



Taos  
Archaeological  
Society

Bulletin

March 10, 2020

**Tonight's Speaker  
Price Heiner**

**Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Program  
Manager on the Carson National Forest**

**La Cueva Rockshelter:  
Evidence of Long-Term Continuous  
Prehistoric Use of the High  
Elevations of Northern  
New Mexico**



Price will address the shovel testing results of a high elevation rockshelter site located in the Valle Vidal of Northern New Mexico. The preliminary results suggest long-term repeated use of the rock shelter over thousands of years by both Southwest and Plains prehistoric groups. His discussion will focus on the long-term occupational history of the shelter, the geomorphic and geoarchaeological contexts of the shelter, as well as the use/function of this particular rock shelter.

*Price Heiner has been working as a professional archaeologist for ~19 years with approximately 8 years working for private archaeo-logical firms, and 11 years for the U.S. Forest Service. As an archaeologist he has primarily worked in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana. He is originally from Fort Collins, Colorado and received his bachelor's degree in anthropology from Colorado State University, and his master's degree in anthropology from University of Wyoming and is primarily interested in hunter-gather ecology, landscape archaeology, lithic technological organization, geomorphology, geoarchaeology,*



## TAS Lifetime Membership



The Taos Archaeological Society is offering Lifetime Membership with the contribution of \$500.00 per individual anytime up until December 31, 2019.

Take advantage of this **Tax Deductible** opportunity and help TAS fund our mission!! The Lifetime Membership will include the Member plus one additional family member.

TAS,  
PO Box 143,  
Taos, NM 87571



## Field Work

The Taos Archaeological Society, in cooperation with Carson National Forest will participate in archaeological testing of a rock shelter site in Valle Vidal Summer of 2020. We will be posting updated information soon to members.



We excavated and surveyed this area for a week August 5-9, 2019 and recorded two hearths and many artifacts. Three new sites were also recorded. We collected lithics including obsidian and 5 ceramics. Also, in the excavation we found an Archaic projectile dart San Pedro variety (see photo below (circa 1500 BC). Great group of archaeology techs and volunteers from TAS.



Archaic Dart Armijo Side Notched circa 5000 BC



La Cueva excavation underway



La Cueva Feature 2 Thermal Feature



**SUMMER POT LUCK  
COMING SOON!!!!  
July 2020**



## TAS Education Initiative

The Taos Archaeological Society is in part Funding trips for students to The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project!! Trips coming up this Spring 2020!!! Contact Phil Alldritt at [taoscuba@hotmail.com](mailto:taoscuba@hotmail.com)



TAS is looking for Members to form an Education Committee who will promote and facilitate communication with teachers and schools to advance our bus trip programs!! To participate in this very successful effort contact Phil Alldritt at [taoscuba@hotmail.com](mailto:taoscuba@hotmail.com)

Thank you!





TAS is also looking for Members to participate in organizing TAS archives from 2000-Present. We are requesting that any Members who have photographs from TAS trips and any archival materials to contact Phil Alldritt at [taoscuba@hotmail.com](mailto:taoscuba@hotmail.com). Thank you!



**Next Speaker**  
**April 14**

**Keith M Prufer**

**Unraveling the Long Road to the  
Maize Diet in the Neotropics of  
Mesoamerica**



Pollen and starch grain evidence indicates that domesticated maize (*Zea mays* subspecies *mays*) first appears in the Balsas region of Mexico by ~9,000 years ago, but few data exist on when corn became an integral part of the human diet in Mesoamerica. In this talk Keith presents new data for a transect spanning 9,500-1,200 years ago of stable isotopes of carbon showing the adoption of maize was gradual, later than might be expected, and resulted in a maize dependent diet in the neotropics by 4000 B.P.

*Keith Prufer is a Professor of Anthropology and director of the Environmental Archaeology Laboratory at the University of New Mexico. For 25 years he has conducted excavations in the Maya Lowlands focusing on human-environmental relationships. His newest project is investigating the Paleoindian and Archaic origins of humans in the neotropics through studies of diet, technology, and genomics.*