

# PaleoCultural Research Group

## Organization Report for 1997 and 1998

This document constitutes the first general report to the membership regarding activities and operations of PaleoCultural Research Group (PCRG), headquartered in Flagstaff, Arizona. This report is distributed to all current members of PCRG, as of January 1999. Herein, PCRG summarizes projects, activities, and other information of interest to the general membership of the organization. This report covers the period starting with inception of the organization in 1997 through the end of calendar year 1998. As can be seen from discussions on the following pages, PCRG has made significant progress in areas of organization development, membership expansion, and initiation and completion of research and educational projects.

PCRG filed for incorporation as a nonprofit organization in the State of Arizona in November 1996, was formally incorporated in Arizona on February 26, 1997, and began its first research activity in April of that year. Bylaws were approved and filed with the state of Arizona in April 1997. Late in 1997, the Internal Revenue Service approved PCRG's nonprofit status under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Citing from Article 2 of the bylaws, the mission of PCRG is:

- To promote and maintain an organization and administrative mechanism whereby professional archaeologists, anthropologists, natural scientists, the interested public, and members of the Native American community may collaborate in areas of shared interest to more effectively carry out projects and programs which involve scientific investigation focused on the prehistoric era in North America, [and]
- To carry out original field research, laboratory research, and archival research within the general domain of archaeology and related sciences which focuses on ... [a]rchaeological remains ... [and] [s]tudies in geology, soils, stratigraphy, biology, botany, zoology, paleontology, paleoecology, paleoenvironment, and chronology which relate to the development of prehistoric American cultures and/or which enhance understanding of the prehistoric natural environment during the Quaternary geologic period, [and]
- To promote public education in the subject matter central to the corporation by carrying out public talks, lectures, demonstrations, workshops, field schools, lay-oriented publications, or other appropriate activities.

The following sections describe the facilities of the organization, our membership, and projects – completed, ongoing, and planned. This report concludes with information about how, where and when PCRG members might take part in organization activities during the coming year.

The Board of Directors is responsible for preparation of this report. Current Board members are: Stanley A. Ahler (President and Treasurer), Carl R. Falk (Vice President), and Eric J. Feiler (Secretary). Membership records, fiscal records, and other formal documents of the organization are on file in accordance with state and federal laws at the offices of the organization, 624 N. Humphreys St., Flagstaff, Arizona.

## Physical Facilities and Staff

From its beginning through early 1997 PCRG was headquartered at 802 West Aspen Avenue in Flagstaff, AZ. Our office and lab facilities consisted of a few hundred square feet in a converted garage at that address. In February 1998, PCRG moved its physical operation to two small, but environmentally more friendly rooms at the Middle School of Flagstaff Junior Academy (a Montessori-based charter school). By summer, our growth and that of the Academy required yet another move. We currently reside in about 1300 square feet of rented office and lab space at 624 North Humphreys Street in Flagstaff, and we rent space for storage at a nearby location. At our new location, we maintain a lab with equipment for size-grading, flotation, microscopic and UV light studies, and artifact photography, offices well equipped with computers, and a small research library. And . . . all this with panoramic views of the beautiful San Francisco Peaks!

Carl Falk, one of our directors and principals, also maintains office and lab space as well as an extensive vertebrate faunal reference collection, dedicated in large measure to PCRG activities, adjacent to his residence in Sevierville, Tennessee. Similarly, other members of PCRG at other locations around the country use facilities locally available to them to carry out PCRG activities.

Our paid staff in Flagstaff consists of two persons (Eric Feiler and Stanley Ahler) who are dedicating full-time efforts to PCRG organizational and research endeavors, a part-time book keeper and office assistant, and about a half-dozen lab assistants and technicians who work at part-time to full-time levels. We draw heavily for our lab staff on current and recently graduated students in the anthropology and natural science programs at nearby Northern Arizona University. During fall 1998, we employed three undergraduate students in lab activities through our participation in the College Work-Study Program based at NAU (see section below on Ongoing Projects).

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## PCRG Memberships

PCRG is an organization with membership open to the public in two categories. **Participating Members** are persons who express a desire to take

an active role in PCRG projects and activities (perhaps in a specific, current project, or in unnamed projects to be developed). **Supporting Members** are persons who support the goals and efforts of the organization but who do not chose to take a direct role in specific projects at the present time.

In an effort to increase our public visibility and to solicit new members in both categories, PCRG developed a circular that describes the organization and the opportunities it offers to members. In April 1998, this informational flyer and an invitation for membership were distributed with a mailing of the journal *Plains Anthropologist*. The response to this distribution was rewarding. PCRG now has 42 current members -- 32 Participating, and 10 Supporting. Membership is for one year, and a notice about continuing membership will be distributed to current members at an appropriate time.

To enhance communication and collaboration among members, we have compiled a table on following pages with contact information for current members along with individual expressions of interest. We encourage all members to review this information carefully and consider soliciting input from other members when developing ideas for projects or activities in particular geographic areas.

While our headquarters are in the Southwest, our membership is geographically broader, with a concentration in the Plains. This reflects in part the historical roots of our organization as well as areas of most active current research (see the discussions in another section in this report). Directors of PCRG have discussed mailing a member solicitation with a focus on the Southwest. Given the high public visibility of archaeology in the Southwest, we can expect a strong response from such a mailing. The decision to do this has been deferred until other organizational matters, which require additional energy from the core staff in Flagstaff, have been attended to.

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## Summaries of Completed Projects

### *Rio Grande River Study*

Rio Grande Restoration (a nonprofit organization based in New Mexico) and the Bureau of Land Management funded a study of packrat middens and related information along the Rio Grande

<b>Supporting Members</b>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone and E-Mail</i>
Ms. Eva C. Lord Cook	16404 W. 126th Terrace Olathe, KS 66062-1132	(913) 764-0777
Ms. Anne Davison	13500 Trail Driver Austin, TX 78737	(512) 288-1141
Dr. Boyce N. Driskell	13075 Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, AL 35474-	(205) 371-2266 bdriskel@ua1vm.ua.edu
Ms Linda Ehreth	SHSND, 602 E. Boulevard Ave. Bismarck, ND 58505-	(701) 328-2666 lehreth@state.nd.us
Mr. Glenn Goode	13500 Trail Driver Austin, TX 78737	(512) 288-1141
Dr. Walter E. Klippel	Department of Anthropology, Uni- versity of Tennessee-Knoxville Knoxville, TN 37996-0720	(423) 974-4408 WKlippel@UTK.EDU
Mr. Thomas D. Thiessen	1832 Holdrege Road Pleasant Dale, NE 68423-9032	(402) 795-2153 tt32107@navix.net
Mr. Marion E. Travis	1208 Park Lane Mobridge, SD 57601-	(605) 845-3573 mtravis2@cam-walnet.com
Dr. Timothy Weston	Kansas State Historical Society 6425 S.W. 6th Avenue Topeka, KS 66615-1099	(785) 282-8681, ext. 266 TWeston@hspo.wpo.state.ks.us
Ms. Jean L. Woodman	1501 Ashland Ave Evanston, IL 60201-	(847) 864-5994 MountnBird@aol.com

<b>Participating Members</b>			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone and E-Mail</i>	<i>Summary of Interests</i>
Dr. Stanley A. Ahler	P. O. Box 1971 Flagstaff, AZ 86001-1971	(520) 774-9274 mdog@infomagic.com	development, Plains Village & Paleoindian arch, lithic technology
Dr. William B. Butler	Rky Mtn National Park 1000 Highway 36 Estes Park, CO 80517	(970) 596-1332 bill-butler@nps.gov	Plains/Mountains geophysics, paleoenvironment, technology
Ms. Mona Charles	44 Riverton Place Durango, CO 81301-	(970) 259-3981 charles_m@fortlewis.edu	geoarchaeology, SW & Plains archaeology
Mr. John S. Craig	1983 40th St. So. St. Cloud, MN 56301-	(320) 654-0948 jscraigrcr@aol.com	Plains archaeology
Mr. Carl R. Falk	2998 Little Laurel Rd. Sevierville, TN 37862-	(423) 453-1652 crfalk@usit.net	Plains Village archaeology, zooarchaeology
Mr. Eric J. Feiler	P.O. Box 23466 Flagstaff, AZ 86002	(520) 774-9274 erik@tkonline.net	Paleoecology, lithic technology, Paleoindian, Plains/SW arch
Ms. Cherie D. Freeman	9019 E. Calle Norlo Tucson, AZ 85710-	(520) 886-0228	Plains and Southwest archaeology
Ms. Cynthia Gabel	1026 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> St. Bismarck, ND 58501	(701) 223-1225	Plains archaeology
Mr. Phil R. Geib	1517 N. Navajo Drive Flagstaff, AZ 86001-	(520) 523-7270 phil.geib@nau.edu	Southwestern archaeology, lithic studies, primitive technology
Mr. Kevin Gilmore	2359 S. Milwaukee St. Denver, CO 80210	(303) 758-6392	Central Plains, ear. & mid. ceram- ic periods, geomorphology
Mr. Craig M. Johnson	4032 Deerwood Place Eagan, MN 55122-	(651) 297-8729 craig.johnson@dot.state.mn.us	Plains archaeology, pottery analysis, seriation, chronology
Dr. Ann Johnson	P O Box 710, Mammoth Hot Springs, WY 82190-	(307) 344-2155 ann-johnson@nps.gov	Northwestern Plains Village cul- tures, N Plains/Mtn pottery
Dr. Kenneth L. Kvamme	Dept. Anthro., U. Arkansas, Fayetteville AR 72701	(501) 575-4130 kkvamme@comp.uark.edu	Plains archaeology, remote- sensing, computer apps, lithics

**Participating Members, continued**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone and E-Mail</i>	<i>Summary of Interests</i>
John and Gina Logan	4755 S. Goldenrod Dr. Tucson, AZ 85730-	(529) 790-2091	Plains archaeology & geology, Southwestern Archaeology
Mr. Edward J. Lueck	Arch. Lab, 2032 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105	(605) 336-5493 lueck@inst.augie.edu	Plains archaeology geomorphology
Mr. Mark Mitchell	P O Box 372 La Junta, CO 81050-	(719) 383-2219 mmitch@ria.net	So. Plains archaeology, N. Rio Grande environmental histories
Dr. Darcy F. Morey	Dept. Anthro., Univ. of KS Lawrence, KS 66045-2110	(913) 864-4103 dmorey@lark.cc.ukans.edu	Plains & Southeastern archaeol- ogy, zooarchaeology
Mr. Jerome J. Morrow	2984 1/2 Kia Drive Grand Junction, CO 81504-6915	(970) 255-1392 hiermor@gj.net	Plains archaeology, mountain (high altitude) archaeology
Dr. Timothy K. Pertulla	10101 Woodhaven Dr. Austin, TX 78753-	(512) 873-8131 tkpfnta@IX.netcom.com	S Plains & Caddo archaeology, ceramic analysis
Mr. John Wesley Phillips	P. O. Box 1073 Fritch, TX 79036-	(806) 857-3075 johne@netjava.com	entomology, paleontology, ethno- botany
Mr. Paul R. Picha	P O Box 1582 Bismarck, ND 58502-1582	(701) 328-3574 ppicha@state.nd.us	N. Plains archaeology & ethnohis- tory, archaeomalacology
Ms. Bonnie Pitblado	1321 N Roberts Way Tucson, AZ 85712-	(520) 795-3723 pitblado@u.arizona.edu	Rky Mtn/Plains/Great Basin Paleoindian, geomorph., lithics
Dr. Donna C. Roper	1924 Bluehills Road Manhattan, KS 66502-	(785) 776-3772 droper@ksu.edu	Plains archaeology
Dr. Michael Scullin	Anthropology, Box 175, Mankato State University Mankato, MN 56002-8400	(507) 389-6504 scullin@kryp- ton.mankato.msus.edu	N. Plains Village cultures, corn cropping-varieties and techniques
Dr. Holmes A. Semken, Jr.	Department of Geology, Univ. of Iowa Iowa City, IA 52242-	(319) 335-1830 holmes-semken @uiowa.edu	paleoecology and taphonomy of micromammals
Mr. Jim F. Stauffer	521 N. Maple McPherson, KS 67460-	(316) 241-5861	Plains archaeology
Ms. Fern E. Swenson	305 Ryan Dr #1 Bismarck, ND 58501-	(701) 255-6585 fswenson@state.nd.us	Plains archaeology, NE Plains ceramics
Dr. Miranda Warburton	P. O. Box 6013, NNAD-NAU Flagstaff, AZ 86011-	(520) 523-7428 miranda.warburton@nau.edu	Southwestern archaeology, rocks
Dr. W. Raymond Wood	Dept. Anthro., 107 Swal- low Hall, Univ. of Missouri Columbia, MO 65211-	(573) 882-4362 anthrwr@showme.misso uri.edu	Plains archaeology, ethnohistory
Mr. Robert D. York	CNMI Museum, Caller Bx 10007, SaiPan, MP 96950	(670) 664-2160 rgyork@yahoo.com	Early (original) peoples studies; Plains, Great Basin, SW arch
Ms. Jeanne C. Zabel	P. O. Box 1951 Dahlgren, VA 22448-	(540) 775-7419 jzabel@crosslink.net	Plains archaeology

River in the San Luis Valley, south central Colorado. The goal was to develop baseline paleoenvironmental data for this section of the Rio Grande River corridor. Information would be used to guide vegetative restoration to conditions predating arrival of Euroamericans.

Member Eric Feiler collected and analyzed macrobotanical (plant part) contents of several middens from three areas near the Colorado-New Mex-

ico state line. Middens range in <sup>14</sup>C age from early Holocene to recent. The study indicated that riparian vegetation, notably willow and cottonwood (rare in current local plant communities), was more prevalent in older middens and that local sagebrush communities apparently expanded during the last few hundred years. A report is available on this study (Contribution No. 4).

### *Pinon Canyon Lithic System*

New Mexico State University (NMSU) requested assistance from PCRG in developing and training archaeological field staff for implementing a system for field-recording information about stone artifacts. This system was targeted for use in archaeological site survey in the Black Hills region of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS), southeastern Colorado. A system intended for use with minimal artifact collection was designed, field-tested while survey was ongoing, revised by project members, and then was fully incorporated into the survey project. Basics of the system are reported as PCRG Contribution No. 1; results of its application are available in the NMSU technical report on the 1997 field program.

### *Cattle Guard Folsom Site Stone Tools*

As part of an exhaustive study of Folsom occupation at the Cattle Guard site in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, Margaret (Pegi) Jodry requested that PCRG member Ahler conduct a low-magnification use-wear study of selected Folsom stone tools. This work was supported by a small grant from the Smithsonian Institution. Sixty-eight tools, including nearly all those from a proposed butchering or processing area in the site, were studied, providing intriguing results. Most notable was clear evidence for highly structured raw material transporting and tool making behavior, as well as new insights into tool function. Many end scrapers entered the site as transported flake blanks and were retouched, used, and discarded on the spot in a systematic fashion. The nature of wear on end scrapers suggests only certain stages (not the full sequence) of bison hide preparation were being carried out in the excavation area.

This work led to a technical report (Contribution No. 2) and a joint paper by Ahler and Jodry at the 1997 Plains Conference in Boulder (Contribution No. 3). Project results are being incorporated into Jodry's dissertation on the site; her larger study includes comparison of PCRG's findings with interpretations from a high-magnification use-wear study of the same artifact set carried out independently by another researcher.

### *Black Mountain Folsom Site Fieldwork*

PCRG members Ahler and Phil Geib were invited to participate in late-season 1997 excavations at the high-altitude Black Mountain Folsom site in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado. This project and their participation were supported jointly by the Smithsonian Institution and the U. S. Forest Service. This was an outstanding opportunity to participate directly in an exciting interdisciplinary project on the forefront of Paleoindian research and to share experiences with many lay and professional persons who took part in the Black Mountain program. As an outreach program open to the public, Black Mountain also offered a valuable learning experience regarding execution of field programs with strong public education components. This project, under the direction of Pegi Jodry (SI) and Vince Spero (USFS), was reported at the 1997 Plains Conference in Boulder and the 1998 SAA Meetings in Seattle.

### *Paleontological and Related Resources, Routt National Forest*

In 1997 the U. S. Forest Service requested PCRG's collaboration in an assessment of the quality and quantity of cave, paleontological, and packrat midden resources on the Routt National Forest, Colorado. Fieldwork by member Eric Feiler in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area included search for a cave reported in the 1970s as containing abundant faunal remains and survey along the North Platte River in north central Colorado for packrat middens. In the time available, the cave could not be relocated, but many active middens were documented.

A central effort was archival research about known paleontological sites in western Colorado and, specifically, fossil-bearing rock units on the Routt National Forest. Given the abundance of fossiliferous units on the Routt, there is high potential for paleontological resources within the Forest. The absence of recorded paleontological sites is likely due to poor surface exposure of pertinent rock units. Several areas on the Routt warrant further survey for packrat middens, and the potential for discovery of well-preserved fossil middens is thought to be good. A technical report for this project appears as Contribution No. 5.

### *South Dakota Tipi Ring Field School*

The Department of Anthropology, University of Missouri-Columbia, under the direction of W. Raymond Wood and Steve Dasovich, conducted for the second year (in June 1997) an archaeological field school at a complex of tipi ring sites near the town of Eureka, east of the Missouri River in north central South Dakota. PCRG member Ahler was invited to visit the project, give a flintknapping demonstration, and share insights with staff and students regarding study of project lithic raw materials. This proved a fruitful interaction for all parties. Steve Dasovich has since completed his dissertation, an assessment of research needs in tipi ring research, in which the South Dakota sites serve as the primary case study.

### *Dust Cave, Alabama Field School*

For several years, and now with grant funding from the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program, the University of Alabama has conducted an archaeological Field School at Dust Cave. Dust Cave contains a spectacular, highly stratified archaeological record ranging from Paleoindian (10,500 BP) to Middle Archaic (5500 BP) in age. PCRG member Boyce Driskell, project director, invited Ahler to participate in the 1997 field school as a professional mentor in the discipline of lithic technology. Ahler visited the project in northern Alabama for several days and presented two talks for students and staff. This was truly a unique opportunity for educational interaction on one of the premier multidisciplinary archaeological projects in the country. Ahler had to decline an invitation for a return participation in 1998 due to schedule conflicts, but hopes to revisit the project in future years. For more information, you may contact the Dust Cave Project web site at: [www.dustcave.ua.edu](http://www.dustcave.ua.edu)

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## **Projects Nearing Completion**

### *Highway 1806 By-Pass Project*

During the summer of 1996 and subsequent months, a new routing for Highway 1806 on the west side of the Missouri River just south of Mandan, North Dakota, impacted three Plains Village sites. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., of Eagle, CO and Bismarck, ND conducted a mitiga-

tion program at the sites and contracted with PCRG to analyze and report on pottery, lithics, and shell remains and to collaborate in developing the radiocarbon dating program for the project. This project has been ongoing for many months and is nearly completed, with draft written contributions from PCRG now under review.



*Boyce Driskell flintknapping at Dust Cave.*

This has been an informative and useful project. It provides well controlled data from a pre-contact age Plains Village site in the Mandan tradition and heartland (the Heart River region) – something never before available. It provides detailed comparative information for sites such as Slant Village, recently studied and reported but falling later in time. The main site in the 1806 Project is designated 32MO291, where remnants of a large series of cache pits and other features were studied. Twenty-one radiocarbon dates indicate that site samples can be assigned to three sequential periods that span from ca. AD 1415 to 1460. Thus, the site

predates nearby Slant Village by perhaps 100 years. Clear contrasts in artifact content are evident between 32MO291 and Slant Village. Full reporting will help build a foundation for understanding Mandan cultural developments in the Heart River area.

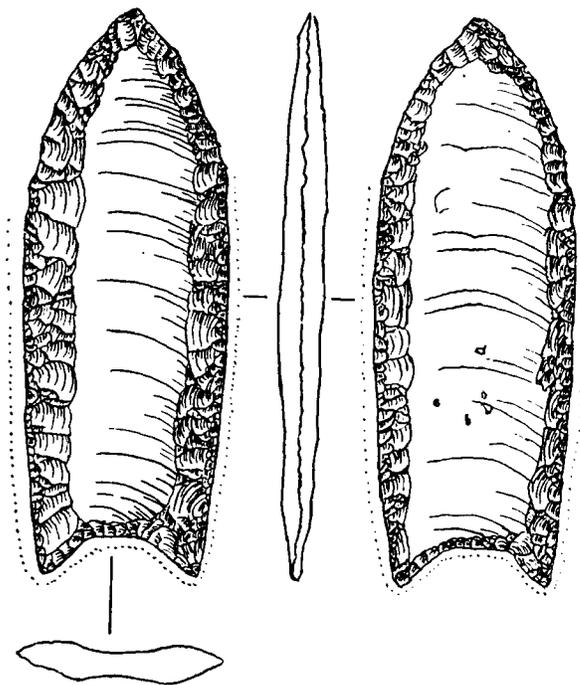
PCRG members and staff have contributed five substantive chapters to the project final report (on subjects of radiocarbon dating, analytic unit definition, pottery, lithic artifacts, and shell remains). When finalized, these will be listed as PCRG contributions. The project technical report will be available through MAC, Inc., and/or the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

#### *Missouri River Valley Folsom Artifacts*

A member of the public has made available for detailed archaeological study a large series of Folsom artifacts, primarily finished points and preforms, from a small cluster of sites along the Missouri River in western North Dakota. Member Stan Ahler is working with George Frison and a professional illustrator to publish a descriptive and interpretive paper on these collections. Analysis provides insights into details of Folsom fluting technology not previously understood. These artifacts will form one of the study collections available at the Second Workshop on Folsom Fluting in Austin, Texas (March 1999). We anticipate that the collection, containing two of the most remarkable Folsom points yet discovered, will eventually be donated to a public museum where it will be available for continuing study and display.

#### *McKinney Faunal Analysis*

For the past two years, PCRG members Carl Falk and Darcy Morey have worked intermittently with a large and diverse collection of faunal remains from a late prehistoric (fifteenth century) Oneota village, the McKinney site (13LA1). McKinney lies on a divide between the Iowa and Mississippi River valleys near Toolesboro, Iowa. This research is implemented under a contract between PCRG and the University of Illinois-Urbana and is a component of a larger Historical Resource Development Grant administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa. The grant is the direct result of efforts by R. Eric Hollinger, a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois; Eric is analyzing macrobotanical remains from the site.



*Folsom point from a site on the Missouri River, North Dakota. Drawing by Marvin Goad.*

PCRG efforts are focused on five samples derived from investigations beginning in 1958 and continuing through 1995-1996 with the University of Illinois archaeological field school. Immediate project goals are essentially descriptive: collection of basic count and weight data, specimen identification, and generation of descriptive summaries organized by excavation unit. However, working with Holmes A. Semken, Jr. (also a PCRG member), Falk and Morey plan to use the McKinney data in a more thorough examination of the zoogeography of prehistoric Iowa, as well as aspects of Oneota subsistence systems. The contracted phase of the project is nearing completion with a projected report date of March 1, 1999.

#### *Martens Clovis Site*

Through the assistance of project director Julie Morrow of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey and a grant from the St. Louis Archaeological Society, member Stan Ahler has begun a low-magnification use-wear study of Clovis culture artifacts from the

Martens site, near St. Louis, Missouri. Lay archaeologist Dick Martens has been a key player in promoting and supporting professional study of this highly significant location. An unmixed Clovis component was excavated at the site in 1997 under Morrow's direction with a volunteer crew from the St. Louis Archaeological Society. The tool sample under study (n=25) is a cross section of the assemblage which includes retouched and utilized flakes, polyhedral blades, end scrapers, bifaces, and Clovis points. A report will be forthcoming this spring, and we hope to expand the study to include a large series of end scrapers from the site.

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### **Ongoing and Developing Projects**

#### *Northern Arizona University Grant*

Beginning in the fall of 1998, PCRG began a cooperative program whereby we place Northern Arizona University students employed in the Federal Work-Study Program in various positions in our office and lab. In this arrangement, the student is paid through NAU, with 70% of funding coming from Federal Work-Study funds and 30% provided by PCRG. This is in effect a generous matching grant through which PCRG can recruit and hire student workers, usually those with an interest in archaeology and related sciences, and place them in tasks critical to our mission but for which we have little or no financial support. This fall, we made major progress in processing of Menoken Village collections with NAU Work-Study assistance. We hope to continue involvement in this program during coming years, because it allows flexibility to accomplish many of our research and education goals which presently lack external funding.

#### *Pawnee National Grassland Packrat Midden Study*

In September 1998 the Pawnee National Grassland, Colorado and PCRG entered a cooperative agreement to assess the potential for in-depth paleoenvironmental studies in the Grassland. In the first phase of work, member Eric Feiler will survey for potential packrat midden sites, sample selected localities, and provide initial analysis (including radiocarbon dating) of a small number of recovered midden samples. If fieldwork and initial analysis demonstrate potential for a relatively complete record with significant time depth, the project will be

expanded to include complete, in-depth analysis of twenty or more midden samples.

#### *Northeastern Arizona Paleoindian Artifacts*

With assistance provided by Michael Sturgill of Provo, Utah, member Phil Geib is studying and reporting on an extensive collection of Paleoindian and Early Archaic stone artifacts from several surface contexts in northeastern Arizona. Artifacts are being illustrated by excellent line drawings prepared by Marvin Goad of Del Norte, Colorado. Publication will document in some detail an extensive early cultural presence in this part of the Colorado Plateau.

#### *Willow Bunker Site, Colorado*

Late in the fall 1997, members Stan Ahler and Eric Feiler were asked by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to visit and help evaluate the newly recorded Willow Bunker site on the Pawnee National Grassland, northeastern Colorado. The site consisted of multiple hearths eroding from erosional exposures and scatters of bone and chipped stone, with one hearth yielding a  $^{14}\text{C}$  date of nearly 7000 BP. During the half-day visit, an additional hearth was located and a deeply buried paleosol was also identified. Recognizing the importance of the site as a potential Early Plains Archaic occupation, representatives from the USFS asked PCRG to cooperate in formulating long-term research plans.

In September 1998, PCRG and the USFS collaborated in further documentation and evaluation of Willow Bunker. Volunteers from the Forest Service's "Passport in Time" program surveyed and mapped the site. The site was found to extend more than a half-mile along a small perennial stream and to be potentially much richer and more complex than first suspected. Numerous additional hearths were located in various states of preservation, several new surface artifact concentrations were identified, and a bison skull was found in a small erosional cut. By the close of the program two eroding hearths were salvaged, the bison skull was excavated (more bones were found in this test pit), and three additional test pits were excavated. Intact, buried archeology was encountered in every test pit.

Based on results from the 1998 initial field program, PCRG and the USFS have agreed to expand the research program at Willow Bunker. In

June 1999, integrated geomorphological studies and systematic archaeological testing will occur at the site. The University of Colorado and the Colorado Archeological Society will be partners in this venture with PCRG and the Forest Service. Specifically, the Douglas Bamforth and the Department of Anthropology at CU will operate an archaeological field school at Willow Bunker, the Colorado Archeological Society will provide volunteers and help with local public relations, and PCRG and the Forest Service will plan and coordinate the entire program. If this upcoming season fulfills expectations, we will submit a grant proposal for funding to support laboratory analysis, two more seasons of field investigations, and write-up and publication. Opportunities clearly exist for PCRG member participation in fieldwork and other activities at Willow Bunker.



*Test excavations underway at the Willow Bunker site, Colorado, September 1998.*

#### *Menoken Indian Village, North Dakota*

In May and June 1998 PCRG began a collaboration with the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) and the University of Missouri-Columbia (UM-C) regarding renewed investigations at Menoken Indian Village State Historic Site on Apple Creek, just east of Bismarck. The village

is a registered National Historic Landmark. It is purported to be the specific site of first recorded historic contact between Euroamericans and the Mandans in North Dakota (La Vérendrye's Expedition in 1738). Fieldwork conducted at Menoken in 1938 and 1939 yielded confusing information, and the renewed work in 1998 was at first designed to test the proposition of early historic contact.

The recent field program consisted of complete close interval magnetic and resistivity surveys conducted by member Ken Kvamme and his wife Jo Ann and a metal detector survey, hand coring, contour mapping, and controlled excavation program conducted as part of the University of Missouri-Columbia Archaeological Field School. The field school was directed by W. Raymond Wood and Stan Ahler with involvement from Fern Swenson (SHSND), Paul Picha (SHSND), Jeff Speakman (UM-C), and Erwin Curry (Natural Resources Conservation Service). Remote sensing revealed several burned earthlodge structures at the site (some invisible at the surface), and coring and excavation confirmed both surface structures and pit structures. Two houses were tested, as was the fortification ditch. Artifacts reveal a single primary component which is probably Late Woodland period (AD 1100 or earlier) rather than protohistoric in age. Radio-carbon dates are forthcoming, supported by a grant from the University of Missouri-Columbia. The site content is intriguing for its apparent lack of horticulture, focus on bison procurement, and village settlement structure, as well as specific artifact linkages to Plains Village sites classified as Initial Middle Missouri Variant locations. The 1998 fieldwork and subsequent interpretations have been partially reported in a paper at the 1998 Plains Conference in Bismarck (Contribution No. 6).

Having dispelled the myth of a La Vérendrye connection at Menoken Village, but having exposed an even more intriguing archaeological site, further work is now planned at Menoken. The excavated collection from 1998 has been shipped to the PCRG lab in Flagstaff, and we have made a commitment to analyze and report on the excavated sample. Sorting of the collection is partially completed. A second UM-C archaeological field school is planned at Menoken Village in the period June 8 through July 16, 1999. A grant proposal has been submitted for consideration under Transportation Enhancement funding administered by the North

Dakota Department of Transportation. If received, this grant will support on-site public visitation and interpretation during the 1999 field season, development of several permanent interpretive displays which will incorporate results of current research, and publication of lay-oriented information about Menoken and other archaeological sites in North Dakota. Grant funding will only partially support field efforts and final analysis of excavated materials. Additional support and participation by PCRG members is welcome in both areas.

#### *Scattered Village, Heart River, North Dakota*

While the field school at Menoken Village was ongoing near Bismarck last June, another significant village site was being unearthed by the First Street Project within the City of Mandan, ND, just across the Missouri River. The location of this traditional village of the protohistoric Mandans (one of six or seven villages in their heartland near the mouth of the Heart River) was generally known to residents in Mandan but had never been accurately recorded by archaeologists. When street and utility work exposed extensive middens, a plan for emergency salvage excavation and follow-through research was called for. An intensive eight-week excavation program was carried out from mid-July to early September. The local office of Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. provided most of the crew and the local logistical and administrative base for fieldwork. PCRG members Ahler and Feiler provided much of the direction during fieldwork; PCRG member John Craig volunteered for a full week on the project, and several UM-C students who just completed the field school at Menoken served on the crew.

All lab work and reporting for the project will be carried out by PCRG under a three-year contract with the City of Mandan. Lab work started early in September. The collection -- consisting of about 270 boxes of waterscreened samples, heavy and light fraction float samples, and other special samples -- was shipped to Flagstaff, and the lengthy and complex task of sorting, analysis, study, and reporting is underway. Work so far has focused on writing the excavation report and on basic processing (size-grading, floating, and sorting) of the water-screened collection. More advanced studies of pottery, lithics, and faunal remains along with radiocarbon dating will start this spring as processing

work continues. The next full year (September 1999 through August 2000) will be devoted to completing specialized studies of the many artifact classes present, and the final year will be devoted to writing and editing of the final project report.

Scattered Village yielded large amounts of pottery, stone tools and flaking debris, shell, fish, bird, small and large mammal remains, and carbonized botanical remains, as well as small amounts glass trade beads and metal trade items. Thus, the analytic needs are large and diverse. A staff of 6 to 8 persons is working on Scattered Village in Flagstaff, and Carl Falk will soon begin the first steps of vertebrate faunal analysis in Sevierville, TN. Final personnel commitments regarding several analytic studies as well as extensive computer graphic work must still be arranged. Participating Members interested in taking part in any aspect of the project should contact Stan Ahler, project director.

The research potential from Scattered Village is quite large, and we are grateful to the City of Mandan and the North Dakota Department of Transportation for their full cooperation and generous funding support for the project. Scattered Village figures prominently in the oral traditions of both the Mandans and Hidatsas, yet, previously, it was an unknown entity from an archaeological perspective. Preliminary studies of pottery and trade artifacts suggest occupation in the AD 1500s and 1600s, and a strong possibility that both Mandans and Hidatsas lived at the site. The record at Scattered Village is contemporaneous with that from nearby Slant Village, but artifact content appears quite different in the two sites (admittedly, this is only a preliminary assessment). A much clearer picture of Mandan cultural change will be forthcoming after more time, patience, and hard work.

#### *Jones Village Project*

Craig Johnson, assisted by John Craig and Marion Travis (all PCRG members), organized and directed emergency salvage excavations at the Jones Village site (39CA3) in north central South Dakota in 1997 and 1998. This work, supported entirely through private funds and labor donated by many individuals, was conducted in coordination with the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under appropriate Archaeological Resources Protection Act permits. Specific field objectives included determination of site boundaries,

documentation of ongoing site erosion and destruction, and collection of data potentially useful for the full definition of the site's occupational history, as well as placement of the site in regional cultural-historical context. The results of fieldwork are now summarized in report form (Contribution Numbers 7 and 8) and initial laboratory processing of the 1997 collection (some 20 cubic feet of boxed materials) has been completed through efforts from Carl Falk and Craig Johnson. The 1998 excavation sample (an additional 16 cubic feet of material) remains unprocessed. PCRG is now directly involved with this important project and is currently seeking support for the completion of all laboratory processing, analysis and reporting of these potentially important collections.

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### PCRG Research Contribution List

PCRG has begun the process of numbering and listing written research contributions that are produced by its members. Two purposes are served: (1) to provide a permanent record of substantive research products generated by members of the organization, and (2) to enhance the dissemination of information contained in these contributions, both to members and to other interested parties.

The decision to list a written paper, report, or publication as a PCRG Research Contribution is made primarily by the author(s) of the document. Documents formally published elsewhere (e.g., articles in journals, chapters in reports or edited volumes) may be simultaneously listed as a PCRG contribution. If so, reference should be made to the PCRG contribution number somewhere in the published version (usually in a footnote or endnote).

The first author should submit two copies of any item listed as a numbered PCRG Research Contribution to the office in Flagstaff. One copy will become an archival copy, and the second will be used to meet requests for photocopying and distribution to members or others. Subject to restrictions imposed by copyright laws, PCRG will distribute single copies of any listed contribution upon request to any member, at cost for photocopying and mailing.

The current list of PCRG Research Contributions is as follows:

1. Ahler, Stanley A.  
1997 Field Analysis System for Surface Lithic Artifacts Encountered in the Black Hills Survey Project, Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado. Field artifact recording forms and definitions submitted to Larry L. Loendorf, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, designed to accompany in-field training. 4 pp.
2. Ahler, Stanley A.  
1997 *Use-Wear and Functional Analysis of Selected Artifacts from Stewart's Cattle Guard Site (5AL101), Colorado*. Technical report submitted to Margaret A. Jodry, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 41 pp. text, 84 pp. lab forms.
3. Ahler, Stanley A. and Margaret A. Jodry  
1997 Scrapper Use-Wear as an Indicator of Folsom Mobility in High-Altitude Southern Colorado. Paper presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Boulder, Colorado. 10 pp.
4. Feiler, Eric  
1998 *Analysis of Eleven Packrat Middens Collected From the Rio Grande Riparian Corridor, San Luis Valley, Colorado*. Technical report submitted to Mike Cassell, Bureau of Land Management, Alamosa, Colorado, and Rio Grande Restoration, Taos, New Mexico. 43 pp.
5. Feiler, Eric J.  
1998 *Paleontological, Packrat, and Cave Resources on the Routt National Forest, Colorado*. Technical report submitted to Jeff Overturf, Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. 42 pp. + 1 oversize map.
6. Ahler, Stanley A., Kenneth L. Kvamme, W. Raymond Wood, Fern E. Swenson, and Paul R. Picha.  
1998 *Challenging the Myth: New Investigations at Menoken Indian Village State Historic*

Site, North Dakota. Paper presented at the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Bismarck, North Dakota. 11 pp.

7. Johnson, Craig M.  
1997 *1997 Archaeological Investigations at the Jones Village Site (39CA3), Campbell County, South Dakota*. Report submitted to the Omaha District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. 10 pp.
8. Johnson, Craig M.  
1998 *1998 Archaeological Investigations at the Jones Village Site (39CA3), Campbell County, South Dakota*. Report submitted to the Omaha District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. 10 pp.

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### Opportunities for Participation

Several opportunities are available for PCRG members and others to take part in ongoing or planned projects or in general PCRG activities. The reader should refer to discussions of some of the projects in previous sections, and note relevant dates and contact persons.

- **Fieldwork at Menoken**, North Dakota. June 8 through July 16. A six-week archaeological field school is planned, and PCRG could use a few additional, experienced field personnel to assist in excavation, student instruction, and meeting the public on the site. Field housing arrangements are not settled at this time; participants should be flexible regarding housing and meal arrangements. Contact by March 15: Stan Ahler (520) 774-9274; Fern Swenson (701) 328-3575; or Ray Wood (573) 882-4362, or by e-mail.
- **Fieldwork at Willow Bunker**, Colorado. A five week archaeological field school and field season is planned. Ca. June 1 through July 2. Field assistants who can spend at least one week taking part, at any level of experience, are welcome. Plan on camping and contributing to the camp food arrangements. Contact by March 15: Eric Feiler (520) 774-9274, or by e-mail.
- **Packrat Midden Survey**, Pawnee National Grassland, Colorado. Eric Feiler could use one assistant in conducting survey and sampling of packrat middens in the Pawnee National Grassland. For approximately one week duration, probably early July 1999. Contact by March 15: Eric Feiler (520) 774-9274, or by e-mail.
- **Sorting and Collection Processing** in Flagstaff. PCRG could use volunteers to assist in sorting, processing, and quantifying excavated collections from several projects, including Scattered Village, Menoken, and Jones Village. Spring and fall 1999. Contact Stan Ahler (520) 774-9274, or by e-mail.
- **Specialized Studies of Plains Village Collections**. Final arrangements have not yet been made for all specialized studies of artifacts from several Plains Village site excavations including Scattered Village, Menoken Village, and Jones Village. Opportunities exist for involvement in studies of pottery, botanical remains, certain faunal remains, and other artifact classes. Contact Stan Ahler (520) 774-9274 or Carl Falk (423) 453-1652, or by e-mail.
- **Outreach, Fund Raising Specialist**. PCRG seeks part-time or full-time involvement from a person having a background in archaeology to conduct public outreach work, prepare grant proposals dealing with infrastructure development, and to assist in general management and development of the organization. Activities would include public outreach work on-site at the Menoken Project in June and proposal writing this spring and/or this fall. Contact Stan Ahler (520) 774-9274 or Carl Falk (423) 453-1652, or by e-mail.
- **Monetary Contributions**. Funding is needed to support both project-specific research and education goals of the organization as well as general development of the organization. Contributions to PCRG are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.