

# West Texas Archeological Society

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[westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website](http://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website)

President: Tom Ashmore, Vice President: C.A. Maedgen, Treasurer: James Michael Collett

Feel free to share with friends. Membership is free. 100 members and growing!

*Newsletter & Website Editor: Tom Ashmore ([tcashmo@gmail.com](mailto:tcashmo@gmail.com))*

## October 2025

### Fort Concho Speakers Series

Our presentation for the Ft Concho Speakers Series on 'The Lady In Blue Pictograph Story at Meyers Spring Pictograph Wall' was very well attended and very well received. C.A. gave a brief introduction, explaining how we ended up working on pictographic interpretations, despite never intending to do work in that direction. The best way to describe it is that when the opportunity presents itself from divine inspiration, you go with it. This is the third pictograph story from the wall of Meyers Spring that has inspired us to do more research and report on it. It should be noted that these reports have been compiled through the collaboration of several members of our organization and indigenous ancestral experts, with whom we have been privileged to spend a considerable amount of time examining these pictographs. We also extend our gratitude to the generosity of Thad Steele, the property owner and WTAS member.



### Meyers Spring Shumla Tour Support

The Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center recently requested to bring an unscheduled tour group through Meyers Spring. As part of that request, they asked our organization to provide short presentations of our pictograph reports to the group. Although we have supported several Shumla tours in the past, this was the first time we have been asked to give presentations. To keep the presentations as short as possible, Tom created a 10-minute video that covered all three interpretation reports. This went over very well.

Two of our members from the Jumano Nation (Bill Martinez Acosta) and Lipan Apache Band of Texas (Ruben Two Bears) were also on hand and offered their assistance and support. They provided blessings and ceremonial drumming at the wall. They even got the group to join in a sacred circle dance.



## **Seminole Days Presentations**

The weekend of September 18 – 20 was a busy one in Brackettville. It began on Thursday with a visit to WTAS members Anita Anaya and Richard Gonzalez's newly refurbished Sergeant Stagecoach Station bed and breakfast. They have an adjacent garden and meeting room for the Lipan Apache Band of Texas members, and I was proud to present them with three gifted art prints from another WTAS member, Mike Capron. These will be proudly shown on the wall of their meeting room. Our work at Meyers Spring inspired all these.

On Friday, I presented for the fourth year our update of research and archeological discoveries to the Seminole Days annual celebration. On Saturday, I presented our Camp Meyers Spring project to the Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas at the St. John's Missionary Outreach Community Center in Brackettville. These two groups get together each year to remember their ancestors. Until we began providing them with the information, they had no idea of their great-great-grandfather's life at this wilderness camp. It provides them with a deeper understanding of the sacrifices they made while serving both the citizens of the United States and their families.





## **Haskell County Historical Commission Presentation**

We gave a presentation to the residents of Haskell, Texas, on the Butterfield Trail through West Texas. Haskell is located just west of the old Butterfield Trail, as it ran southwest from Fort Belknap to Fort Phantom Hill, and then on to Fort Chadbourne. I added some imagery interpretation of the trail through that area for this presentation. At the time, Abilene did not exist. Thus, the route bypasses that area to go through Mountain Pass on its way to Fort Chadbourne.



## **Horsehead Crossing Event Volunteers Needed**

If you plan to attend the Horsehead Crossing event for early camping or live in the vicinity, come by and visit. We may need your assistance. Last year, it was only Dave Hurlburt and myself. Unfortunately, Dave will be unable to attend this year. The committee is dedicating one volunteer to assist in Dave's place. We are responsible for setting up the lecture pavilion. If you can help, please get in touch with me.

[tcashmo@gmail.com](mailto:tcashmo@gmail.com)



# Horsehead Crossing Event YouTube promo video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkUqE9LYyBI>

Raising Of The Flag: sunrise (approx 7:45 am)  
Lower Of The Flag: sunset (approx 7:00 p.m.)

Cannon volleys, stagecoach, buckboard rides throughout the day

Chuck wagon meals (No fee)

\* Donation jars and credit app info throughout area

Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

\* Walking tours (check for times)

\* Stagecoach and buckboard rides

\* Artifacts and historical information can be seen at main tent

\* Reenactor presentations at their camps throughout the day



**Tom Ashmore**  
Horsehead Crossing Historian



**Ernest Woodward**  
Horsehead Crossing  
&  
Six Shooter Ranches



## 2025 Schedule of Events

### Friday, Oct 10th

7:45 am Reveille  
8:00 am Breakfast at the chuck wagons  
8:30 am Gates Open To The Public  
9:00 am Welcome by Kirby Warnock  
9:30 am - 1:00 p.m. Schools visit begins  
- Comanche dancers  
12:00 Lunch at the Chuck Wagons  
12:30 pm Gun Slinger Shootout followed by gathering of school kids at cannons for mass firing  
1:00 pm School buses load for return  
1:30 pm Comanche dancers @ central flagpole area

2:00 Lecture Pavilion Speaker: History and Archeology of Horsehead Crossing - Tom Ashmore

3:00 pm Horsehead Crossings Walking Tours with archeologist/historian Tom Ashmore (starts at Lecture Pavilion)

- Women's TeaTime - at Lecture Pavilion

3:30 pm Gun Slinger Shootout  
4:25 pm Comanche Dancers @ central flagpole area  
6:00 pm Dinner at the Chuck Wagons  
7:00 pm Main campfire acoustic music and storytelling with Doug Moreland <https://www.dougmoreland.com/>

### Saturday, Oct 11th

7:45 am Reveille  
8:00 am Gates Open To The Public  
8:30 am Breakfast At The Chuck Wagons  
9:00 am Welcome by Kirby Warnock , followed by Comanche dancers @ central flagpole area  
9:30 am Texas Confederate Soldiers memorial for those who died at Horsehead Crossing @ Confederate monument



## 2025 Schedule of Events

### Saturday, Oct 11th (continued)

9:30 am Trail ride begins for those who brought their own horses (Texas Trail Riders Association)

10:30: Lecture Pavilion Speaker: History and Archeology of Horsehead Crossing - Tom Ashmore, West Texas Archeological Society

11:30 am - Horsehead Crossings Walking Tours with archeologist/historian Tom Ashmore (starts at Lecture Pavilion)

12:00 pm Lunch at the Chuck Wagons

12:30 Lecture Pavilion :**Lunchtime Videos**: Two short videos: Stagecoaching (documentary, 15 min) & The Comanche War Trail (8 min) (presented by West Texas Archeological Society)

12:45 pm Gun Slinger Shootout

1:00 pm Comanche dancers @ central flagpole area

### Lecture Pavilion Speakers:

2:00 pm Question/Answers with acclaimed West Texas author Patrick Dearen

2:45 pm The Goodnight-Loving Trail - Tom Ashmore, West Texas Archeological Society

3:45 pm Horsehead Crossings Walking Tour with archeologist/historian Tom Ashmore (starts at Lecture Pavilion)

5:00 pm Comanche Dancers@ central flagpole area

6:00 pm Chuck Wagon Supper

8:30 pm Live Cannon Fire to Finish Out The Event

9:00 pm Saturday night dance with J.R. Dunn and Spring Creek Band + Doug Moreland

### Sunday, Oct 12th

7:45 am Reveille

8:30 am Breakfast

9:30 am Sunday Services

## Upcoming Events (field projects will be emailed separately)

Oct 10/11: Horsehead Crossing – Horsehead Crossing, Goodnight Loving Trail Celebration

Oct 25, 9:30 a.m.: Zoom presentation for Fort Clark Historical Association - Camp Shumla: Protecting the Pecos River High Bridge (Zoom link to be sent early to members via email)

Jan 13: Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Midland, TX (noon lunch talk, 'Horsehead Crossing')

Apr 10/11: West Texas Historical Association, MCM Elegante Hotel, Lubbock, TX – Lady In Blue

Apr 25: Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies' Symposium, Amarillo, TX

***Donations: We do not charge for membership, presentations, or any work we undertake on the various projects. We do it because we love it and believe that history needs to be preserved accurately. All donations are used to fund projects and/or public event costs. If you would like to make a donation to our efforts, please make checks payable to IAS. (We must maintain this banking identity for deposit under the grandfathered banking rules.)***

**Mail any donation checks made out to IAS to:**

West Texas Archeological Society

P.O. Box 183

Iraan, TX 79744

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***Our webpage is updated regularly, with information on the home page indicating when and what has been updated. There is no logging in. Visit the displayed page and enjoy the new information. Updates are identified at the top of the home page.***

<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website>



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**West Texas Archeological Society Membership Form (no dues)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(You will receive the newsletter via e-mail.)

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_