



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

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LAST MEETING: August 18, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Greg sent around sign up sheets for tasks during the Ducky Derby on Sept. 10. High school students and Rotarians have sold 200 tickets. Sell more tickets!

The District Governor will be our program on 9/1.

The Larios will host the September 5th Thursday on Friday September 30. This change is to accommodate the Community Chorus concert on 9/29. [Now you have no excuse not to come to the concert! - ED] There will be no regular club meeting on 9/29.

PROGRAM: Randy Campbell introduced Glade Hadden, an archeologist with BLM. He has a PhD in archeology, as well as a wonderful sense of humor. He and his crew have been excavating the Eagle Rock Shelter pictograph site for a number of years. This site is located on the Gunnison River between Pleasure Park and Austin. His story of discoveries is most amazing. It was first noted by BLM in 1988 and recorded as number 813 in the county. There are now between 1200 and 1300 recorded sites in Delta County as compared with 24,000 in Montrose County.

Since looters had apparently cleaned out the Eagle Rock site, BLM decided to use it for an archeological field school dig as they could do little harm to the despoiled site. Some preliminary excavation revealed some artifacts, so there seemed to be a bit to learn from the site. Initial digging uncovered a 300 year old Ute hearth and some petroglyphs that were 3 - 5 thousand years old.

They soon discovered that the looters had gone no deeper than a rock layer that had washed in. As archeologists dug down they found some Middle Archaic points, approximately 4000 years old. A little deeper they found some baskets and cordage - intact because they had stayed dry - at approximately 8000 years old, making them the oldest found in Colorado and the second oldest found in the US.

By year five of the excavation, they found a 7000 year old hearth and a human body. Digging stopped for two years, while this body of a 80+ year old woman was properly handled. During the digging they had found lots of rock art at 5 - 6 thousand years old that was representative of all kinds of Colorado pre-historic art. A Pinto point dated at 8000 years old was also discovered. All the artifacts are now stored at the Anasazi Heritage Center outside of Cortez.

As they dug deeper that found evidence of Fremont culture occupation consisting of corn, beads, scrapers, and projectile points. Eventually they found the oldest hearth on the site, which they dated at

12,880 years old. There are probably only 8 such hearths known in the US as old. All told, they found 13 hearths on the site that they dated between 12,000 and 13,000 years old. Having reached bedrock, they stopped digging.

The great significance of the results of the excavation at the Eagle Rock site is that it reveals pre-Clovis occupation and is the only paleo-Indian stratified site in the US. There are no Clovis or Folsom points here. These pre-Clovis people did not hunt large animals. They were hunter-gatherers who subsisted on sage grouse, other small game and plants. The discoveries here are earth shaking in the world of archeology. Until now, no paleo-Indian evidence of long term occupation at a site existed. Thus Gladden's discoveries are changing the paradigm of how archeologists look at this ancient time period. [I found this program to be one of the most interesting we have ever heard at a Rotary meeting. I hope I have accurately reported what our engaging speaker told us. - ED]

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: The Rotary theme for August is Membership. Best Practices for Member Retention - The Rotary Club of West Springfield, Virginia developed the "Buddy System" to increase attendance and club involvement. A member whose attendance and involvement are lagging will receive at least one of the following: a) a call from a retention committee member, b) a "missing you" card, c) a copy of the club's most recent newsletter along with a personal note. Another club formed a New Leaders Group that included all members who had joined the club within the past three years as well as every newly inducted member. NLG Rotary discussion and fellowship meetings are open to all club members/prospective members, and the long-tenured members were often the guest speakers. The meetings are held at members' homes bi-monthly.

Rotarians At Work Day is an excellent way to re-inspire and prevent Rotarians from leaving. And bring the family along too. The key to retaining members is to make their contributions in the club, no matter how small, carry weight and be acknowledged. If members feel they have worth they will always find it hard to leave. Its not about the size of the accomplishments, but the acknowledgment that each member is contributing that is key.

Well informed Rotarians seldom quit the organization. [Some say this is presumptuous. What do you think?]

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 25: Randal Palmer, Principal of PHS, about partnering possibilities w/ Rotary.

September 1: Teresa Anson, Rotary District 5470 Governor

September 8: Alex Johnson, Executive Director of the Western Slope Conservation Center - the BLM Resource Management Plan currently in public comment period.

September 15: McKenna Palmer and Cyrus Malek-Madani - our RYLA attendees

September 22: Jason Cleckler, CEO of Delta County Memorial Hospital

