



Newsletter of the Grand Junction Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

Who We Are:

CAS-GJ is one of nine local chapters of the Colorado Archaeological Society. CAS-GJ consists of people who are interested in the archaeology and the early history of western Colorado and eastern Utah. Members are of all ages and backgrounds, and archeological experience.

When We Meet:

The 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted in the meeting section, at the Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, Grand Junction, CO. Meetings include a guest lecturer. Snacks welcomed.

When We Explore

Members are eligible to participate in Chapter field trips which include one-day and multi-day trips and will be notified by email when they are scheduled.

October 22, 2025 Speaker

The Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail: Legacy of the Black Soldiers who helped shape the American West with Ian Wright



No matter how distant historical events may seem, their impact on the modern world shows up in fascinating ways. Such is the case of the Buffalo Soldiers — the first U.S. Army regiments composed exclusively of African American soldiers.

Ian Wright, a Utah State Public Archaeologist, will expose many of us for the first time to the battles, sacrifices, and courage these soldiers experienced in Utah.

Established by Congress in 1866, the regiments were to help support the nation's westward expansion. The nickname "Buffalo Soldiers" was likely given by the Native American tribes they faced in battle. Among the military units were the 9th cavalry and 24th infantry, stationed in Utah to protect settlers in the Uinta Basin. And their contributions extended beyond military service; they established trails and roads that are now well-known interstates used by travelers across Utah.

These soldiers' legacy is particularly strong in areas like Helper and Price, where they built infrastructure and patrolled roads. And now their legacy stands to gain even more recognition thanks to the [Utah Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail project](#).

Ian grew up in Salt Lake City, attended Snow College, and then Southern Utah University where he received a degree in history. Join us for this lecture about the brave black men who shaped our intermountain west.

2025 Board & Positions

President: Laney Heath

CO- VP: Pat Riley, Sharon Brennan,
Janet Ford

Secretary: Renee Krebs

Treasurer: Jim Schultz

Membership: Jamie Vavra

CAS Representative: Larry Moore

PAAC Representative: Geoff
Peterson

Trip Coordinator: Alan Green, Mark
Connelly, Jim Liewer

Members at Large: Evita Schultz,
Anita Stoltman, Scott Wood,
Lorna Reed, Anne Djokic

Newsletter: Mary Grande

Contact Us

Website:

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[Meetup Members Only](#)



Contemporary Rock Art in CNM



No Lecture Meetings

There will be NO speaker meetings in either November
nor in December as we head into holiday season.



Let us celebrate our CAS-GJ chapter, our many blessings and
memorable outings this year with a **social evening** at the
KAFM Radio Room at 1310 Ute Avenue on Wednesday,
December 10 from 6-8 pm.

This will be a potluck with a cash bar (beer \$4, wine \$5). In
late November, you will be sent a food app by email to list
your food contribution.

There will be a slideshow of world- wide archaeological
wonders by professional photographer Mike Pellagetti.

Please join us for a **festive evening** of fun and camaraderie.
Help is needed with the event. If you can spare a few hours,
please click [here to email Pat Riley](#).

2026 is Knocking

Fund Raising:

To help cover our increased meeting room costs, we set up a
Treasure Table of donations at our August meeting and
raised \$600. Thanks to all who contributed, and as you are
tidying up for holiday company, set aside your Southwest
and archeology items for donation for our next silent auction
with date to be determined in early 2026.