

Call for Archaeology Volunteers

Tanana Chiefs Conference is recruiting volunteers for archaeological field work between the dates of August 2 and September 3, 2010.

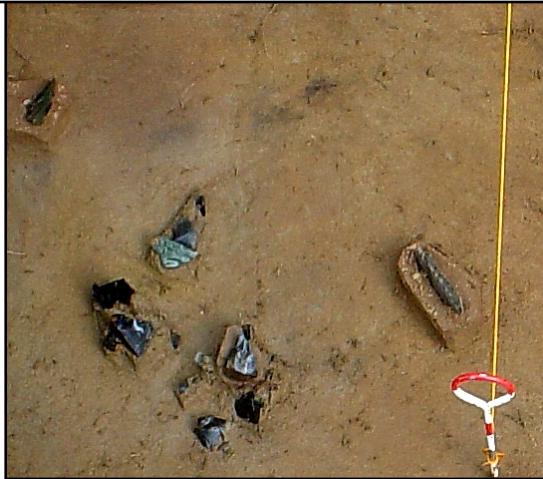
TCC an Athabascan non-profit organization based in Fairbanks with land management responsibilities throughout the Yukon River drainage. 2010 marks our 14th field season. This August we will be mapping, testing and excavating at four archaeological sites.



Calico Bluff, one kilometer downstream from the David Site.

Two prehistoric sites are located on the Yukon River near Eagle Village at the Canadian border. Here the river runs through a narrow and spectacular canyon just upstream from the Yukon-Charlie National Preserve.

Excavation Floor with *in situ* Artifacts - David Site.



The first is the David Site, where TCC has performed several small excavations during the last decade. We know that the David Site a large multi-component prehistoric site spanning the middle to late Holocene. The calibrated radiocarbon dates of the oldest and most intensely occupied component are circa 6,790–6,030 calBP; roughly contemporaneous with Phase 1 of the Northern Archaic Tradition at the Onion Portage Site. This occupation combined the functions of lithic workshops with game procurement camps located in the forested bottom-lands of the Yukon River. At least two other components are known, dating to circa 2,670 and 830 calBP respectively. These

components seem to record the development of the Han Athabascan culture. The area was also a focus for Native hunting camps in the early historic era and is rich in mythological associations. The stratigraphy at the David site is excellent, with the archaeological horizons well separated by fluvial and eolian sediments that have experienced little cryoturbation.

The second is the Lundin Dune Site, where preliminary testing has found several prehistoric localities. The full potential of this site is unknown, however the stratigraphic context appears to be excellent and the topography provides expansive overlooks of the Yukon River valley.



The west shore of Chandalar Lake, photographed from the Yasuda Site.

Our third project is an early 20th century historic cabin site, located in the Brooks Range on the northeast shore of Chandalar Lake. The Yasuda Cabins are connected with the early development of the Chandalar Gold District, circa 1905-1935 AD. Their owner, Frank Yasuda, was a Japanese-American pioneer, prospector, trader and community leader. Along with his wife, Neveloe, he led an exodus of Inupiat people from Pt. Barrow south to the Yukon River, where they founded the Village of Beaver. His dramatic life story has made him an important historical figure in Japan where he has been the subject of numerous articles, books, television documentaries and a feature film. TCC research at this and other historic sites focus on how behavior at Alaska frontier residences was regulated by their integration into the Euro-American world trade system, and by the micro-economics of the trade in imported commodities.

In addition to these projects, TCC will also perform archaeological mapping at the Linda's Point prehistoric site, located on the eastern shore of Healy Lake in the Tanana River valley. This work is preparatory to archaeological testing slated to begin in 2011. The area surrounding Healy Lake contains a significant concentration of prehistoric sites, and produced the first site older than 11,000 BP found in the State of Alaska.

We have several other small monitoring and survey projects scheduled which will be of interest to anyone seeking field experience in remote areas of Interior Alaska. With the exception of Linda's Point, all of our 2010 projects will take place in wilderness settings accessible in summer only by riverboat or floatplane.



"Quartzite Horizon" bifaces, unifaces and flakes found during testing at the Linda's Point Site, Healy Lake.



Weapon Tips from a Private Collection, Healy Lake.

TCC provides volunteers with transportation in the field, along with all needed equipment. We also provide a generous field per diem to offset food and other expenses. Due to the expense of wilderness travel we ask each volunteer for a minimum one week commitment.

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