



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.

February 25, 2026 Speaker Carol Patterson



The Anthropology of Clouds in Petroglyphs and Pictographs of the Southwest

Rain is of dire importance for survival in the southwest USA. Prehistoric people prayed to cloud-spirits through ritual ceremonies and rain dances. They viewed their world as animate, and they engraved or painted imitative rain making ceremonies to motivate cloud behavior.

Carol Patterson, Anthropologist, of Bluff Utah, will lead us on an examination of proposed cloud images found in context with lightning, thunder, hail, and rainbow symbols, which will be discussed in context with extensive ethnographic documentation. There are many varieties of cloud-beings that take on different body shapes and sizes. They all share a common theme as being Rain Bringers. What are called 'clouds' in English, are called by proper names because they are sentient beings. The cultural association with the rock imagery is based on diagnostic elements in the panels that are named in the emergence stories of the Keres, Zuni and Western Apache. Their foundation myths of creation that name their gods and culture heroes are what define each culture. Cloud Beings have personal relationships with members of the Pueblo and Apachean groups and are impersonated in masked dances. But not so with the nomadic Numic groups including the Ute and Paiute.

Born and raised in Denver, Colorado. She got her BA at the University of New Mexico, MA at Columbia Pacific University, CA .and her PhD at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia. Since 2015, she has written numerous articles on the region's petroglyphs and myths. Her research articles are posted on Academia.edu

2026 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 Coordinators: 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:

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

Email: casgchapter@gmail.com

[Meetup Members Only](#)

Cloud Images



- March 25, 2026 the CAS-GJ speaker will be Jim Krehbiel speaking on Sightlines and Site Lines, Archeoastronomy Discoveries in Southeast Utah.
 - Fund Raising Silent Auction at this meeting.
- March 18, 2026 the Chipeta CAS Chapter in Montrose lecture will be April Brown, Director of the Archeology Conservancy for the Southwest Region.

Fund Raising for CAS-GJ

Please bring any gently used Southwest-themed items to our February 25th meeting. These will be priced for our Silent Auction at the March 25 meeting.

Desired items include jewelry, pottery, books, furniture, Native American blankets, etc. Questions, contact Sharon Brennan or Laney Heath.



Field Trip Season Approaches



Be thinking of places you would like to visit or places that you would be willing to lead a trip. Sites for field trips without permits for CAS-GJ include the San Rafael Swell, Price, some Moab sites, and non-Bears Ears sites in San Juan County Utah.

More News You Can Use

- Our CAS-GJ membership roster has grown to 167 members and many more are following us on Meetup platform.
- At present we have 105 people signed up on Meetup.com Colorado Archaeological Society.
 - Most of these people are not yet members, but need to be encouraged to fill out a membership form.
 - Please give a big welcome to any new attendees at our meetings and encourage them to become chapter members.
 - Since our meeting attendance has grown substantially, we can use help with set up and take down of chairs.
 - In addition, please assist with passing the donation baskets to people sitting on the sides and back of the room. Thanks!
- Our Board voted to purchase a Square reader so members could pay dues and pay for silent auction items with a credit card at the meetings. Cost approximately \$60.00.
- Our Board voted to upgrade our website contract with WIX, which will enable us to accept credit card payments on our website for membership dues. This will add \$144/year to our base Wix fee.



Become a Member >

- There is a new button "Become a Member" button, shown above, on our casgchapter.org website which launches this join page.
- This enables you to securely pay dues from our website with a credit card.
- We are asking for a volunteer who could periodically update our CAS website and post the board meeting minutes. We will train you and provide support.
- If you do not already have one, please sign up for your permanent name tag at the front table as you walk into the meetings, only \$15.00.