

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



www.sjbas.org

The Moki Messenger

April 2015

April SJBAS Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Kerry Thompson, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Applied Indigenous Studies at Northern Arizona University will present: "It's About Time that We (Archaeologists) Recognize the Federal Indian Law Context of NAGPRA".

Abstract: In discussions about NAGPRA by archaeologists, NAGPRA is often taken out of context. As legislation in Title 25, NAGPRA's context is federal Indian law, not cultural resource management law, which resides in Title 16 (Conservation) and Title 42 (Public Health and Welfare) of the United States Code. American Indian legal scholars have long been involved in the analysis of NAGPRA (e.g., Echo Hawk and Trope 2000; Tsosie 1992) and, in 2012 published recollections and analyses in an anniversary Arizona State Law Journal (Volume 44 Issue 2) issue about repatriation. Archaeologists are intimately involved in the actual practice of NAGPRA and few, if any of the discussions by legal scholars involve archaeologists - Native American archaeologists or otherwise. Greater understanding of NAGPRA within the context of federal Indian law would assist archaeologists in the areas of tribal collaboration and consultation. NAGPRA and other dialogue that brings tribes and archaeologists together may be improved through the education of archaeologists in the history of federal Indian law and policy.

Kerry Thompson is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Applied Indigenous Studies at Northern Arizona University. The primary focus of Dr. Thompson's work is applied archaeology, specifically the use of archaeology to facilitate residential and infrastructure development on the Navajo Nation. Her research interests include Navajo archaeology, federal Indian law and policy, and American Indian identity.

March 12th SJBAS Meeting Notes

Janice welcomed about twenty SJBAS members and five guests. She gave a brief overview of the upcoming CAS annual meeting to be held in Durango from October 9th through 11th. SJBAS and Fort Lewis College are co-hosting the event. Tish Varney explained the next PAAC course, Basic Site Survey Techniques, scheduled in Durango from May 29th - June 1st. Janice mentioned a few of the upcoming SJBAS field trips and introduced speaker Ali Scotten.

"Iranian Archaeology: Magical Rituals and Social Identity in Sassanian-Period Persia" – Ali Scotten

This is a brief overview of Ali Scotten's presentation that covered 2,500 years of Iranian archaeology. This material comes from notes taken during the lecture, so please accept this editor's apologies for any mistakes, inaccuracies, and omissions. The first Persian Empire was known as the Achaemenid Empire. It lasted from 559 BC to 330 BC and was the

largest empire ever in the Middle East, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Indus Valley in present day Pakistan. There were 25 million people within its boundaries, but only one million Persians. Cyrus the Great was the founder and he ruled from 559 BC to 530 BC. He was a very tolerant ruler and allowed local religions to practice their own beliefs. This strategy was probably one of the reasons that allowed the minority Persians to rule over so many diverse people. It was the first Zoroastrian Empire, and fire, earth, and water were the sacred elements. The capital was Persepolis. The Greek Alexander the Great conquered Persepolis in 330 BC, effectively ending the Achaemenid Empire.



Persepolis today

The last pre-Islamic Persian Empire was the Sasanian Empire that lasted from 224 AD to 651 AD. For over 400 years the Sasanian Empire was recognized as one of the main powers in Western and Central Asia. Zoroastrianism was made the official religion and the rulers wanted to restore the former glory of the Achaemenid Empire. Much of the art was engraved silver and reliefs engraved in stone.

The Sasanian Period is known for great social stress caused by drought, famine, plague, and a huge population explosion. Lots of irrigation canals, requiring huge population shifts, were built, creating further stress to the population.



Ruins of a temple platform in Nippur - the brick structure on top was constructed by American archaeologists around 1900.

Nippur (in present day Iraq) had been a religious center for centuries and was a market town during the Sasanian Period. Locals believe the ruins are haunted. The first excavation was in 1851 and subsequent excavations took place from 1948

– 1990 for 19 seasons by the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago’s archaeology museum. The U.S. invasion of Iraq halted all archaeological work, but the U.S. military still guards the site from looters.

During the Sasanian Period, the three ethnic communities were Persian, Jews, and Aramaean. The languages were Persian and Aramaic, and predominate religions were Zoroastrian, Christian, Jewish, and Mandaean. The Persians were interested in maintaining political order and they made Zoroastrian the state religion. There were clothing restrictions, a rigid class structure, and enforced orthodoxy. Sorcerers (anybody they didn’t like) were executed, fines were levied, and shrines for various local religions were destroyed.

To give Jews direction on how to live, maintain their identity, and to control their people in this political and social environment, the Jews wrote the Talmud. They developed the concept of *eruvim*, “a symbolic enclosure, marked by preexisting walls or by cord or wire strung on posts, nominally converting public space into private space and so permitting activities that would otherwise be prohibited on the Sabbath”. Rabbis enforced the teachings of the Talmud and there were public lashings for violators. Pagan ceremonies were prohibited, wine touched by non-Jews could not be consumed, Persian-style pants were banned, and Jews could not seek help from sorcerers.

The Mandaean community originated in Iran and moved to Palestine and Mesopotamia. They had very unique contrarian beliefs, and were anti-Jewish and anti-Christian. Today they reside in the marshland in southern Iraq and northern Iran and are known as “the people of the marsh”.



MS 1911/2
Mandaic script. Mesopotamia, 5th-6th c.

During his research at the Oriental Institute, Ali came across little known artifacts identified as “incantation bowls”. These ceramics were made during the 5th to 8th centuries during the Sasanian Empire. Each bowl served as a ritual object and the inside was filled with text, usually Aramaic, inscribed in a spiral pattern starting at the rim and going to the center. The text was written as a spell and often a graphic of a demon was inscribed in the bottom. Over 2,000 of these bowls have been found, 500 have been published, and Ali did his research on 226 of them. The bowls were buried upside down outside the front door of residences to ward off evil spirits. The text was probably written by Rabbis and Priests. Styles were similar for the spells to be successful, but were individual for each community. Old gods currently out of favor were often turned into demons. To make sure they had all their bases covered, some customers would go to ritual specialists outside of their communities for their incantation bowls.

The incantation bowls were a phenomenon that allowed people to cross social boundaries; they helped fill a need not fulfilled by the formal community identity. The archaeological contribution of these artifacts is that they can fill in gaps in the historical record and give us a glimpse of everyday life in ancient times. Many of these sites are now in a war zone, but current problems are not intractable... most people do want to get along.

Upcoming Field Trips and Activities

We have some wonderful field trips coming up. Our complete 2015 Field Trip Schedule is available on our website at www.sjbas.org/Trips.htm. Please check the website schedule periodically to check for trip updates and contact the trip leaders directly by phone or email for trip details and to sign up.

April 9	SJBAS meeting – Dr. Kerry Thompson - NAGPRA
April 11 - 12	<p>Hovenweep N.M. and Montezuma Canyon – Utah</p> <p>On the first day of this two-day motel or camping trip, we will visit either the main Square Tower Complex or the outlier sites at Hovenweep National Monument, and rock art sites and the Three Kiva site in the Montezuma Creek Valley. We will spend the second day visiting surface sites, cliff dwellings, and rock art panels further north in the Montezuma Creek Valley. All of the walks are nearly level and less than ¼ mile long. Overnight options include a motel in Blanding or camping at Hovenweep. Trip participation limit is 16 with no more than 4 vehicles.</p> <p>For more information or to signup, contact trip leader Bob Powell at robertlpowell@durango.net or 970-385-8949</p>
April 20 - 22	<p>Cedar Mesa and Natural Bridges N.M. – Utah</p> <p>During this three-day camping or motel trip, we will visit ancestral Puebloan sites in Natural Bridges N.M. and in remote canyons on Cedar Mesa. The hiking will be moderately difficult with some off-trail hiking required; hikes may be up to seven miles long and include elevation changes of over 600 feet. 4WD/HC vehicles will be necessary, but carpooling will be arranged. We will camp in the dispersed BLM campground in Comb Wash, but participants may also stay in hotels in Blanding. The trip participation limit is 12. This trip is full, but there is a waiting list. For more information or to signup, contact trip leaders Barb and Lyle Hancock at lylehancock@bresnan.net or 970-764-4531.</p>
May 3 - 6	<p>Moab, Green River and the Northern San Rafael Swell – Utah</p> <p>This well-researched, four-day camping or motel trip includes visits to a wide variety of rock art sites near Moab, Green River, and the northern San Rafael Swell in Utah. We will also visit the John Wesley Powell River Museum in Green River. Some of the more notable rock art panels include the Buckhorn Wash and Rochester Panels. All walks are short and on level ground with the exception of the ¼-mile paved trail to the Rochester Panel. There are options of one, two, or three days of camping or no camping at all. Trip participation limit is 16 people and 6 vehicles. Carpools will be arranged. For more information or to signup, contact trip leader Bob Powell at robertlpowell@durango.net or 970-385-8949</p>
May 14	SJBAS meeting - speaker Arthur Joyce - "Oaxaca, Mexico"
May 15 - 17	<p>Salinas Pueblo Missions – New Mexico</p> <p>During this three-day motel trip, we will visit the ruins of three mission churches at Quarai, Abó, and Gran Quivira and the partially excavated Gran Quivira pueblo. We will also visit the Petroglyph National Monument near Albuquerque. The trip participation limit is 20. For more information or to signup, contact trip leaders Andy and Marion Simon mandyandarion@gmail.com or 970-749-2927.</p>
May 16	<p>Historic Preservation Month Driving Tour of La Plata County Historic Cemeteries</p> <p>This public tour will be led by Dr. Ruth Lambert of the San Juan Mountains Association. It will begin at the Bayfield Library and last 3 to 4 hours.</p> <p>For more information, contact Andy Gulliford gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu.</p>
May 27 - 29	<p>Navajo National Monument - Keet Seel Backpack – Arizona</p> <p>Backpack to one of the best preserved ancestral Puebloan sites in the Southwest. This 3-day trip includes car camping one night in the developed campground at Navajo N.M. and the second night in the backcountry campsite at Keet Seel. The hike is a rugged and strenuous 17-mile round trip hike with 1,000 feet of elevation loss and gain. The Park Service trip participation limit is 10.</p> <p>For more information or to signup, contact trip leaders Lyle and Barb Hancock at lylehancock@bresnan.net or 970-764-4531.</p>

Thursday March 5 through Sunday March 8, 2015, 19 SJBAS members enjoyed many varied activities on a field trip led by Gail and Marlo Schulz. We started the trip Thursday evening with an introductory dinner followed by a trip to Bisbee AZ to attend the March meeting of The Westerners Bisbee Corral. Their speaker was Cathy Spude from Santa Fe, an author of several books on the Alaskan Gold Rush, including one on Soapy Smith. She spoke about her research into the life of Tom Tucker, a controversial participant in the Pleasant Valley AZ War in the 1880s. Tucker was variously a hero or villain, depending upon your point of view, and whether he had killed someone you cared about.

Friday March 6 we enjoyed an excellent presentation by Ranger Christopher Bentley, archaeologist and historian at the Coronado National Memorial on the Mexican Border. Christopher spoke about Coronado and his 1540 expedition into the Southwest. He debunked some myths about the expedition and clarified other points, based on his extensive research of, among many other things, the written record of the participants in the expedition from records in Seville, Spain. Christopher explained that one of the ways to know who visited a Native American site and when, was by the crossbow bolt points found because they were not used by any expeditions later than Coronado into the Southwest.

In the afternoon Christopher led us on a tour of Coronado Cave, along the way explaining the flora, fauna, geology and history of the Memorial. Coronado Cave is a wild cave which requires exploration by headlamps. Evidence of human occupation in the cave included the discovery of a loom shuttle and later evidence of use by miners, as well as much more modern use. The cave is 600 feet long and features side passages and two large caverns with evidence of stalactites, stalagmites and other cave speleothems. The cave is now mostly a dead cave with no new formations being built with the exception of an area in the back of the cave where water was dripping to form stalactites. An entrance blasted into the cave by miners many years ago was the cause of the death of the cave. It was a bit of a spooky, but very interesting experience to tour a large, 68 degree cave with headlamps. It certainly made us think of what it was like to actually live in a large cave with a constant temperature.

After our cave tour we visited the high and windy Montezuma Pass which links the Memorial and the San Pedro River Valley on the east with the San Rafael Valley on the west. We marveled at the sweeping vistas into both valleys and the mountains surrounding us, as well as the plains and mountains of Sonora Mexico. We viewed a couple of different forms of Border fencing and the start of the Arizona Trail, as well as Border Patrol observation and detection equipment located on top of the pass.



Saturday, March 7th, we started the day at the Turquoise Valley Golf Resort in Naco AZ on the Border. This is the oldest golf course in AZ. While we enjoyed breakfast at the restaurant, our guide, Becky Orozco, educated us on the history of the Mexican revolution and the involvement of the United States in it. Becky teaches a semester college course on this subject so we received the benefit of her vast knowledge along with many slides depicting historic events and key

individuals on both sides of the Border. This included Poncho Villa's attack on Columbus, NM, following a bit of U.S. politics which involved backing Villa and then changing to backing his rival, without telling him. This led to a battle Villa had no way of expecting and the loss of thousands of his troops. He retaliated by attacking Columbus NM and killing U.S. citizens before escaping across the Border into Mexico. The Mexican revolution led to the formation of Camp Naco. It was one of a string of camps along the U.S./Mexico Border forming a human fence to protect U.S. citizens and economic interests by keeping the Mexican revolution from spilling into the U.S. and precipitating battles on U.S. soil. Primarily Buffalo Soldiers based at Fort Huachuca were assigned to this camp, and were joined by troops from many other units through the years. The Mexican Revolution began in 1910. From 1911 to 1923, 50 to 5,000 U.S. troops were stationed in Naco. Camp Naco, built in 1919, is the last of these camps still standing. It was also the only camp constructed of adobe. Becky took us on a tour of some of the 23 adobe buildings that remain at Camp Naco. She explained the layout of the camp and the purpose and use of each building. When Camp Naco was decommissioned in the 1950s ownership was returned to the original landowner. The camp lived on until the 1990s as various parts of it were home for the owner and rented homes for community members. The Town of Huachuca City has owned the camp since 2006 with the goal of protecting it. Now the Naco Heritage Alliance and Archaeology Southwest are working to stabilize and preserve Camp Naco. Becky Orozco has championed and organized the preservation of the camp for many years. The community of Naco hopes to find a tenant to help Camp Naco again become a place to live and work in their town. Go to www.archaeologysouthwest.org/naco to learn more about it.

Following our visit to Camp Naco we moved on to Lowell and Bisbee AZ. We walked the Lowell main street with vehicles and buildings straight out of the 40s and 50s preserved as a kind of outdoor museum. We stopped to view the Lavender Pit and mine tailings on our way to Old Bisbee where some of us toured the exceptional Bisbee Mining Museum. Some of us went on to Tombstone to view this historic town. In the evening seven of us attended the 1880s Historical Military Ball in St. David AZ. The Ball featured clothing and uniforms of the 1860s to 1880s, refreshments of the period and an excellent large brass band which played the music of this time period. A caller instructed the dancers in the steps of the dances of the period including a Grand March headed by presentation of the colors. It was an authentic recreation of the lives and entertainment of this war-torn period in our history. It was meant to show how people preserved civility, culture and friendship in the uncertain and dangerous times in which they were living.

Sunday March 8 we started the day with a visit to the Singing Winds Book Shop north of Benson AZ, owned and operated by Winn Bundy for decades in her ranch house. This independent bookstore is known throughout the Southwest and beyond for its spectacular collection of books on the Southwest and many, many other topics, as well as for Winn and her stories. Winn hosts many special events including presentations and readings by featured authors, book signings, cowboy poets and much more. We all left with lighter wallets and fascinating new reading material on many subjects.

We moved on to Colossal Cave Mountain Park near Vail AZ. Some of us toured Colossal Cave while others visited the CCC Museum and the La Posta Quemada Ranch museum. Colossal Cave was used by the Hohokam circa 900 - 1450 AD. One of their large pots found in the cave is on display in the museum. The Sobaipuri used the cave as well as the Apache and Papago (now Tohomo O'odham) circa 1450 - 1880 AD. The cave was used later by bandits, bat guano miners, early explorers and adventurers, tourists and archaeological expeditions. La Posta Quemada Ranch takes its name from a burned stage station located there in the mid-1870s. Another stage station and hotel were built there in 1878 and assisted in mail transportation. In 1934 Civilian Conservation Corps Camp SP-10-A was located on the ranch to construct trails, handrails and lighting in Colossal Cave and eventually stone walls, headquarters and other buildings. Today the park is owned by Pima County AZ and operated by the Pima County Parklands Foundation which protects and enhances all the parks of Pima County. This concluded our trip activities and nine of us shared Sunday dinner to close out the trip.

Lecture Opportunity (Cortez, CO)

The Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present **Bridget Ambler** on Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss "**The Lindenmeier Site: Folsom Investigations on Colorado's Front Range.**" Bridget will discuss archaeological history and collections research on the Lindenmeier site, one of the most widely-known Folsom Paleoindian sites in North America. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

Hisatsinom Chapter April Newsletter

[Hisatsinom Newsletter April 2015](#)

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CAS Quarterly Board Meeting January 31, 2015 Pueblo, CO - Highlights Report

Next meeting: April 25, 2015 at Salida Community Center (3rd & F St)

July meeting: July 25, 2016 at Anasazi Heritage Center, Dolores (Hwy 164)

Next Newsletter Deadline: February 14

There are copies of the written handout reports attached.

Annual Meeting: A headlines report given about the SJBAS planning progress was met with much excitement and appreciation. There was a question about online registration possibilities. People understand about the need to book lodging soon. Which Best Western is the discount room block, and when will it be ready for reservations? There is usually a section of the state website with Annual info. Will SJBAS have its own pages on its own site or use the state's? Let Craig Bannister know.

Education committee has a new name: Community Research and Education. The state-wide speaker's list/resource database still needs more input. If Chapter VPs have not yet responded, please send a list of speakers with their area of expertise that have presented at Chapter meetings. Linda Sand llsand@comcast.net or Karen Kinnear (Chair) klkinnear@hollandhart.com.

PAAC course updates were handed out. They are also available online at the History Colorado PAAC website. A new **Southwestern Lore** 10-year compilation CD has been made (Thanks, Larry Evans) and will be available for sale in April. **Colorado Preservation posters** were distributed for each Chapter to post at local schools, libraries and other public venues.

CAS website will be redesigned soon. It will take into consideration smart phone format. Another feature considered will be online membership which will be integrated with a new database and payments via PayPal and credit card.

Membership report indicates 918 members. There was much discussion about Chapters who are offering memberships that are half-price with no Southwestern Lore. Again citing the Bylaws, there is NO such category except for an optional membership for Seniors (65+) and Disabled. Five Chapters (of 10) are out of compliance and will be contacted directly about correction procedures. This situation deprives CAS of revenue in order to publish SWL, which is always in financial straits. Half-price/No SWL Memberships for non-Seniors will no longer be accepted or renewed.

Other upcoming conferences: (see CAS website Bulletin Board for details)

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists - March 12-15 in Estes Park

SAA - April in San Diego

New Mexico Archaeological Society – May in Taos

Pecos Conference - August 6-8 in Mancos

Rocky Mountain Anthropological Association - September 24-27 in Steamboat Springs

American Anthropological Association - November in Denver

Digital copies of written reports are available. For full CAS report, follow this link: [CAS meeting report](#).

SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Jim Mueller	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Vice President Field Trip Program	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Secretary	Barb Hancock	barbhancock@bresnan.net
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	mark@virtbiz.com
CAS Representative	Terri Hoff	tthoff@hotmail.com
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net

Other Positions

Moki Messenger contact	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.com
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Annual Membership Renewal

Name(s) _____ and _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Preferred phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Membership Category (check one) "with SWL" means the CAS Southwestern Lore journal will be mailed to you.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual (with SWL) | SJBAS \$15.00 & CAS \$16.00 = | \$31.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual (no SWL) | SJBAS \$15.00 & CAS \$ 8.00 = | \$23.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (with SWL) | SJBAS \$20.00 & CAS \$20.00 = | \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (no SWL) | SJBAS \$20.00 & CAS \$10.00 = | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student (no SWL) | = | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Donation to John W. Sanders Internship Fund | = | |

Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with this application form to our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.** Donations to the John W. Sanders Internship Fund may be included with your dues payment.

New members must complete the full SJBAS application, <http://www.sjbas.org/Application.pdf>, including Liability Waiver and Site Etiquette forms.