



THE MOKI MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2017

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch – Saturday, December 9th

Our annual meeting and holiday brunch will take place on Saturday, December 9th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Vallecito Room at the FLC Student Union.

To make your reservation, follow this link to the [Holiday Brunch reply form](#) and mail your completed form and check made out to SJBAS to Mark Gebhardt, Treasurer, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Reservation deadline is December 4th, and the cost is \$29 per person. If you would like to come, but have not already mailed your Holiday Brunch reply form and check, please contact Mark directly at mark@virtbiz.com to make the necessary arrangements.

Members may invite non-members to attend. For additional information, contact Foxie Mason: fmason@frontier.net 970-247-0252, or Jim Mueller: rhondaandjim@msn.com.

The brunch will be buffet style: fruit, egg dish, potatoes, breakfast meats, two breads, juice, coffee, tea, water, butter and jellies. Activities will feature a review of 2017 SJBAS field trips; introduction of new members; door prizes; election of chapter officers for 2018, and good holiday cheer. Join your friends for this fun party; we hope to see you there!

Center of Southwest Studies presentation – December 6th

Please save the date, Wednesday, December 6th, for an evening talk from author and photographer Eric Mindling. Eric will present "**Living Threads: A Portrait of Cultural Diversity, Roots and Belonging Told Through Cloth,**" about his Living Threads Project, an ambitious two-year photo-documentary of the traditional dressways and the people who continue to wear the clothing of their community.

Eric Mindling has lived in Oaxaca, Mexico since 1992, writing articles and books about pottery and

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textiles, running a cultural tour company, and taking photographs that share the strength of these people and their ways. Eric was the guide on Janice's Oaxaca Textiles trip – he is great speaker, wonderful photographer and highly knowledgeable. This will be a “not to be missed” program.

Monthly Meeting Notes – November 8th

Submitted by Jill Tripp

President Janice Sheftel opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., welcoming the approximately 75 members and guests. She reiterated the need to fill two open board positions for next year, a co-vice-president and our secretary. Janice then introduced Michael Stillman, a volunteer with the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association, who explained the need for volunteers at Chimney Rock next year. He will be available after tonight's talk to speak with anyone interested.

Shelby Tisdale announced the upcoming Navajo weaving talk and demonstration at the Center of Southwest Studies on November 9th, and Foxie Mason announced the annual meeting and holiday brunch, to be held in the Vallecito Room at the Student Union Building at FLC on December 9th. Anyone with pictures from field trips this year should email them to Lyle Hancock for inclusion in the slideshow at the meeting.

Janice then introduced Wayne Lorenz, Chief Engineer of Wright Water Engineers, Inc. who presented a program on “Ancient Pompeii - Archaeological Features of Water Systems”. Lorenz brought a stack of beautiful 2018 calendars produced by his company, for all to take home, with pictures of the engineering marvels of Machu Picchu and Pompeii. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Field Trip Leaders – WE NEED YOU!

We need more leaders to support our excellent field trip program. You don't have to be an avocational archaeologist or even have a particular expertise, you just need to be able to coordinate the trip, figure out logistics, and communicate with participants. We have plenty of ideas for new trips and extensive notes and itineraries from previous trips to help, and current and former trip leaders are always willing to lend a hand or offer advice. If you think you may be interested in leading a trip, please contact Lyle, our field trip program coordinator, at lylehancock@bresnan.net or phone 970-764-4531, for more information about becoming a field trip leader.

Field Trip Report - Nine Mile Canyon and Beyond! - October 27-29

By trip leader Tish Varney

Ten SJBAS members assembled in Price, UT for a weekend of encountering Rock Art led by our guide, Layne Miller, long time resident of Price, UT. The action-packed weekend included viewing rock art and hearing the many stories from Layne to make this trip rich in discovery and appreciation. While much of the Nine Mile Canyon art is accessible to view from the paved highway through mostly BLM lands, some incredible 'glyphs' are not apparent and can easily be missed. Additional locations south of Price require a hike to the spectacular panels. But let's start at the beginning...

Friday evening, Oct. 27, we congregated at Layne's home for an orientation and social. Gathering around the kitchen table, we learned about Layne's longtime interest in rock art and the many people he has

guided for research and historic discovery. Layne worked many years as a newspaper writer and photographer. He is a founding member of URARA (Utah Rock Art Research Association) and gives many talks and guides tours for the city of Price to Nine Mile and other locations. Everyone met brand-new members Betsy Moore and Phil Bruckhauser.

Our group fit into two cars and made an early start on the nearly 50-mile road to our destination of Nine Mile Canyon. The first canyon we encountered was Soldier Canyon, named after the route that US soldiers used to escort the Ute Indians to the reservation. We stopped to view a carved signature of a regiment assigned to the area. Other Anglo signatures made with axel grease occurred along the canyon walls proving that this route was well used. Remains of a livery stop marked the location where extra horses were kept as help for wagons to maneuver the summit to Nine Mile Canyon. Lore surrounds the name 'Nine Mile' because the canyon is actually 40 miles long!

Layne indicated that rock art styles from the Desert Archaic, Basketmaker, Fremont and modern Ute cultures appear in the canyon. Although interpretation is usually not possible, some styles can be related and verified through tribal stories and research. One of the most magical of panels illustrated



the legend of Coyote (Maji) and the creation of the starry sky.

Through Layne's many discussions with native peoples, he explains that the meaning of the Owl symbol signifies a bad omen. According to Native American legends and myths of some tribes the Owl is a symbol of death. We saw many panels where the owl symbol was present.

The Ute style of petroglyph may contain a stylized horse with an elongated body. These images indicate a post European presence when horses were

introduced to the area, therefore, giving a relative historic time frame to the petroglyph. Other Ute images include the climbing bear and bear paw. Another panel was the subject of Erich von Daniken (ancient alien's theory) who interpreted it as an alien space ship. In contrast, Layne gave a logical description of a railroad locomotive on tracks. Since the Utes traveled in the area between Price and Ft. Duchesne, they would have seen this 'monster' on wheels near Price.

Towards the end of our day in Nine Mile, we stopped at the famous "Great Hunt Panel". Here we marveled at the detail of the bighorn hunting scene. Here we also thought was a good location for a group picture. As usual, Pete Varney was behind the camera and not in the photograph!

After returning to Price, the group enjoyed a Mexican dinner together and then an ice cream social in the Varney's room. Our



revelry was limited as we planned to head off again early the next morning.

Day two, (October 29) we headed south of Price about 45 miles to the San Rafael Swell and accessed the BLM roadway to the Rochester Panel above Muddy Creek. The short hike to the panel containing Fremont, Barrier Canyon and some modern cowboy petroglyphs gave a sense of adventure as the trail snakes along the cliffs. One of the most fascinating features of this very complicated panel includes what Layne described as the Fremont journey from the underground that includes trials and terror from wild beasts. Photographs are inadequate to capture the feeling of being present in this location and seeing this remarkable art. Our tour ended with a scramble to a remote location creating more questions about the amazing rock art of the ancients.

Participants: Randy Graham, Byron Kellogg, Joan Kellogg, Michael Moravan, Elaine Moravan, Paula Lutz, Betsy Moore, Phil Bruckhauser, Tish Varney, and Pete Varney

Know Your SJBAS Neighbor

To help SJBAS members learn about the interests, skills and activities of its members, SJBAS is starting a new column in the Moki: *Know Your SJBAS Neighbor*. Each month we plan to feature a different SJBAS member. Please contact Janice Sheftel, janicesheftel@gmail.com, if you would like to share your profile.

Bio for Tish Varney – SJBAS PAAC Coordinator and CAS Representative

Growing up in the west (Idaho, Oregon, California) introduced me to historic places and Native peoples. In a Denver area college, I took anthropology and archaeology classes taught by Frank Lee Early and I loved each one. When the class went on a field trip to Chaco canyon, I was HOOKED! Finding a bone bead in a Basketmaker site was thrilling and I added it to the museum collection.

I worked for 30 years as an analytical chemist in Littleton. (Chemists have the right formula). Vacations included trips to the Ghost Ranch in New Mexico for weeklong seminars. One involved an archaeological dig starting with clearing sagebrush from the site and beginning the survey process. This project was under the guidance of Dr. Florence Ellis. Students would sweat all day on the site and then attend two hours of lecture each evening! This was eye-opening, fascinating hard work!

After moving to Durango four years ago, I attended an SJBAS lecture and became an active Society member. Soon I accepted the volunteer position as our PAAC representative (Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification) to arrange for our state assistant archaeologist to teach a choice of classes such as lithics, ceramics, etc. in Durango, once or twice a year. In addition, I have taken the opportunity to coordinate field trips for SJBAS. It's fun to sleuth out locations that members can enjoy seeing.

"Volunteer" seems to be my middle name! the last few years, I have enjoyed the volunteer opportunities at Mesa Verde National Park as a trail ranger (Balcony House), helping at the horse barn, and being a docent at Far View Sites. In addition, I am active with the Durango Botanical Society, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and as a San Juan National Forest Rail Ranger. The latter activity gives me a chance to ride on the Durango and Silverton RR as a type of naturalist, engaging the passengers in conversation about what's OUTSIDE the train. Because of earning credits volunteering as Ambassador for the D&SNGRR, I've even had a chance to ride in the locomotive!

My motto is "*For an adventure, you have to travel down at least one dirt road!*" Now I can add railroad to that motto. -- Tish

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tish Varney, who was recently honored by the Durango Botanical Society with the Most Meaningful Contribution in 2017 award. Kudos.

Upcoming Field Trip and Activity Schedule

December 9	SJBAS annual meeting and holiday brunch – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College Student Union
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Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) News

CAS Surveyor <http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/PUBLICATIONS/Newsletters/Newsletters.htm>

CAS Bulletin Board <http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/bulletinboard.htm>

CAS Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1425711501080053/>

CAS is looking for expertise for IT Committee

CAS membership,

To better serve our members I think CAS is going to need to have some online capabilities beyond what we have now, even after the online membership capability is up and running. I envision this to include, but not limited to, online video conferencing, data archives, CAS/chapter archives, references and publication library concerning archaeology and Colorado archaeology specifically, etc. CAS is not going to build it, but we need to be able to make smart choices that meet our needs, probably some will be “buy by the pound” (as needed). I don’t know if we have members that have expertise in these things that could lead CAS through that maize and make the trades (cost and performance) in selecting vendors. I'd like to form a new committee that would make these types of assessments for CAS. Please canvas your chapters and see what expertise might be in your chapters and if they would help us out. If they really know this stuff, I'm sure they could figure out how to meet remotely when called upon. If you could canvas your chapters before the January CAS meeting, we can talk about what is possible then.

Thanks,

Neil Hauser (CAS President elect)

If you are interested in helping out on a CAS committee, please contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com.

CAS Chapter News

Hisatsinom Chapter - [December Newsletter](#)

Regional Archaeological News

Chimney Rock National Monument is looking for Volunteers

Chimney Rock National Monument is looking for volunteers for the 2018 season, please contact: Jeanette Hill at 970.731.1733/ officemgr@chimneyrockco.org or <http://www.chimneyrockco.org/chimney-rock-national-historic-site/>. Chimney Rock Interpretive Association personnel will be at upcoming SJBAS monthly meetings to answer any questions you may have.

Lyle Balenqua on Hopi History and Connections to Bears Ears – Angles and Momentum

I often pose the question of how is Hopi connected to these prehistoric groups from distant lands? What is the continuity between modern Hopi people (and other Pueblo groups) and the ancestral cultures of the Bears Ears? Seems like a valid question, given that the modern-day Hopi reservation lies over 200 miles south of this part of Utah. What are the woven strands of culture that ties us back over time and space? ([Read article](#))

The Four Corners Potato – North America’s First Spud – High Country News

Between 7,000 and 9,000 years ago—during the middle Holocene—the Four Corners area went through a slow but dramatic climatic shift. As the region became hotter and drier, stream and lake levels dropped, and larger game animals and firewood became harder to find. Indigenous communities had to rely on foods that were less nutritious and took more time to prepare, such as grass seeds and chenopodium seeds, a tiny grain similar to quinoa. But recently, archaeologists working with local tribes have recognized a surprising addition to these early food sources: Eleven millennia ago, communities at the North Creek Shelter — a rock overhang in southern Utah’s Escalante Valley—began harvesting a unique species of potato. That’s the earliest known use of a potato in North America, and the evidence suggests that the nutritious tuber helped communities adapt to climate change during the middle Holocene, even as other food sources disappeared. ([Read article](#))

Legendary New Mexico’s 19 Pueblos - Legendary New Mexico via KRQE

Each of the 19 Pueblo tribes in New Mexico are a sovereign nation. At one-time, Pueblo tribes reached into what now is Colorado and Arizona where they established dwelling and trade centers like those located at Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico and Mesa Verde. ([Read article](#))

Did the First Americans Sail, Rather than Hike? – Phys.org

A team of anthropologists from several institutions in the U.S. has offered a Perspective piece in the journal *Science* outlining current theories regarding the first humans to populate the Americas. In their paper, they scrap the conventional view that Clovis people making their way across a Bering land bridge were the first to arrive in the Americas—more recent evidence suggests others arrived far earlier, likely using boats to travel just offshore. ([Read article](#))

SJBAS Officers and Other Positions - 2017

President	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Jim Mueller	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Secretary	Barb Hancock	barbhancock@bresnan.net
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	mark@virtbiz.com
CAS Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net

Other Positions

Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Moki Messenger editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster and email coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Volunteer coordinator	Susan Livenick	susanlivenick@gmail.com

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal

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 our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.**