

West Texas Archeological Society

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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!)

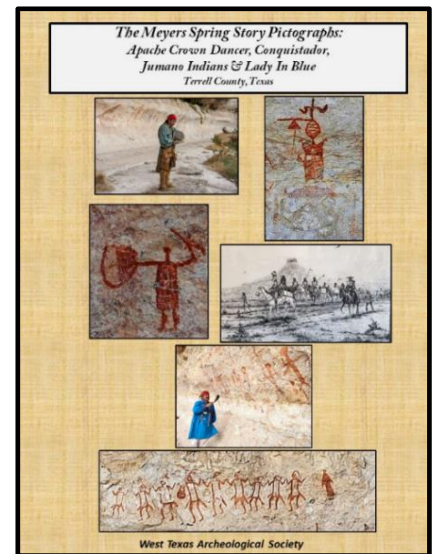
Newsletter & Website Editor: Tom Ashmore

August 2025

Third WTAS Reports Booklet to Tom Green County Library

The Tom Green County Library Administrators have been so happy to receive our printed reports that I decided to make another compilation of reports for the library. This one focuses on our three pictograph reports at Meyers Spring. I printed them as a single document and placed them into a 3-ring binder with page protectors. We also created several for Thad Steele, the landowner of Meyers Spring, and one for the Terrell County Library.

This will help reach more people interested in the history of West Texas. The cost of supplies for this and other educational efforts is another aspect of what your donations are supporting.



Independence Creek Artifacts Now On Display

We returned the metal artifacts from our project in a well-presented display for guests staying at the Independence Creek Preserve lodge. We believe these metal artifacts originated from various Indian ambushes on the road that ran along the Devils River in the early 1800s. The displays were located on a mesa slope overlooking the creek and valley drainage. Several items can be tied to known Indian/military ambushes. If you have not read the report, you can find it at this link. Note: Independence Creek Preserve visitation is limited to volunteer workdays and various special events throughout the calendar year. An appointment is needed for visits outside of these organized events. <https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website/reports>



New Project

We began a new study and survey project in the area of Live Oak Creek Draw, below Big Lake. The landowners requested this project on a 7,600+ acre ranch with ancient hunting camps and caprock shelters. Our preliminary research suggests that this ranch, with many former springs and creek tributaries feeding into Live Oak Creek, was a highly active hunting area throughout nearly every ancient and historic period, except the Paleo period. We conducted one orientation visit and will make more visits to the property, beginning in September (depending on the weather). Future trip details will be announced through email.

The Vulture: A Sacred Animal of the Native Americans

I created this short discussion of the various Turkey Vulture pictographs found on the Meyers Spring wall for visitors on tour to the Meyers Spring Ranch. I decided to add it to our pictographs compilation report, and I thought our members might find it interesting as well.



The Turkey Vulture can be found in five separate places on the Meyers Spring wall, indicating that it was a sacred animal to the Native Americans who passed through. The Pueblo people of the southwest believe that the vulture is a powerful spirit animal that can help them in their times of need. Many Indigenous people see them as symbols of renewal and hope, as they are scavengers that help clean up the earth. In some cultures, they are also associated with wisdom and knowledge.

The most famous picture on the wall is the large pictograph that also represents the ranch. Many viewers have misidentified the second most prominent one as a “flying fish.” However, it is a turkey vulture while banking in flight.



Turkey Vulture Depictions: front facing, drying wings



banking in flight

A recently discovered depiction on the south end of the pictograph wall may represent the vulture atop the rock wall of Meyers Spring, surrounded by a yellow circle. These depictions may be more than just paintings of local raptors. This likely indicates that this spring was considered a sacred place by Native Americans, overseen by the sacred vulture.

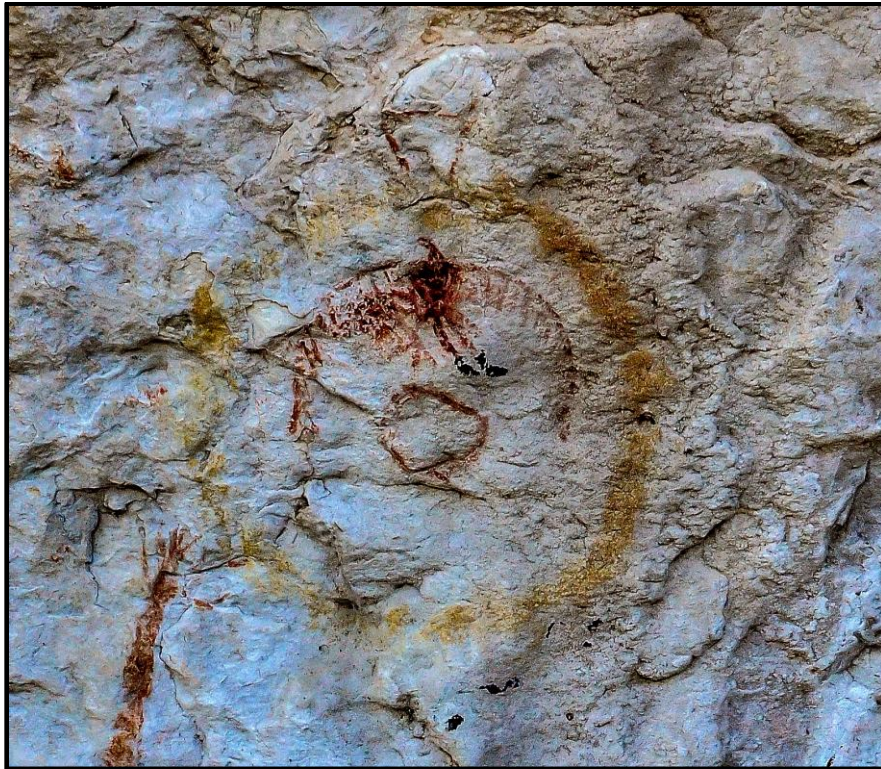


Photo-enhanced depiction at the south end of the Meyers Spring pictograph wall

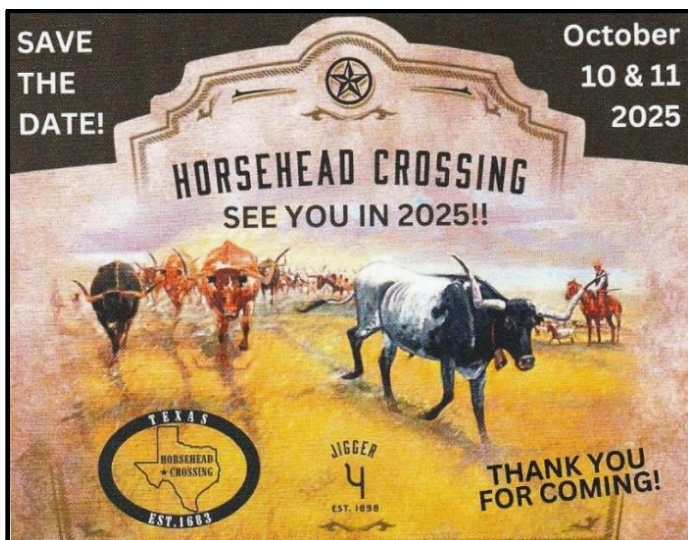
Upcoming Events (field projects will be emailed separately)

Sep 10, noon: Ft Concho Speakers Series, Ft Concho Commissary Bldg

Sept 18, 6 p.m.: Seminole Days, Carver School, Brackettville

Sep 19, 7 p.m.: Absentee Seminole Tribe of Texas, St. John Missionary Outreach, Brackettville

Sep 30, 7 p.m.: Haskell County Historical Commission, Fort Sam Military and Antique Vehicle Museum



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 donate 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

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>



West Texas Archeological Society Membership Form (no dues)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

(You will receive the newsletter via e-mail.)

Cell: _____