

Sunday, November 13

9 to 11:00 a.m. Archeological Features and Special Collections, speaker being arranged.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Archeological Site Formation Processes, by Jack Hofman of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey

There will be plenty of table space for displays of artifact collections and for sale of publications. So don't hold back. Let's try to get at least a fourth of our members to Chandler for this fall's meeting. See you there.

UPDATE ON THE 1988 FALL DIG AT 34RM208

The 1988 OAS Fall Dig was held in Roger Mills County at site 34RM208, the Beaver Dam Site, from October 5 to 10. A total of 80 Society members participated in the excavations, nearly equalling the turnout for the Spring Dig at 34RM208 last May.

Excavations were continued in Areas A and C of the site (refer to the May and September issues of the OAS Newsletter for a description of the site and the prior OAS investigations), and a lot was accomplished in a short period. Most of the squares in the 2x12 m trench opened last spring in Area A were completed to a depth of 98.2 m relative to the site datum, or they were dug to 2.25 m below the average surface elevation. Ten additional hearths were encountered and documented, and numerous additional samples were collected for radiocarbon and thermoluminescence dating. Three additional corner-notched dart points, two corner-notched arrow points, and a large collection of other chipped stone tools, debitage, burned rock, and faunal material were also recovered. A problematic item recovered was a basal fragment of a Plainview point/knife, recovered from a stratigraphic position overlying the corner-notched dart points. This specimen has been reworked on its fractured edge and may represent an item of Archaic or later reuse.

A 5x5 m area was opened in Area C and excavated in 1x1m squares to the shallow depth of 10 to 10 cm below the surface in an attempt to recover additional materials relating to the protohistoric component encountered last spring. The results were disappointing, as only a few additional thin, black micaceous ware sherds and a small collection of debitage were recovered. Apparently the 1x2 m test we put down in Area C last spring hit directly on top of where a protohistoric vessel was broken, and this component appears to be an ephemeral one.

To date, our excavations at 34RM208 total as follows:

Area	#Completed levels	Cubic meters
A	545	54.5
B	16	1.6
C	46	4.6
totals	607	60.7

We have thus excavated a total of 607 100x100x10 cm levels, or 60.7 cubic meters of valley fill, and we have recorded in excess of 20 rock-lined hearths. We have the material recovered and documented for the assay of more chronometric dates than we can afford to run, but we hope to have at least 15-20 dates from the site. Dr. Brian J. Carter, soils specialist at OSU with a strong background in Quaternary geology and geomorphology, spent the better part of three days studying the deposits at 34RM208 and its vicinity, and he is preparing profile descriptions.

We need to excavate an additional 78 levels in the main trench of Area A in order to complete the entire unit to an elevation of 98.2 (relative to datum), which is approximately 30 cm below the base of the melanized valley fill which contains most of the cultural deposits. Don Wyckoff, Jack Hofman, Jim Briscoe, and I excavated 24 levels the day before the fall dig officially began, so it should be possible to complete the remaining levels in a 3 day period with a small crew. We are provisionally planning to do this November 9-11. Anyone having an interest in participating should contact me at (405) 488-2001 or 2157, or Don Wyckoff at (405) 325-7211.

We have had impressive turnouts for both digs at 34RM208, and the members participating have really worked hard. We moved a lot of dirt in a short time, salvaging valuable material from an important site that was rapidly being destroyed by erosion, but I can not see that any quality has been sacrificed to speed. I was impressed by the care the OAS members demonstrated in their excavation techniques, and the problems we have with the documentation are minimal, certainly no worse than what one encounters in work performed by professional archeologists. Out of 607 levels excavated, we are only missing 3 level forms, and the records are otherwise in order. All of the material from the Spring Dig has been catalogued and sorted, and the material from the Fall Dig has been washed and is ready for cataloguing. You guys do good work, and your efforts are appreciated.

Pete Thurmond