker, was also in the audience.

Paul announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center. The guest speaker will be Dan Kerr, speaking about the Panhandle pastores.

Dr. Ann Coberley, on the faculty of Amarillo College, spoke about the current state of anthropology and archaeology and the relationships between them.

The business meeting began after a break. The minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved, Motion by Scott Brosowske, second by Caryn Henslee.

Lisa presented the Treasurer's report. The current bank account balance is \$1,974.24. The Studer Banquet on December 15, 2010 was attended by 44 people. The net proceeds were ~ \$800. Jeff Indeck moved to leave all of this money in the general operations account, rather than allocate some or all of it to publications. Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rolla Shaller presented the report of the Publications Committee. After paying the quarterly state sales tax, the balance in the checking account is \$2,619.70. Chris Lintz has sent the bulk of the illustrations for the Canyon City Club Cave report. There will be two dedications, one to Curtis Tunnell and the other to Jack Hughes. The Hughes dedication needs someone to write it. The two Pollyanna Hughes manuscripts were discussed. According to the bylaws, it may not be appropriate for the PAS to publish them if they are not archaeological in nature. Scott and Joe Rogers agreed to read one each and report on their content and suitability for publication. Copies will be provided so the originals do not have to be circulated. A suggestion was made to consider for publication the Master's theses of Britt Bousman and Bob Wishoff, both of which deal with Alibates National Monument.

The current status of the PAS website was discussed. Bob Wishoff has developed a home page, but at this time it can only be accessed through his own website. The home page has the PAS name and logo, with images of quartzite from Alibates in the background. The tabs that we requested are available, but their pages are empty. Rolla will provide Bob with a list of available publications, their cost, and instructions for placing an order. Scott and Lisa have both sent Bob some images.

The distribution of Pastimes was discussed. Most of the newsletters are being distributed electronically by the Editor. This includes all but about a dozen of the members and all of the complimentary and reciprocal recipients. Scott asked for a volunteer to take on the responsibility of copying and mailing the dozen or so hard copies. Dick Carter volunteered. Lisa will provide him with the names and mailing labels. He will be reimbursed for all expenses.

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Paul asked for a volunteer to temporarily fill the position of Secretary until the election of officers in the fall. There were no volunteers.

The PAS bylaws must be updated, revised, and the various versions reconciled before September, when a nominating committee will be established. Voting for new officers takes place in November, with installation at the Studer Banquet in December. An ad hoc committee of Paul Katz, Rolla Shaller, and Joe Rogers will work on the bylaws this spring, so that a revised version can be approved by the membership by the September meeting. Lisa will scan all of the versions that can be identified and provide text-editable copies to the committee.

Alvin Lynn reported on the costs and conditions for having the 2011 Studer Banquet at the Country Barn. One change will be having only one meat dish, rather than a choice as in the past. Coffee and dessert will be charged by the plate, regardless of how many are interested. These restrictions will have to be weighed against the very good room that we have available. At this time, all weekends and the third Wednesday in December are already booked. Alvin will make a reservation to hold the room, subject to another alternative. Jeff and Alvin will look into other venues, calculating the cost of catering by the Stockyard plus room rental against the Country Barn costs and restrictions.

Rolla announced the first call for papers for the 2011 Southwestern Federation of Archaeological Societies annual symposium. There should be at least one paper presented by a PAS member. The symposium will be held in San Angelo on April 9, 2011.

Scott announced that the annual Courson Archaeological Research Field School will be held from May 23 through June 10. Three sites will be investigated, including both prehistoric and historic, plus an active laboratory. The enrollment will be limited to 50. Assistance with camp security is needed on weekdays. For additional information: www.coursonarchresearch.com

Scott requested that material for Pastimes be submitted by the first of the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Society for Historical Archaeology National Convention

The Society for Historical Archaeology held its 2011 SHA Conference in Austin from January 5-9 at the Austin Hilton. The theme of the conference was "Boundaries and Crossroads in Action: Global Perspectives in Historical Archaeology." The gathering featured a variety of opportunities to explore this exciting area of archaeology including roundtable luncheons, workshops, poster sessions, panel discussions and of course the concurrent sessions. Pre and post conference tours of the local area and social events allowed many an opportunity to sample the history of the area and the "uniqueness" of Austin.

The Market place provided a venue for many publishers to exhibit and sell new titles. The scope of topics left no one without a desire to take home more print materials. Some pretty exotic equipment for analysis and processing was displayed including a portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF) machine. This item allows very precise analysis of a variety of elements in the field and while the machines are still extremely expensive (\$35-40,000) we did learn that they could be rented for short periods of time. Since there was a large marine-archaeological presence at the conference, a lot of the equipment there was for use in this area, including a full size ultra-light aircraft (Still not real sure how they got it in the elevator).

Three days of concurrent sessions provided an enormous amount of variety for the nearly 1200 attendees at this year's conference. The full conference schedule can be found by clicking on the following link: <https://www.conftool.com/sha2011/index.php?page=browse> Sessions and relates the details of all the sessions and their presenters. The Panhandle Archeological Society was represented in the session: New Deal = Old Stuff; Challenges in Preserving the CCC Legacy by Lisa Jackson who presented in a session on the CCC in Palo Duro Canyon and Tony Lyles related information about the CCC and other rock markings in the Big Spring Park. They also attended other sessions including the use of Photo-Shop and metal detecting.

On Saturday the conference opened its doors for the Public Event: Crossroads in Texas History and Archaeology Expo. This venue provided the general public an opportunity to witness and interact with several "hands on" activities. TAS and other local societies provided a "mock dig," cornhusk doll making, trash analysis, and a variety of reenactors added flavor to the event. Groups from all over the state represented Buffalo soldiers, early Texas Rangers, Civil War and Frontier regiments. Joe Rogers and Doug Boyd teamed up to showcase some of the work being done at the Ransom Williams site (41TV1051) that is located southeast of Austin. This site was at one time a farm bought by a former slave following the Civil War where he and his family lived until they moved to Austin around 1900. The neglected property simply melted into the landscape until recovery work began last year. So far over 27,000 artifacts are



Joe D. Rogers explains the use of a woodworking tool



Two buffalo soldier reenactors

revealing a glimpse into that life. Many of the artifacts recovered were tools and while Doug Boyd showed actual artifacts and explained the recovery techniques, Joe showed how they were used in woodworking and other tool demonstrations. Boys Scouts and other Youth groups could use the experience to add to merit badges in archaeology, history, and woodworking.

There is a long Texas connection with this society, for it actually grew out of an "International Conference on Historical Archaeology" held at SMU in Dallas in 1967. SHA was incorporated in 1968 and held its first Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Va. The SHA has published its journal; *Historical Archaeology* since that time. Since this organization started in Texas, there are plans to return to the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 2014 to celebrate their 50th year. Information about SHA may be found at its website: <http://www.sha.org/>

Joe D Rogers

Currie Cave (41RD94): A Dry Rockshelter Habitation Site near Canyon, Texas



Looking North
At Currie Cave

Dry rockshelters containing archaeological sites with perishable remains, including sandals, cordage, basketry, and woven matting, are well-known in regions to the south, west, and northwest of the Texas panhandle. They appear to be less common in the study area because the caliche caprock found in the region is less stable and more susceptible to collapse. The Currie Cave site (41RD94) in the upper reaches of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River is therefore an exception to the rule. The following discussion is derived from observations recorded in the field journals of Jack T. Hughes and from a brief examination of the materials collected from the site nearly forty years ago.



Matting, Basketry, and
Cordage From Currie
Cave

Situated in a south facing overhang approximately 30 m long, 3 m tall, and 6 m from front to back, this dry shelter was first noted by Floyd V. Studer in the early 1940's. Later, Jack T. Hughes noted the presence of one petroglyph, three circular pictographs, and shallow bedrock mortars in the shelter on a visit to the site in the 1960's. This site, also known as Basketmaker Cave or Palo Duro Falls Cave, was briefly investigated by Norpan Archaeological Society members Dick and Mary Ruth Carter and W. A. "Dub" and Clara Dumas under the direction of Jack T. Hughes in August 1961. Prior to this date the site had been badly disturbed by looting. Work conducted included laying out a grid in the shelter and screening looter backdirt piles.

Materials collected from the site are contained in the collections of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas. Items include braided hair and yucca cordage, woven matting and basketry fragments, modified and unmodified animal bone, chipped stone tools and debitage, several different types of unidentified seeds, mussel shell, corn cobs, masses of grass, arrow shaft fragments, a possible rabbit stick fragment, a mussel shell pendant, ceramics, and sandals. There are no radiocarbon dates for the site, although Washita arrowpoints, maize, and thin cordmarked ceramics suggest occupation during the Middle Ceramic period (A.D. 1250-1500).

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Sandal From Currie
Cave



Possible Arrow
Shaft Fragments
From Currie
Cave



Projectile Points From Currie Cave



Charred Corn Cobs From Currie Cave

The overall extent of looting and the potential for intact deposits at the Currie Cave site currently remains unknown. A housing division has sprung up near the site and it is likely that considerable damage has occurred since the 1960's. At present, the assemblage from Currie Cave has been cataloged, but remains unanalyzed except for two brief unpublished letter reports on the perishable materials from the site. As such, this collection represents just one of the many amazing assemblages in storage at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum that await rediscovery.

Scott D. Brosowske



Gourd Seeds From Currie Cave



Braided Cordage From Currie Cave

PAS Member Highlight



Richard L. Carter

How long have you been a member of PAS? Since its inception

What first sparked your interest in archaeology? Reading library books about King Tut's tomb - etc Traveling w/family to Mesa Verde several times as a young kid - Hearing stories about the "buried City" near Perryton.

What is your best find or most interesting moment with PAS or with archaeology in general? Most interesting moment - when I held in my hand the first potsherd that I ever dug up-or-when I discovered a site near a spring all by myself. No one had told me about it. I just discovered it for myself!

If you could have any choice, what would be your dream find, site, or location? An undisturbed house or village site that I could, in my dreams, work on.

Tell us a little bit about yourself: 84yrs old as of Nov. 2010- Interested in archeology (of course), woodcarving, reading, Bible class teaching at Covenant Presbyterian Church-Amarillo, Antique & junk store searching. 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren.

What is a fun fact or something most people don't know about you? Once made it to the National Whimmy Diddle Contest Finals, held at Asheville N.C. each October.

Once met J. Alden Mason, Quannah Parkers grand daughter & husband. Dug in a fire pit at Chalk Hollow while Waldo Wedel screened.

How much archaeological experience do you have? Participated in Field work & digs & surveys 1957 to about 2009 TAS Field School 1969, 1975, 1988, 2008, 2009 Many, many small digs and surveys with Jack Hughes.

Is there anything else you would like for PAS members to know about you? I feel blessed to be associated w/like minded folk at PAS. Next to my church family I find them the most encouraging and upbeat folks I know. Interested in their pursuits and willing to share their experiences and enthusiasm.

CAR 2011 Field School

Courson Archaeological Research will be conducting its 2011 Field School from May 23rd to June 10th. The first two weeks will be field excavations of Antelope Creek phase sites near the Canadian River, and the third week will consist of metal detecting historic period sites. PAS members may attend at no cost, other than catered meals if desired. For more information, check our website: coursonarchresearch.com

Upcoming Events, and Announcements

- 33rd Annual Flint Hills Conference
Wichita State University, March 25th-26th, 2011. For more info. contact: donald.blakeslee@wichita.edu
- Society For American Archaeology SAA 76th Annual Meeting. Sacramento, California
March 30th - April 3rd, 2011
- Southwest Federation Of Archaeological Societies, April 9th, 2011,
San Angelo, Tx.

**47th Annual Meeting of the
Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies
San Angelo, Texas, April 9, 2011
Hosted by the Concho Valley Archeological Society (CVAS)**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 47th SWFAS Symposium will be held in San Angelo, Texas on Saturday, April 9th. This symposium provides the opportunity for avocational and student archeologists to present their work and have it published in the SWFAS journal. The meeting is open to anyone interested in history and archeology.

Each of the six member societies is responsible for presenting at least one paper on a topic within the federation area (west Texas and east New Mexico). Papers from others including professionals are welcome. A printed copy of the paper and a computer file copy (preferably in Word format) will be needed for reproduction in the symposium transactions. This is due at the April 9, 2011 meeting. Presenters will be notified of the time limit after the deadline. **Please send the title, brief abstract, and a short biographical sketch no later than February 15, 2011.** If you have special needs, please let us know. Slide (carousel) projectors and PowerPoint equipment will be available. If you would like a table for sales of books or other items or for informational displays, please contact us.

The SWFAS board meeting will be held Saturday during lunch. At least one voting representative from each member society should attend.

SEND ALL PRESENTER INFORMATION TO:

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