



We'd like to invite you to a "different" kind of RMAC (Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference) this year – come spend time with us in the beautiful San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado in early September. We'll spend two days (Friday and Saturday) touring archaeological sites (ranging from early 20th century in age to 13,000 years ago) around the Valley, along with traditional information filled poster sessions (Thursday and Friday nights), and a spectacular keynote address on Saturday night. Given this unconventional format, we won't be having the typical talks during the day – this will give us the time to get out in the field and see some fantastic sites and engage in some great discussions, with tours led by our talented and interesting tour leaders. There's nothing like a tour – so come experience the cultures and places that make the San Luis Valley so special to so many people.

Conference registration is limited to the first 125 people (due to the tour schedule), so please register as soon as you can!

--- Conference organizers *Caroline Gabe (Adams State University), Jason LaBelle (Colorado State University), Chris Merriman (Adams State University), and Bonnie Pitblado (University of Oklahoma)*

Conference Basics

Conference Dates: September 9 – 11 (Thursday – Saturday), 2021

General Structure:

- *Thursday* (4 PM – 9 PM): Check in; welcome reception; FIRST poster session with heavy finger foods & a cash bar
- *Friday*: Daytime (8 AM – 5 PM) = 3-stop field tour north of Alamosa (Hispanic homestead near Great Sand Dunes; Reddin Folsom site near Moffat; La Garita Creek rock art and Old Spanish Trail site near La Garita)— box lunch provided; Evening (6-9 PM) = SECOND poster session with heavy finger foods & a cash bar
- *Saturday*: Daytime (8 AM – 5 PM) = 3-stop field tour south of Alamosa (Scott Miller archaeological/paleontological site near Monte Vista; Pike's Stockade or hike to Sierrro del Ojito rock art; Fort Garland archaeological excavations)—box lunch provided; Evening (6-?? PM) = Movie Manor Inn (drive in Movie Theater in Monte Vista); Dr. Randy Haas keynote speaker; dinner before or at Movie Manor (not provided by RMAC); we will likely show a movie AFTER the Haas talk for those that would like to stay
- *Sunday*: Enjoy area museums and/or outdoor attractions on your own (e.g., Great Sand Dunes National Park)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Randy Haas (University of California, Davis) will be speaking Saturday night on his high-altitude research in South America.

Registration Fees (all registrations include heavy finger foods on Th/Fri evenings & sack lunches on both field trip days.

- Pre-registration (ends 8/23/2021): \$125 standard; \$50 student
- Onsite registration: \$150 standard; \$90 student

Conference Hotels: Fairfield Inn (\$169); Hampton Inn (\$164); Comfort Inn (\$159). These are all located in Alamosa. Remember to request the RMAC rate. Please note that the Saturday night event is in Monte Vista, a short 17-mile drive).

Abstract Submission (posters ONLY; again, no formal talks at this conference): Click the link below to submit your abstract:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlegalp4laEYGveMe1HuE7JQCGIQ_d0TYt5BtAPFFzdjyMQ/viewform.

2021 RMAC Frequently Asked Questions

Why Is the Conference Being Run in this Format?

Anthropologists love being in the field – and what better way to see the San Luis Valley than seeing it through tours of sites of many different ages and cultures. We've all sat through endless papers/talks at conferences, so we thought this would be a fun way to get together and re-launch going to conferences in a new way. There will be plenty of posters (please submit one or two!) -- so plenty of chances for sharing/interacting in conventional ways as well.

Is Transportation Provided/Included for the Tours?

No, you will have to drive your own personal vehicle for the tours. We will be encouraging you to carpool with your friends and acquaintances as much as possible to minimize the number of vehicles on the tour.

How Will the Tour Work?

You will be assigned to one of THREE tour groups (Group A, B, and C) for the Friday and Saturday tours. On the day of the tour, you will travel to your first assigned tour stop (Group A will go to their first assigned tour stop, B to another, C to the third). You will spend approximately 1.5 hours there at your first stop, and then drive to the next tour stop. Stop two will be the designated "lunch" stop, though you can obviously eat lunch whenever you'd like during the day. From stop two, you'll then drive to your third tour stop. At the end of the day, you'll then return to Alamosa for the rest of the day's planned activities. We have three groups (A, B, and C) so that we can limit each tour stop to around 35-40 people maximum, while rotating between the three stops during the day.

How Will I Be Assigned to a Tour Group?

In mid-August, the Conference organizers will contact you and assign you a tour group membership. At that point, you can tell us if you would like to travel with other conference registrants, and if so, we can move people around so that they are in the same travel group. Again, the hope is to minimize the number of vehicles through carpooling, but also get you talking and chatting with old friends/acquaintances as you travel together to these sites across the Valley.

Will You Provide Material about the Sites We're Visiting?

Yes, our goal will be to provide links to reading material on each site we plan to visit, to give you some background on the sites prior to (or after) visiting the sites. The more you

know about these sites, the more fruitful the discussion/interaction will be with the tour site leader.

Will Food Be Provided for the Tours?

Yes, you will be able to pick up a box lunch prior to the day's tour. We will provide menu choices when we assign tour group membership beginning in mid-August. The box lunch is provided as part of your conference registration fee.

Will Maps Be Provided for the Tours?

Yes, a detailed map and driving directions will be provided to all participants at the time of the conference check in.

How Strenuous Are the Tours in Terms of Walking and Elevation Gain?

Most of the tour stops will be spent walking in/around the area where you park your vehicles, perhaps with walks up to 0.5 miles round trip. However, the Sierrita del Ojito hike will be more challenging (450 foot elevation gain) – and therefore an alternative tour stop will be planned (Pike's Stockade) for that particular stop for those who would like another choice.