



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

February 2009

Upcoming and Ongoing Events

The next meeting of the SJBAS will be Thursday, February 12th at 7 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Fort Lewis Center for Southwest Studies. The speaker will be Kevin Britz, the new Director of the Center, and his topic will be "Ghost West: Urban Exploration and Modern Abandoned Places".

The Hisatsinom Chapter's February speaker will be Fred Blackburn who will speak on "Inscription House: The Spanish Myth, 1661 or 1861?" The lecture will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd at the Cortez Cultural Center at 7:00 p.m.

Beginning in January the Fort Lewis Center for Southwest Studies is featuring a Juried Photo Show, "Images of the Southwest" from January 25 – March 27,

For those of you who are in the Denver area in mid February, the Denver Section of the Archaeological Institute of America is meeting on Sunday, February 18, 2009, at 2:00 PM at the Tattered Covered Bookstore at 1668 16th Street (16th & Wynkoop). The group will hear a talk entitled "When Ethnography Informs Archaeology: Researching Camp Amache", by Michelle Slaughter & Bonnie Clark.

The traveling exhibit "Jamestown, Quebec, and Santa Fe: Three North American Beginnings", will be at the Albuquerque Museum through March 29. It tells the story of European settlement in the New World in three languages and through the eyes of the strong, the dispossessed, and the enslaved, commemorating the 400th anniversary of three lasting settlements in Jamestown (founded in 1607), Quebec (founded in 1608), and Santa Fe (founded in 1609). Co-organized by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Virginia Historical Society, the exhibit includes rare native and European artifacts, maps, documents, and ceremonial objects from museums and royal collections on both sides of the Atlantic.

McELMO CANYON

There will be a day trip to McElmo Canyon on March 14 to help us understand the Anasazi settlement pattern on the Colorado-Utah border. The hikes will require strong ankle support since they have many steep but short elevation changes.

For further information please contact trip leaders Kathleen and Jim Shadell at 247-5597, or at shadjk@durango.net

SJBAS January Meeting

SJBAS met on Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fort Lewis Southwest Center Lyceum. The speaker Linda Towle spoke on "Pyramids, Temples, and Tombs: The Eternal Nile".

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See "Reporters Needed" on Pg. 2.

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PAAC Courses being offered in the following months are scheduled as follows:

Cortez: "Colorado Archaeology", February 6-9

Durango: "Prehistoric Lithics Description & Analysis" March 20-22

Grand Junction, May 15-17; Gunnison, February 13-16:
"Perishable Materials"

Contact SJBAS PAAC Coordinator, Peggy Morris, 382-8688, or si-papu@ecentral.com re: PAAC courses.

Volunteers Needed

The Anasazi Heritage Center is seeking interested people to provide visitor information, to assist in the Museum Shop bookstore, to help with curation, or to work with the grounds keeping. Volunteers serving as Front Desk Hosts orient visitors to the museum, Escalante Pueblo, and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Benefits of these volunteer positions include meeting new people, field trips, and special programs.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please call David Kill, Volunteer Coordinator, at 882-5621. You may discuss volunteering with David at the SJBAS March meeting when he will be our speaker.



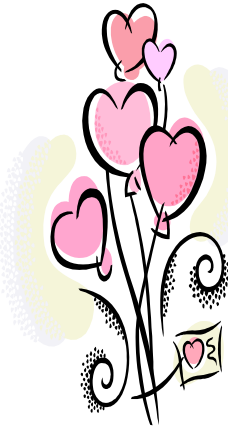
Reporters Needed

From Jill, Janice, and Beverly

Once again we are astounded at all the activities John Sanders was able to cover for each edition of the Moki. He seemed to go everywhere, attend all events, and maybe even was able to be in two places at the same time. Phew! Unfortunately, your new Moki editors are not quite so versatile and omnipresent and find that there are events we cannot cover because none of us are in attendance.

A perfect example was January's lecture when the three of us (your editors) were unable to attend so we have no report this month. If anyone would like to report on February's lecture, please let us know by contacting Jill Ward (jward@peterpattison.com), Janice Sheftel (jsheftel@mbssllp.com), or Beverly Dittmer (mokibev@frontier.net).

We very much want reports from our outings and trips. We are now able to easily include pictures. Digital pictures are preferred. We cannot make this newsletter complete without your help! We really need and want help in covering all events. We welcome and encourage you to submit a few words about events you have attended, trips you have taken, books you are reading, really anything that you feel would be of interest to our members. We'll even give you a byline! Don't leave us with blank sections in our new Moki Messenger.



President's Note

Andy Gulliford, our new President, is encouraging all members to get out there and find new people to join our organization. Ideally, he would like to see our membership grow on a monthly basis so that will require some serious effort from all of us. Let's grow our great organization—San Juan Basin Archaeological Society!



Ancient Hohokam Village Found

Summarized from an article by Tamara Stewart in the Winter edition, 2008-2009, of American Archaeology

Archaeologists working in advance of road construction have discovered an extensive Hohokam village, known as Yuma Wash, which dates from A.D. 1150 to 1450 and was one of the largest villages in the northern Tucson Basin Classic period. Since Yuma Wash had been investigated, beginning in 1982, the finding of prehistoric remains surprised archaeologists. The site had been recorded as dating to the historic period, and there was very little surface evidence of prehistoric material. Recently, initial blading on the road construction exposed six prehistoric cremations. Now more than a thousand features have been identified, including an

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JOHN'S CORNER

People and the Sky: Our Ancestors and the Cosmos

by Anthony Aveni, Thames

@ Hudson, Copyright 2008.

(Summary of Review by Terry Dwyer, Denver Chapter Newsletter, September 2008.)



We in the light bulb age may find it difficult to fully appreciate how pre-bulb people incorporated the sky into their thought and action. Our technology so isolates us from the natural world that the latter is often perceived as irrelevant. Our predecessors saw themselves as participating in an intimate, interactive relationship with the world around them, including the sky, a "dialogue" in which they had a say in what happened. Hence, for them, it was important to understand as much as possible about all aspects of nature so that they would know how to think and act properly. Instead, we look at the world around us as something to be studied, analyzed, and described ("objectified"): a "monologue" in which we describe what is around us but with which we do not have "personal" interaction. We see ourselves as influencing nature as outside agents whereas our ancestors viewed themselves as acting from within. The book blends ethnography, folklore, history and archeology in exploring how both ancients and moderns have interacted with astronomical phenomena.

"The Real King Herod: Architecture of the Holy Grail", National Geographic, December 2008.

This article is an excellent discussion of the finding of King Herod's Tomb, halfway up the 300' tall mound of Herodium's man-made hill, eight miles south of Jerusalem; the building of the seaport of Caesarea, named for Caesar Augustus, with a hippodrome and theater; and the fortress at Masada. The article calls Herod "one of the most imaginative and energetic builders of the ancient world."

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adobe compound and 16 associated adobe rooms, nearly 100 pit structures, more than 300 human burials, and 26 dog burials. Over 55,000 artifacts that include pottery fragments, stone, bone, and shell tools, and an abundance of other marine shell artifacts were also recovered. The Hohokam inhabited the area along the Santa Cruz River from about 300 B.C. until A.D. 1450. They created many miles of irrigation canals, with evidence of an irrigation canal running to Yuma Wash. The site's human and dog burials represent one of the largest samples ever excavated at a Classic period site in the Tucson Basin.



Membership Renewal

January 31st is the deadline for renewing your annual SJBAS membership. To renew your membership obtain the form from our website or on page 7 of this newsletter and fill it out, sign the liability waiver, and write a check for the appropriate amount. Mail everything to our Chapter Treasurer:

Mark Gebhardt
107 St. Andrews Circle
Durango, CO 81301

If you have any questions, contact Mark at 970-382-0518 or mark@virtbiz.com

Moki By Mail

Most of us are connected to the Internet and communicate by e-mail regularly. **In an effort to further reduce our costs, we will be sending the Moki Messenger by e-mail to every member who provided us with his/her/their e-mail address.** If you have not provided us with that address, please do so now by contacting our treasurer, Mark Gebhardt, at mark@virtbiz.com or 970/382-0518.

However, if you prefer to get the Moki by snail mail (USPS), please let Mark know; and we'll make that happen. It is our intent to ensure that every member receives the Moki when it is published. Any member can also access the latest edition of the Moki through our website: www.sibas.org.



***Renew Your Membership
Now!!!!***

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS: NEAR AND FAR

February 2009

Whitewater Petroglyphs May Be in Jeopardy

A citizen has alleged that four panels of petroglyphs, some of which are on private property on a precarious hillside position near the Old Spanish Trail in the Whitewater area, may be threatened by development. One of the petroglyphs depicts horses, so it was perhaps created in the 17th century. One of the panels depicting a horse and bear paws surrounding a mountain sheep slipped in December.

The reporting citizen claims damage is being done by workers laying lines and constructing roads. Mesa County officials and a noted rock-art specialist disagree. The county has been aware of the petroglyphs for years and had them evaluated by the Colorado State Historical Society in 2004. The Society determined the petroglyphs should not incur damage from the installation of sewer lines.

Holocaust History May be Unearthed

An Israeli writer, Yaron Svoray, was in Germany to research the underground operations that helped Nazi officials travel to South America to escape justice after World War II. A local mentioned to Svoray that nearby land had served as a dump during the Third Reich for items looted during Kristallnacht. That night, 70 years ago, thousands of Jewish homes, shops and synagogues were ransacked and burned.

On return trips, Svoray examined old maps to confirm the dump's location in Klandorf, about 40 miles north of Berlin. In May, after only an hour's digging, he had uncovered a (metal) swastika, Jewish porcelain, and a bottle with a Star of David on it. Historians in Israel judged the finds to be authentic, pre-war pieces. Svoray, the son of Holocaust survivors, held a traditional Jewish service at the dump site to mourn the brutality of Kristallnacht. His goal is to push the German government to protect the site, which extends over several acres, from looters. Wooden watchtowers now jut out on the site, lookouts for hunters of wild boar and deer.

Arizona Court of Appeals' Ruling Revives Havasupai Indian Lawsuits Over Research

Havasupai Indians, in an isolated village lying in a gorge off the Grand Canyon, allege that university researchers have misused blood samples taken from 2000 members of the northern Arizona tribe for diabetes research in the 1990s. Arizona State University and the University of Arizona researchers used the blood samples for research into schizophrenia, inbreeding, and ancient population migration, as well as diabetic research. The Havasupai claim the additional research was conducted without permission. Overturning a judge's 2007 ruling dismissing the cases, a split Arizona Court of Appeals panel said the Havasupai and other plaintiffs had provided enough information to proceed toward a trial.

Curator of New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Finds Ancient Mammal (Oreodont) Remains

Gary Morgan found a well-preserved skull of an oreodont in an arroyo in the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge earlier this year. The oreodont was a fairly primitive member of the ungulate group. With its elongated head and tusk-like teeth, the oreodont -- which roughly translates to "Mountain tooth" in Greek -- the pig-like mammal herbivore lived 10 million years ago in the Miocene epoch. Like camel's teeth, the oreodont teeth are sharp and triangular. But unlike a camel, an oreodont has no gaps in its rows of teeth. We don't know a lot about what happened to oreodont. Perhaps, as New Mexico got drier, the animals couldn't adapt.

2000 Year Old Skull with Brain Found Summary of Durango Herald article, 01/09/09

British Archaeologists have unearthed a 2000 year old skull that has an unusually well-preserved brain. The skull, severed from its owner sometime before the Roman invasion of Britain,

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ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS: NEAR AND FAR

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was found in a muddy pit during a dig at the University of York in northern England. The brain is the oldest ever discovered in Britain. An archaeologist realized the skull might contain a brain when she felt something move inside the cranium as she was cleaning it and spotted an unusual yellow substance. Scans at York Hospital confirmed the presence of brain tissue. It is unclear just how much of the brain has survived, since the tissue has contracted over the years. It is not known either why the skull was buried separately from its body, suggesting human sacrifice and ritual burial. The existence of a brain, where no other soft tissues have survived, is extremely rare. The old brain is unlikely to yield new neurological insights because human brains aren't thought to have changed much over the past 2,000 years.

Preservationists Rise Against Wal-Mart Building a Store Near the Wilderness Battlefield, a Key Virginia Civil War Site

Summary of Durango Herald article

Historians, including filmmaker Ken Burns and Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough, sent a letter urging Wal-Mart to build farther from the May 1964, Wilderness Battlefield located near Fredericksburg, Virginia. The proposed building site is a part of our history and is hallowed ground to some because it was used as a staging area by Union troops. Grant's Union troops were headed to Richmond when they confronted Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. The Battle involved more than 100,000 Union troops and 61,000 Confederates, leaving more than 4,000 dead and 20,000 wounded. About 2,700 acres of the Wilderness Battlefield are protected as part of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Wal-Mart says its store will be a mile from the entrance to the site of the 1864 battle. This dispute has raised opposition similar to that in 1994 over the Walt Disney Company's plans to build a \$650 million theme park within miles of the Manassas Battlefield.

Preservationists Seek to Protect Rock Art

Summary of Denver Post article, October 2, 2008

The BLM is considering a proposal to allow more than 800 new gas wells near Nine

Mile Canyon in Utah, sometimes called "the world's longest art gallery". This unique canyon contains thousands of prehistoric rock paintings and carvings. Some worry more traffic in the canyon would raise dust and jeopardize the rock art. The federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation sent a letter to the BLM that the project could have "substantial impacts" in the area. The agency's concern could slow approval of the project and support concerns of tribal and environmental groups. Denver-based Bill Barrett Corp., which already has about 100 wells on the plateau above the canyon, wants to expand development along the West Tavaputs Plateau to tap an estimated one trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Hurricane Ike Uncovers an Old Vessel

Summary of Durango Herald article, September 28, 2008

Some believed this vessel was a two-masted Civil War schooner that had run aground in 1862. The wreck, about six miles from Fort Morgan, Alabama, was partially uncovered by Hurricane Camille in 1969. Researchers then identified it as the Monticello, a battleship that partially burned when it crashed trying to pass the U.S. Navy in order to reach Mobile Bay in 1862, after sailing from Havana. After examining photos of the wreck post-Ike, a Museum of Mobile marine archaeologist agreed it is likely the Monticello. The wrecked ship is 136.9 feet long and 25 feet wide. The Monticello is listed in shipping records as 136 feet long.

Other clues that have been uncovered indicate this wreck could be the early 20th century schooner, Rachel that ran aground on the Alabama coast in 1933. A report written by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2000 determined the remains were the Rachel, built at Moss Point, Mississippi, in 1919 and wrecked near Fort Morgan. The wreckage has components, such as steel cables, that would indicate that this was a more modern ship than the 1860's schooner. A full identification would require an excavation.

Socorro, New Mexico Lot Could be Confederate Graveyard

Summary of Durango Herald article

The lot likely holds hundreds of human remains in a long-abandoned cemetery, including the

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ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS: NEAR AND FAR

(Continued from page 5)

unmarked graves of twenty seven Confederate soldiers, who died in the Civil War Battle of Val Verde that took place on the banks of the Rio Grande on February 21, 1862. Ken Garrison, an officer with the New Mexico Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, wants the soldiers' remains to be exhumed and reburied if the abandoned cemetery cannot be preserved. Landowner Mary Silva hopes to leave the lot to her nine children, but State law makes it nearly impossible for Silva or her heirs to do anything with the land, which is officially designated as an "unmarked burial ground". The law also makes it very difficult for Garrison to relocate the graves. The State has known about the cemetery since 1995. It was likely used from 1853 to 1875 as a Presbyterian cemetery. Its exact boundaries are unknown.

New Mexico law requires that anyone who discovers suspected human bones stop the activity that led to the discovery and notify law-enforcement officials. Any excavation on Silva's property requires a permit from the State's Cultural Properties Review Committee and must be performed by a qualified archaeologist. Each grave must be treated as an archaeological site, but no archaeologist is going to undertake such a sizable project without funding. The city may be willing to consider a land swap.

Neanderthals More Mobile than Thought

Summary of Farmington Daily Times article

Analysis of a 40,000-year-old tooth, found in Greece's southern Peloponnese region, suggests Neanderthals were more mobile than once thought. The tooth shows its owner had spent at least part of its life away from the area of death. Neanderthal mobility is highly controversial. Until now, experts had only indirect evidence of mobility, including stone used in tools. The Max Planck Institute's team analysis of the tooth is the first from a Neanderthal fossil itself. The Institute studied tooth enamel for ratios of a strontium isotope, a naturally occurring metal found in food and water, levels of which vary in different areas. The tooth's levels of strontium show that the Neanderthal grew up at least 12.5 miles from the discovery site, which could prove that settlement networks were broader and more organized than pre-

viously believed. Others disagree with the finding's significance.

New Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Ignacio Cultural Center and Museum

Summary of Durango Herald article

This proposed building will reflect Native American themes. A conical structure will project upward and outward from the front of the new 500,000 square feet cultural center and museum. This most prominent feature of the new center could be interpreted as a teepee. The structure will be made of glass that is circled by spiraling aluminum bands. It will also feature what appear to be poles, such as those that support a teepee. A skylight will top the cone. The building itself will use steel, glass, stone and wooden beams. Native grasses will be cultivated on about 1,000 square feet of overhang on either side of the "teepee", above the first story of the building. The center will sit on ten acres on the northeast corner of the intersection of state Highway 172 and County Road 517 south of the new Sky Ute Casino. The grounds of the cultural center and museum will be landscaped with native plants.

Salmon Ruins Depends on Research Volunteers

Summary of Farmington Daily Times article, December 29, 2008

Larry Baker, director of Salmon Ruins since 1993, says the Ruins offer a variety of programs: a research library, a museum itself, a gift shop, and a visit to the original Pioneer Homestead of the Salmon family. The Ruins are part of Heritage Park, representing 10,000 years of different cultures in the area. Salmon Ruins can use more volunteers. Call (505) 632-2013, or check out the Web site, www.salmonruins.com in order to find out specific information. In addition to the 17 member board, current volunteers include Victor Boulanger, who works on Wednesdays as a docent and at the reception desk; David Casey, the board president, who applied for and received a grant from Save America's Treasures; and board members Cleo Barnes and her daughter, Andrea Greenacre, and Nancy Espinoza.

Volunteers are needed to help in curation, grounds maintenance, and in the library. Young people are encouraged to sign up to help build a Pueblo I style home in the Heritage Park.

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership category(check one):

- Individual (includes "Southwestern Lore") SJBAS \$15.00+CAS \$16.00 = \$31.00
- Individual (no SWL) SJBAS \$15.00+CAS \$ 8.00 = \$23.00
- Family (with SWL) SJBAS \$20.00+CAS \$20.00 = \$40.00
- Family (no SWL) SJBAS \$20.00+CAS \$10.00 = \$30.00
- SJBAS newsletter "Moki Messenger" only (no field trips) = \$15.00

If you pay CAS dues directly or via another chapter, please specify here: _____

Make check payable to "SJBAS" and mail with this form to Mark Gebhardt, Treasurer, SJBAS, 107 Saint Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. (Dues are payable in January of each year.)

Name(s): Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____ and _____

Mailing address: _____

Street address City State ZIP

Preferred phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

SJBAS is a totally volunteer-run organization. All members are expected to participate in keeping the society going. Please indicate below all the activities with which you are willing to help.

Name: _____ Name: _____

_____	Speakers/programs	_____
_____	Social events	_____
_____	Planning outings	_____
_____	Leading outings	_____
_____	Outreach/service	_____
_____	Chairing a committee	_____
_____	Mailing newsletters	_____
_____	Other	_____

What special skills/education/experience do you have that applies to SJBAS goals?

Education _____
 Experience (for example, "teaching") _____
 Special skills _____
 Archaeological training (college or PAAC courses completed): _____
 Other _____

BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND SIGN BELOW

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

- Read and sign this statement and fill out emergency contact information.
- For couples, each person must sign.

I agree to observe the By-Laws and Code of Ethics of both the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) and the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society (SJBAS), and to conduct myself in an ethical manner when participating in the activities of these groups, I understand that both groups are dedicated to the preservation of our cultural heritage and do not engage in activities such as unauthorized collecting of potsherd, arrowheads, or other prehistoric or early historic artifacts, or the desecration of burial sites. I also understand and acknowledge that there may be inherently dangerous conditions when pursuing the activities of CAS or SJBAS that may result in property damage or loss, personal injury, or death and I, my successors and any other representatives I may have do hereby release and hold harmless SJBAS and its members and CAS from any and all liability that I or we may incur.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For couples, the second person signs below.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list a person who could be contacted in case of any emergency. (This should not be your spouse or partner if you attend outings together.)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone number(s): _____

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society
385 Highland Hill Drive
Durango, Colorado 81301

FIRST CLASS

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

If you're not a member of our group and would like to receive our newsletter, attend our monthly meetings, join us on our outings, and participate in our many other activities and those of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS), call our President Andy Gulliford (970-375-9417) and ask for information about our organization. Annual dues, including those for membership in the Colorado Archaeological Society, are listed below and are payable by checks made out to SJBAS and mailed to our Treasurer Mark Gebhardt, 107 Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Dues cover membership for the calendar year. With SWL means that the membership includes a subscription to CAS's quarterly journal "Southwestern Lore" (SWL). No SWL means that the journal is not included with your membership, hence the difference in the dues.

Individual (includes "Southwestern Lore")	SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$16.00 = \$31.00
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Family (with SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 + CAS \$20.00 = \$40.00
Family (no SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 + CAS \$10.00 = \$30.00



www.sjbas.org