



# 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.

## Next Meeting: September 27, 2023



Rand Greubel will be our guest speaker this month. He will speak about “Ritual and Violence on the Puebloan Frontier: The Early Pueblo I Settlement of Florida Mesa, Colorado”.

Alpine Archaeology, where Rand worked for 33 years prior to retirement, conducted extensive excavations on seven prehistoric sites on Florida Mesa, south of Durango, in 2018-19 for the Colorado Department of Transportation. The sites were in the path of the new alignment of US Highway 550. Three of the sites were Ancestral Puebloan hamlets dating to the early Pueblo I period, approximately AD 750-850. The excavations revealed 12 pit houses, multiple burials, and evidence for at least one episode of extreme violence. One of the pit houses is among the largest ever discovered for the early Pueblo I period in the Durango area and is interpreted as a possible ceremonial structure. The investigations add to the accumulating evidence that the Durango area was one of the most densely occupied and socially dynamic regions of the Southwest during this time period.

Rand Greubel has a BA in Anthropology from the University of Colorado and an MA in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, UK. He began his nearly 40- year archaeological career working under Dr. William Buckles on the Dallas Dam (Ridgway Reservoir) project in 1980.

## 2023 Officers & Directors

**President:** Ed Vandertook

**Vice President:** Geoff Peterson

**Secretary:** VACANT

**Treasurer:** Clint Driscoll

**CAS Liaison:** Geoff Peterson

**BLM Liaison:** Vacant

**PAAC Representative:**  
Geoff Peterson

**Membership Coordinator:**  
Clint Driscoll

**Director at Large:** Lorna Reed,  
Gayle Smith, Anita Stoltman

**Newsletter:** Mary Grande

## Contact Us

**Website:**

<https://www.casgjchapter.org/>

**Email:** [casgjchapter@gmail.com](mailto:casgjchapter@gmail.com)



Equinox RayMan

## Board Members Needed

Board of Directors election will be held at the October meeting. The positions open are president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer/membership. The duties are not onerous and consist of attending monthly board meetings to discuss and decide matters pertaining to the chapter.

- ❖ The president is expected to chair the board meeting with an agenda set with input from the board. The president also runs monthly chapter meetings.
- ❖ The vice-president is responsible for arranging the speakers for chapter meetings based on information and suggestions from members.
- ❖ The secretary records minutes for board meetings and maintains records of elections and other official actions taken by members on items presented by the board at chapter meetings.
- ❖ The treasurer manages all income and expenditures authorized by the board as well as keeps the local membership records up to date for the chapter and the state organization.
- ❖ These are the only elected positions. Other activities such as field trip coordination, newsletter, web page updates, and other duties are done by volunteers.

Nominations for board officers is open. This is a volunteer self-nominating process. Nominations will be taken at the September meeting and members can also nominate themselves by sending an email to <mailto:casgjchapter@gmail.com>

Members nominated from the floor by other members at the September meeting can decline. Formal voting will take place at the October meeting.

## News You Can Use

- ❖ The Annual CAS- Colorado conference is September 30 and October 1st and is hosted by the Pikes Peak Chapter in Colorado Springs. More information and registration information are available on the CAS-Colorado website.
- ❖ Karen Kinnear and Sharon Murphy who are State CAS board members are following up on getting a quote for liability insurance that will cover all CAS chapters.
- ❖ History Colorado has hired a new Assistant State Archaeologist. Her name is Sarah Allaun and she is a Ph.D. candidate at the Univ. of Wyoming. She has been very active with the Laramie chapter of Wyoming CAS and with the State chapter. She recently met with the local PAAC Coordinators to discuss future classes. She is putting together list of classes that will be offered in 2024. This will be both in-person and online.

## CAS-GJ Survey Results

**Q1:** What are the TWO most important reasons you are a member of the Grand Junction chapter of CAS? Please choose ONLY two.

RESPONSES (39)

|   |        |      |
|---|--------|------|
| Field Trips with knowledgeable leaders                            | 71.79% | (28) |
| Presenters at monthly meetings                                    | 56.41% | (22) |
| Comradery with others interested in archeology                    | 33.33% | (13) |
| Information sharing amongst membership (ie: cool places to visit) | 30.77% | (12) |
| Other   | 5.13%  | (2)  |

**Q2:** What are the TWO most significant weaknesses of the Grand Junction chapter of CAS? One or both of your choices could be "other" and you can enter that below. Please choose ONLY two.

|  |        |      |
|--|--------|------|
| There are not enough young members to carry the torch forward            | 43.59% | (17) |
| There are not enough members to step into leadership and be on the board | 53.85% | (21) |
| There aren't enough trips anymore  | 48.72% | (19) |
| The presenters at the monthly meetings aren't that interesting           | 7.69%  | (3)  |
| Other  | 25.64% | (10) |

## CAS-GJ Survey Results Continued

**Q3:** If you could change one thing about the Grand Junction chapter of CAS that is NOT mentioned above, what would it be?

RESPONSES (39) Paraphrased below

Good facility and projection system.

A more interesting newsletter that would stimulate member interest, conversation, and involvement. (send your volunteer newsletter writer ideas or articles).

Create a stronger interest and availability for hands-on work either in curation or actual site work

Meet where we can have cocktails.

Get things rolling with good speakers and field trips

Be more welcoming of new/young members. I attended several meetings but could never find a group of people interested in holding a conversation with me. Several folks commented about not feeling welcomed. 😞

Do outreach to CMU, high schools, and do presentations to kids and adults at the library. Alas need people to step up to accomplish.

Attract more members, especially younger members

Better presentations, they are too technical and dry.

Maybe if we offer to help local archaeologists in meaningful ways we could develop meaningful relationships with various federal & private institutions. Can we help BLM archaeologists in anyway?

More involvement by current members such as offering suggestions for speakers or field trip locations.

Volunteers who want to step into leadership roles.

One day trips as well as overnight. More field trips! (many comments about this)

more local history presentation, short local hiking trips to local places that people know about

When CMU grant the scholarship out, the winner should be required to present a program.

Do outreach to CMU, high schools, and do presentations to kids and adults at the library. Also need people to step up to accomplish

The following information was provided by Marsha Kosteva

Calling all outdoor enthusiasts! We want to alert your membership to a fun and inspiring program coming to the valley on October 7. Gavin Pretor-Pinney of the Cloud Appreciation Society plans to take us on an illustrated tour of the sky. He will explain why clouds look the way they do, how the sky has played a cameo role throughout the history of art, and why spending a few moments each day with your head in the clouds helps you keep your feet on the ground.

No matter what your passion for the outdoors is, Gavin will illuminate us all with his philosophy about the “banquet” we have every day from the clouds in our skies. Event is October 7 at CMU.

The tickets are now on sale for \$15. Purchase tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cloudspotting-with-the-cloud-appreciation-society-grand-jefferson-co-tickets>