



THE MOKI MESSENGER

APRIL 2020

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sjbas.org

April 8th Meeting **CANCELLED**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, all SJBAS scheduled activities and field trips have been cancelled through June. We will keep members informed in a timely manner as to additional schedule changes or rescheduled activities.

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

The coronavirus is impacting every fraction of our country, even SJBAS in isolated Durango.

At our March meeting, Dr. John Hoffecker gave a presentation on the early Upper Paleolithic archaeology of the East European Plain. The sites in the plains of both Russia and Ukraine were occupied by modern humans (as opposed to Neanderthals) more than 30,000 years ago. These sites were discovered by the exposure of mass quantities of bones from mastodons, horses, and reindeer. These bones were remains from human kills for food and fuel. John also discussed Beringia with Dr. Jesse Tune's Fort Lewis College class which was open to SJBAS members.

On that same day, both the University of Colorado and Fort Lewis College notified the public they were canceling classes because of the coronavirus. As a result, this was the last lecture we will host in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies until the campus is again open for classes.

This prompted the SJBAS Board to decide on actions to help limit the spread and exposure of the coronavirus to our members. Decisions that impact our program are as follows:

1. All SJBAS Calendar events are canceled through June, including field trips, lectures, meetings, Board meetings, classes, and the summer picnic. As appropriate, activities, classes, and meetings may be rescheduled for a later date.

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[**SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities**](#)

2. The John W. Sanders Lecture on September 19th will remain on our schedule until we know conditions closer to the date, and consistent with Public Health recommendations.
3. The Paquime Trip in October is on for now. It requires a \$500 deposit per person by May 31st and not all is refundable. Collecting deposits at this time seems too risky given the current virus conditions and State Department restrictions for non-essential travel to Mexico. The travel contractor is being contacted to see if there is flexibility on deposits.

These were not easy decisions, as these activities are important to our members and the reason many joined SJBAS. I would like to focus on getting back to our lectures and field trips. Thanks to all our trip leaders, Board members, speakers, and volunteers for their time and energy organizing and coordinating our activities. I appreciate your efforts and hope you continue to help as we work through this unusual time. A picnic to celebrate will be in order when we can.

Sincerely,
Rege

SJBAS Field Trip Difficulty Ratings

Safety and Responsibility - Participants in SJBAS field trips and activities are solely responsible for their own safety. SJBAS field trip leaders are untrained volunteers who plan, organize, and lead the trips, but have no special training or expertise in outdoor safety or hazards and are not responsible or liable for the personal welfare and safety of participants. Each participant is the only expert regarding his or her own abilities. Participants are solely responsible for choosing trips appropriate for their own physical and medical ability; for taking proper clothing, equipment and provisions; for making appropriate decisions in response to terrain, elevation, and weather; and for understanding the inherent hazards of traveling in the outdoors (such as falls, lightning, hypothermia, heat stroke, dehydration, and injuries caused by others).

SJBAS Field Trip Difficulty Ratings - Field Trip Difficulty Ratings provide a general sense for the physical difficulty of field trip activities expected under usual circumstances. Some trips will accommodate a range of abilities, but not all trips will accommodate all abilities. It is the participant's responsibility to choose trips that are within his/her ability. If an SJBAS member is uncertain about a trip's level of difficulty, the trip leader can provide more information for those considering signing up.

The following are Field Trip Difficulty Ratings used by SJBAS:

- **Easygoing:** Trip is suitable for members in reasonable health who have no problem walking on mostly smooth, relatively flat surfaces up to 1 mile. For example, touring a museum or pueblo, or participating in a walking tour in downtown Durango. Trips generally take place close to roads and support services.
- **Easy Active:** Trip is suitable for active people in good health. Hikes are usually less than 3 miles on well-defined trails, with elevation gains and losses up to 400 feet. Trips generally take place within a few miles of roads, but not necessarily other support services.
- **Moderate:** Trip is suitable for energetic, experienced hikers. Hikes may be up to 7 miles, mostly on established trails that can be rocky and steep in places, with elevation gains and losses up to 2000 feet. Trips may take place in remote locations.
- **Hard:** Trip is suitable only for physically fit, strong hikers. Hikes are generally strenuous, may be longer than 7 miles, may be on poorly defined trails or off-trail, with elevation gains and losses greater than

2000 feet. Trips often take place in remote locations. Backpacking trips, by their very nature, would be considered “Hard.”

Length: Approximate total length of trip, whether out and back, loop, or through hike

Elevation: Approximate total elevation gain (in most cases there would be a corresponding elevation loss)

Know Your SJBAS Neighbor

Each month we plan to feature a different SJBAS member in this article. Please contact Rege Leach, rleach@frontier.net, if you would like to share your profile.

Larry Ruiz - a non-profit independent filmmaker and owner of Cloudy Ridges Productions.

Based in Durango, Colorado, our production team creates unique, timely and engaging films and documentaries to show how important the ancient civilizations and their modern descendants of the southwestern United States were and are, and that it is possible to protect what little of the indigenous culture is left.

Since 1994, Larry Ruiz has been active in the archaeological and anthropological aspects of filming and documenting in the Four Corners region of the southwestern United States. In the 1990's, during production of the popular Chaco Canyon documentary, *The Mystery of Chaco Canyon*, directed and produced by Anna Sofaer and narrated by Robert Redford, Larry volunteered as location scout, assistant camera, grip, surveyor, and other various duties over the seven-year production of this film. He still works closely with Anna Sofaer, helping to film and document her ongoing Chaco research work.

In 2012, we directed and produced our debut film, *Death of Place*. The core message of the film was the importance of individual responsibility and stewardship of archaeologically significant sites.

Working with cinematographer Davd Valentine, our second directorial and production work, *Waking the Mammoth* was completed in 2014. We filmed the 2012 winter solstice burning of a wooden mammoth built in Bluff, Utah by local artist Joe Pachak and other community members. The film weaves this ritual into the intricate fabric of significant archaeological discoveries in the region dating back as far as 13,000 years. We were awarded Best in Show, Gold Award, & Best Documentary at the Colorado Trindie Film Festival. At the Depth of Field Independent Film Festival, *Waking the Mammoth* received the Merit Award for Outstanding Cinematography.

Since 2017 to the present, Davd and I have directed, co-produced, and directed cinematography for the preservation series, *“The Greater Chaco Landscape”*. We are working closely with the Chaco Culture National Historic Park, University of Colorado at Boulder, other Universities and institutions, Drs. Steve Lekson, Ruth Van Dyke, & Carrie Heitman, The Dine, (Navajo), and Acoma Pueblo Chaco scholars, the Hopi Tribe, & the Pueblo of Zuni. Since 2017 we have directed, produced and co-published 19 documentaries for the University Press of Colorado. Five additional documentaries in this series will be completed by mid-2020.

In 2018, we co-produced and edited a short film with Solstice Project founder Anna Sofaer titled, *“A Sacred Landscape Unites the Four Corners”*. In March of 2019, Davd and I worked with the National Geographic Network in

Chaco Canyon on the world premiere television show titled, *“Chasing the Solstice”*, (shown to millions of viewers world-wide). Cloudy Ridge Productions award-winning time-lapse was featured on the Chaco Canyon segment of that program supporting Anna Sofaer’s interview and discoveries. Early in 2019 We completed the two-time, award-winning feature-length Navajo weaving film titled, *“Spider Woman’s Web”*. At the Durango Independent Film Festival, the film was awarded the **Best Native Cinema Award**. At the Nederland International Film Festival, we received the **Best Film Editing Award**.

2016-Present, Davd Valentine and I together are working on a series of vignettes titled *“The Languages of the Landscape”*. Each film addresses a specific regional archaeological preservation issue across the Four Corners area of the Southwestern United States.

History Colorado and COVID-19

Becca Simon, History Colorado PAAC Coordinator and Assistant State Archaeologist, has established the following policy for cancelling in-person meetings and other programming due to Coronavirus/COVID-19. The hope is that none of these measures will be necessary, but the situation may change rapidly and measures such as last-minute cancellations might be necessary.

Based on the current situation, we will cancel and reschedule PAAC classes for the following reasons:

- At the request of any host facility
- Closures of major offices and/or schools where the class is to be held
- History Colorado closes its offices or museums
- Any History Colorado employee or visitor tests positive for COVID-19

As a courtesy to your fellow PAAC participants, please do not attend any in-person classes in the following circumstances and our staff will do the same:

- You do not feel well
- You have recently traveled to an area with ongoing community transmission
- You have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19

Please visit the websites of the Center for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) or the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment ([CDPHE](#)) for more information on how to protect yourself and others.

Next PAAC class in Durango – Prehistoric Ceramics - May 15 – 18 - CANCELLED

For more information, please contact Tish Varney, SJBAS PAAC Coordinator, tishvarney@att.net.

Ute Mountain Tribal Park Tours – 2020

Follow this link to see the schedule for 2020 events and tours: [Ute Mountain Tribal Park Tours](#).

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center - Occasional Papers

The Occasional Papers of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is a five-volume series published by the Center from 1989–1995. The volumes include important contributions to archaeological research by Crow

Canyon staff and research associates including an influential volume on communal architecture in the Pueblo Southwest edited by Bill Lipe and Michelle Hegmon; the first series of publications from the Sand Canyon Archaeological Project; the site report for Crow Canyon’s excavations of the Duckfoot Site—one of the most thoroughly documented Pueblo I occupations in the Four Corners region—and Ricky Lightfoot’s authoritative doctoral dissertation on household archaeology at Duckfoot; and Michelle Hegmon’s highly influential doctoral dissertation connecting pottery style to social dynamics at local and regional scales across the Pueblo Southwest. Follow this link to access the [Occasional Papers](#).

<p>Dates</p>	<p align="center">Upcoming Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2020</p> <p align="center">Updates are in red.</p> <p>SJBAS members have proposed the following field trips. Please read General Information About Field Trips for important information about field trips.</p> <p>Please contact trip leaders by phone or email for more information or to sign up.</p>
<p>April 6 – 10</p>	<p>Grand Gulch Backpack Trip – CANCELLED 5-day backpacking trip. Specific route and distance depend on what permit we can get. Trip will include some off-trail hiking to Ancestral Puebloan sites and be moderately difficult. Difficulty Rating: Hard. The trip participation limit is 8. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle at lylehancock54@gmail.com.</p>
<p>April 8</p>	<p>SJBAS Meeting - CANCELLED Richard Jenkinson will present: “Art of Dinetah.”</p>
<p>April 18</p>	<p>Rock Art near Bluff, Utah – CANCELLED Day trip – This will be a full day of exploring rock art sites, including hiking Butler Wash to the San Juan River, walking to sites near Sand Island Campground, and hiking to the Sand Dune series of panels on the northwest edge of Bluff. We will meet for happy hour at Andrew Gulliford and Stephanie Moran’s house in Bluff. This is a full-day trip, so participants will likely want to camp or stay in a hotel in Bluff the night before. Difficulty Rating: Easy Active. Trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at andy@agulliford.com.</p>
<p>May 8</p>	<p>Downtown Durango Walking Tour - CANCELLED Meet at train depot at 3:00 p.m. Enjoy a 1.5-hour downtown Durango walking tour with historian Andrew Gulliford; walk north on Main Avenue to El Rancho, walk up to East 3rd Avenue and then south on 3rd back to depot. Participants will learn about Durango’s commercial and residential districts and colorful local history. Difficulty Rating: Easygoing. Trip participation limit is 18. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at andy@agulliford.com.</p>
<p>May 13</p>	<p>SJBAS Meeting - CANCELLED Marilee White will present: “Reversing Archaeology: Ethiopia’s Ancient Stone-hewn Churches.”</p>
<p>May 15 - 18</p>	<p>PAAC Class in Durango – Ceramics - CANCELLED Prehistoric Ceramic Description and Analysis - Ceramic technology, methods of manufacture, physical/stylistic analyses, and basic Colorado ceramic characteristics. Contact Tish Varney for details and to sign up: tishvarney@att.net.</p>

<p>June 1 - 4</p>	<p>Keet Seel Backpacking – CANCELLED This will be a four-day trip that includes car camping at Navajo National Monument and an overnight backpacking trip (8.5 miles each way) to Keet Seel, one of the best-preserved Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings in the Southwest. A Park Service guide will provide a tour of the cliff dwellings. The backpack is rated by the Park Service as strenuous, plus backpackers may have to carry 6 liters of water per person. For those who want to stay for a fourth day there will be a guided five-mile round trip hike to Betatakin. Difficulty Rating: Hard. Trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Hunter McCleary at hunter.mccleary@gmail.com.</p>
<p>June 10</p>	<p>SJBAS Annual Picnic – CANCELLED Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds</p>
<p>June 22 – 24</p>	<p>Ohkay Owingeh Feast Day – CANCELLED 2 to 3-day motel trip to Santa Fe – Combine colorful feast day ceremonies at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo with other sites such as El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Bandelier National Monument, etc. Difficulty Rating: Easygoing. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com.</p>
<p>July 8</p>	<p>SJBAS Meeting - Wayne Lorenz will present: “New finds at Pompei.”</p>
<p>TBD</p>	<p>Fort Lewis College Field School – Details will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>August 5</p>	<p>Chaco Landscapes: Sensory and Political Engagement with Place - Archaeologist Ruth Van Dyke – 7:00 p.m. in Room 130, Noble Hall, at Fort Lewis College</p>
<p>August 7 – 9</p>	<p>Attend Pecos Conference near Mancos – Camp at conference site or do day trips from Durango. For more information or to sign up, contact Foxie Mason at fmason@frontier.net.</p>
<p>August 12</p>	<p>SJBAS Meeting - Liseth Louderback will present: “Potatoes of the Southwest.”</p>
<p>Early September</p>	<p>Navajo Nation Fair – CANCELLED Window Rock, AZ – 2-day motel trip during first week of September. Difficulty Rating: Easygoing. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com.</p>
<p>September 9</p>	<p>SJBAS social gathering – Details will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>September 19</p>	<p>John W. Sanders Lecture - Trenton Holliday of Tulane University will present: “Meandering Neanderthals – A New Look at our Closest Fossil Relatives.”</p>
<p>September 21 – 24</p>	<p>Chaco Culture National Historical Park 5th Annual Astronomy Festival – 3-day camping trip – Park Service programs may include astronomy, star gazing through powerful telescopes and talking with astronomers, site tours, campfire programs, and a sunrise program to observe the autumnal equinox. We will do one or two hikes to backcountry sites (4-5 miles each). Difficulty Rating: Moderate. Reservations for campsites must be made by each SJBAS participant. For more information or to sign up, contact Paula Lutz at paula@durango.net.</p>



October 5 – 7	Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites – 3-day camping trip. We will camp for two nights in a dispersed campsite and hike to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. 4WD/HC vehicles are required, and participants must be fit and ready to hike all day. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle Hancock at lylehancock54@gmail.com .
October 2, 3, 9 or 10 ??	Dinetah Pueblitos and rock art in Largo Canyon, New Mexico – This will be a day trip to visit three Navajo Pueblitos and several rock art panels. We will drive down through Aztec and return through Ignacio. The longest walk is ¾ mile over relatively flat terrain. 4WD/HC vehicles are required; however, if heavy rains occur during the preceding week, we may postpone the trip because of slippery roads. Difficulty Rating: Easy Active. The trip participation limit is 16; we will arrange carpools. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Bob Powell at robertipowell@durango.net or 970-385-8949.
October 9 – 11	Navajo Culture – Crown Point Rug Auction, Hubbell Trading Post, maybe Canyon de Chelly – 2 to 3-day motel trip. Difficulty- Rating: Easygoing. For more information or to sign up, contact Randy Graham at rg44@bresnan.net .
October 14	SJBAS Meeting - Fred Blackburn will present: “Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins.”
October 8 - 13	Paquime / Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico – 4-day motel trip – This tour of Paquime and nearby archaeological sites leaves by van from Deming, NM. The tour leader is retired archaeologist Paul Minnis who has conducted excavations in the Casas Grandes area and published widely. We will also visit Cave of the Olla, Cuarenta Casas, the Paquime Museum, and various nearby cliff dwellings and some rock art. There will be optional side-trips to nearby historic Hacienda San Diego and an 1880’s Mormon settlement. The town of Mata Ortiz is also known for its revivalist pottery industry inspired by Paquime. The cost is approximately \$1,000/person double occupancy and includes lodging, most meals, and travel by van. The first and last nights in Deming are not covered. Dr. Minnis is not charging for his time but would appreciate it if each participant makes a contribution to the archaeology institution of their choice. Difficulty Rating: Easy Active. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Hunter McCleary at hunter.mccleary@gmail.com .
November 11	SJBAS Meeting - Rand Greubel, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, will present: “Archaeological Investigations: CDOT’s Highway 550-160 Connection Project on Florida Mesa”
December 12	SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch – Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College
	Other Related Trips and Activities
June 11 – 16	San Juan River by Holiday Expeditions – Sand Island to Clay Hills - Andy Gulliford goes along as historian.
August 11 – 14	Green River rafting by Holiday Expeditions - Gates of Lodore - Andy Gulliford goes along as historian.
Not scheduled	Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park by Holiday Expeditions - Weber Canyon horseback to Sandal House - day trip - Andy Gulliford goes along as historian.

September	Excavation Opportunity – Four Corners Research – Champagne Spring – Follow this link for more information, Champagne Spring Excavation , or go to www.fourcornersresearch.com to download a sign-up sheet.
October 17	International Archaeology Day

Regional Archaeology News

Act to Expand Yucca House National Monument Passes U.S. House

A proposed expansion of Yucca House National Monument to protect ancient ruins and facilitate improved access is a step closer to reality. House Bill 1492, which would expand the monument southwest of Cortez from 33 acres to 193 acres passed the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday. Its companion bill, S641, will be reviewed for a vote in the Senate. In 2015, Bernard and Nancy Karwick offered to donate a 160-acre parcel along the southeastern border of the monument to help preserve ancient cultural sites. But because of the significant boundary adjustment, the expansion must be facilitated through an act of Congress. – The Journal ([Read article](#))

Educational and Public Archaeology Resources Online

Last week, Lewis Borck (University of Missouri) organized a community-crowdsourced spreadsheet of archaeology/history-oriented educational and public content online as a resource for teachers and students looking for activities/readings/videos they can do at home during social isolation and quarantine. The document may be edited by those who wish to add resources. Everything is welcome, and there is a particular interest in histories/archaeologies often missed by K–12 education. Borck asks that people share it on social media to raise awareness of the resource. ([Open spreadsheet](#))

Gateway Communities Caution against Flocking to Public Lands

Despite exhortations to avoid unnecessary travel, local nonprofit Friends of Cedar Mesa is noting a significant flow of recreation users to the greater Bears Ears region. Each one of these travelers poses a risk of spreading COVID-19 as they stop for gas, buy groceries at crowded and undersupplied stores and try to find a place to use the restroom that isn't closed. Not only can a flood of visitors increase negative impacts on a fragile landscape, but it also puts remote gateway communities at risk. A COVID-19 outbreak in this region could quickly overwhelm our health care system with potentially dangerous consequences. – Josh Ewing in the Salt Lake Tribune ([Read article](#))

For most of the United States, social events and attractions ranging from museum visits to music festivals have vanished. But despite nationwide warnings that people should stay at home and limit unnecessary outings, national parks and monuments have, for the most part, remained open. As a result, visitors desperate for activity and distraction have flooded into Moab, Utah, the gateway to Arches National Park. On March 16, doctors from Moab Regional Hospital sent a letter to Gov. Gary Herbert, R, asking for help. – High Country News ([Read article](#))

I believe in the right to be outside, but at this moment it shouldn't be exercised through visitor centers and bottlenecks. Forget the parks; seek out the spaces in between, the backyards and alleys. It's a great time to

explore an irrigation ditch or the woods at the edge of town — to see what’s around you. Be as local as you can. – Craig Childs in High Country News ([Read article](#))

Grand Canyon Trust Presents “The Voices of Grand Canyon”

Each year, over 6 million people stand on the rim of the Grand Canyon, gazing into the ancient abyss whose rocks predated the dinosaurs, formed ancient sea floors, and, at times, spewed out molten lava. Yet the canyon is more than its geologic past. And it’s surely more than a bucket list destination. The Grand Canyon is a spiritual home to Native peoples whose ancestors farmed along the river, built homes in the cliffs, and hunted along the canyon rims since time immemorial. Today, 11 tribes maintain cultural connections to the Grand Canyon. – Grand Canyon Trust ([Read article](#))

Continuing Coverage: Organizations Formally Oppose Proposed Changes to NEPA

The heart of NEPA is the requirement that federal agencies review alternatives prior to making decisions. This requirement that agencies take a hard look at the impacts of proposed projects has been the key to many preservation successes. CEQ’s proposed regulatory overhaul would severely diminish NEPA’s ability to consider and protect historic places. A few provisions in the proposed changes would be particularly problematic. – National Trust for Historic Preservation ([Read article](#))

[The Society for American Archaeology] believes that some changes to NEPA regulations may be needed in order to provide increased timeliness to project reviews. The bulk of what the CEQ has called for, however, is the result of a misguided reform effort whose ultimate outcome would be heavily biased in favor of development interests and would both undermine protections for our irreplaceable cultural and environmental resources and fail to produce the efficiencies it seeks. SAA calls upon CEQ to withdraw these proposed regulations and enter into extensive consultations with all stakeholders in order to devise a more balanced and effective set of proposed changes. – Society for American Archaeology ([Opens as a PDF](#))

In our view, the proposed changes severely and deliberately undermine NEPA’s purpose and intent. Archaeology Southwest has joined tens of thousands of concerned individuals and organizations from across the country in voicing serious concerns with the rulemaking changes, which are deficient in at least six key areas. John R. Welch, Director of Archaeology Southwest’s Landscape and Site Preservation Program, identifies these deficiencies and our objections in the following statement. Welch’s comments summarize formal commentary Archaeology Southwest is submitting to the federal government on Monday, March 9. – Archaeology Southwest ([Read article](#))

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2020

President	Rege Leach	rleach@frontier.net
Vice President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Secretary	Paula Lutz	paula@durango.net
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Membership chair	(Open)	

<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster and email coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**