

## ANNUAL REPORT: WIND WOLVES 2014 FIELD SCHOOL

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[2014 Wind Wolves Field School Students Visit a Pictograph Site](#)

The 2014 season of the Wind Wolves Field School was rewarding and productive, both in terms of accomplishing our research goals and achieving pedagogical successes. This year we worked with 10 excellent field school students from the US and the UK, and conducted excavation at three distinct locales: Cache Cave, its accompanying bedrock mortar complex, and the nearby cupule boulder site. Working at these three places enabled us to develop our understanding of the use of the cave as well the role it played in the local landscape. Several of the expectations we brought to the field with us were dismantled, but with this came unexpected discoveries and new questions.

Inside the cave, we excavated a trench in Cave 2 that enabled us to evaluate what types of activities took place there and compare it to the previous units that had been excavated in 2012, the latter of which we were also able to extend this year. We found many notable differences between the caves in terms of the material culture represented, as well as the formation processes that have contributed to the site's stratigraphy. We found many of the same type of perishable items that had been recovered in previous excavations, and we were also able to collect materials that may be raw material for the production and/or maintenance of these items, which poses the exciting potential for examining these practices in situ. We also achieved great strides inside the cave in documentation, successfully laser scanning the caves chambers and the objects found within. All of our students learned how to use this device and participated in the scanning process.

Another key goal of our season was to document and collect items from a third chamber, Cave 3. The bulk of this work was accomplished by two members of this year's staff who were field school alumni from the 2012 season. Having students with experience of the specific techniques of excavation within the cave proved invaluable, and we were thrilled to have continuity in our team as well as the unique skills they brought to the project. Many of this year's students also brought many valued individual skills and talents to the team, including drawing, description,

data entry, artifact identification, and photography. Many of our students want to return for future work at Cache Cave, and we hope that they can bring their experience and expertise to our ongoing work.

As we move towards the presentation of our research, some of these students will be expanding the interests they developed in the field and conducting independent research. We have organized a session at the 2015 meetings of the Society for American Archaeology that will present the results of our findings from the 2012 and 2014 seasons, as well as the analysis that our team is able to conduct during this year's post-excavation season. One of these papers will be given by one of this year's students who plans to use it as the basis for a college thesis. We also anticipate publishing about Cache Cave in international journals this year, and we are very excited to finally be able to present the discoveries of this important site to the archaeological community and members of the public.

In all, our season was productive and enjoyable in many ways. Some of us made discoveries we never dreamed of. Some of us overcame long held fears. We saw endangered species and other animals that few people will ever see in nature. We learned to use state-of-the-art archaeological technology as well as the techniques archaeologists have relied on for decades. We made new friends, from both close to home and across the Atlantic. We all learned and grew as archaeologists and indeed, as people, and it was an unforgettable experience for all of us, staff and students alike.