

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



www.sjbas.org

The Moki Messenger

July 2014

Next SJBAS General Meeting

The next SJBAS meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10th, at the Lyceum in the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Eric Blinman will present: "2,000 Years of Climate Change and Human Response in the Southwest." Dr. Blinman is an excellent speaker, and this should be a fascinating presentation.

The quality of the combined archaeological and environmental record in the northern Southwest is easy to take for granted because we have grown up with it. The climate detail provided by tree-rings and the quality of chronological data from tree-rings and associated pottery is unparalleled in the world. The result is a remarkably detailed picture of economic, social, and demographic adaptation to environmental and climate change by Puebloan and Athapaskan peoples over the past 2,000 years. Dependence on maize agriculture is the critical factor, and the combined influences of variation in rainfall and temperature on farming success provide the rhythm of deep culture history. It isn't a story of failure at all, but of adaptation, including climatic support for the florescence of ninth century villages and the later developments at Chaco. How people respond to opportunity or crisis is not strictly determined by climate, but respond they must, and the lessons of the past have useful implications for our ability to shape our own future.

Dr. Eric Blinman has been involved in archaeology since 1967, and he has focused on the history of Southwestern peoples since 1979. His undergraduate training was at UC Berkeley, and his graduate degrees in anthropology are from Washington State University. He joined the Museum of New Mexico's Office of Archaeological Studies in 1988 and has served as the division director since 2006. Research activities have included climate change studies, the cultural affiliations between ancient and modern peoples, archaeomagnetic dating, and reconstructions of social and economic evolution in the Southwest. However, he is probably best known for his research on pottery and textiles and for his participation in educational programs throughout New Mexico.

Picnic Report - June 12th

President Janice Sheftel welcomed about 50 members and guests to our annual picnic. She thanked Foxie Mason and Peggy Morris for organizing the picnic, Dennis Lopez and Rick Moeller for grilling the hotdogs and brats, and a thanks in advance to the cleanup crew, including Bob Powell, Clarence and Kathryn Chamberlain, and Eliane and John Viner. Peggy Morris was also thanked for her volunteer work at the Center of SW Studies. Then Janice asked us to sing "Happy Birthday" to Shaila Van Sickle. SJBAS speaker for July will be Dr. Eric Blinman, director of the Office of Archaeological Studies in New Mexico. His topic will be climate change in the southwest in the last 2,000 years. She also requested members contact her if they have items to donate for gifts for our speakers (we are almost out of items). Janice mentioned upcoming field trips:

June 21 Summer Solstice at Aztec Ruins
July 11-13 Taos area
July 23 Tomboy Mine and Marshall Basin

Janice plans to schedule a board meeting in the next week or so.

Treasurer Mark Gebhardt reminded members to contribute to the John Sanders internship fund. Vice-President Peggy Morris stated that if \$200 is raised it will be matched by a private donation. She reminded us that \$562 was collected at the silent auction at our holiday party, and it is not too early to gather items for this year's party and give them to her. Vice-President Foxie Mason asked members to e-mail her or Janice about future PAAC course topics. Foxie asked that we consider attending the Old Growth Forests conference at FLC August 4-5.

Summer Solstice at Aztec Ruins N. M. Field Trip Report – by Richard Robinson

Three SJBAS members were able to get up early Saturday morning June 21 and met at the Aztec Ruins National Monument, located in Aztec New Mexico, at the gate at 5:30 AM. This event was open to the general public and a handful of others along with Clarence, Kathryn and I met with Ranger Cindy with toothpicks under our eyes. Although Cindy is new to the Aztec Ruins NM she has had a lot of experiences and knowledge with Archaeo-Astronomy events west of the Mississippi River.

We arrived at the back wall of the West ruin with some extra time so we discussed and looked at drawing of Summer Solstice events. She mentioned Cahokia, Big Horn Medicine Wheel, Chaco, Yellow Jacket, and Holly House.

How many times a day do you look at a clock for the time, or a calendar for the day of the week or date? Yet we surmise that people long ago lived their lives without any idea of time! Yet time and season of the year was very important to them and they could use full moons, shadows and positions of the sun-rise/set on the horizon to tell much about changes in the time of the day or the seasons. Should we plant or harvest, will it get warmer or colder, dryer or wetter? Various members of their society had various functions such as the sun priest, and their might have been more than one performing that function, watching the sunrise position in the sky. As the sun started to change the direction in the sky it moved (and length of day/night) the sun priest would call the people to start dances and ceremonies. Maybe only he or a couple of the sun priests knew what they were looking for, but as each approaching day came they would call out for more ceremony and finally the sun would change its direction of movement in the sky and that brought even more ceremony. The gods have listened. Did it matter at what hour and minute that the sun changed directions if you were a day off because your vision was obstructed? There are several days where the sun's position changes very little in the sky. Many individuals in our society that I have talked to, do not even know what the summer solstice is (except maybe that it is the beginning of summer).

As one might expect, instead of viewing the sun rise with its light tangent to the wall of the ruin, clouds on the horizon blocked the immediate view, but the sunrise at 2 sun widths above the horizon was just not the same. Cindy passed around photos from the sun rise the day before which was much more exciting.

It had been a long early drive there and for what? This question gave us the opportunity to consider what this event was all about and take time to appreciate what this was all about.

Upcoming Field Trips

Our 2014 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 date changes, and contact the trip leaders directly by phone or email for trip details and to sign up. Remember, our Field Trip Schedule is a work in progress. If you have a trip in mind that you would like to lead, please contact Lyle at lylehancock@bresnan.net to see if it can be worked into the schedule.

<p>July 11 - 13</p>	<p><u>Taos Area</u></p> <p>During this three-day motel trip, we will attend the Taos Powwow at the Taos Pueblo, and visit Taos, the Harding Mine, and walk the plaza in Santa Fe to see 400 years of history and architecture. There is a trip participation limit of 20.</p> <p>Trip Leader: Richard Robinson Contact Mary Ann Hiller - 970-259-5170 johnhilldurco@durango.net</p>
<p>July 23</p>	<p><u>Tomboy Mine near Telluride</u></p> <p>This is a wonderful opportunity to visit the historic Tomboy Mine with our knowledgeable guide Rudy Davison. This trip will take all day, so bring a lunch. We will leave from Santa Rita Park at 7:00 a.m. Those with a fear of heights or high mountain passes need not apply. HC, 4-WD vehicles are required, and there is a trip participation limit of 20.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Bev & Bob Danielson - 970-385-1058 bnbdan@bresnan.net</p>
<p>Sept. 7 - 10 or 11</p>	<p><u>North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park</u></p> <p>This is a four or five-day car-camping trip. This trip will be worth it even if only for the camping on the North Rim. High-clearance, 4-WD vehicles are required, and hiking capability is important, as one hike could be between 5 to 11 miles long. This is a challenging trip worth every view. We may also visit the Pipe Springs and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments. The trip participation limit is 11.</p> <p>Trip Leader: Richard Robinson – 970-764-7029 Robinson7150@gmail.com</p>
<p>September 17</p>	<p><u>Boston Coal and Fuel Company at Perins Town Site</u></p> <p>We will hike about a mile and a half from Lightner Creek into the Perins town site north of Twin Buttes to view the ruins of the Boston Coal and Fuel Company mine and the old railroad line.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Kathleen and Jim Shadell - 970-247-5597 shadelljim@gmail.com</p>

PAAC Activities and Schedule

PAAC (Program for Vocational Archaeological Certification) Classes are open to everyone. More information may be found at (<http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/paac-event-schedule>).

Tish Varney has kindly volunteered to take over the PAAC Coordinator role. Her contact information is tishvarney@att.net or 970-259-4099. Thank you, Tish!

Durango-based Classes

May 31 - June 1: Twelve participants attended and completed the Field and Laboratory Photography class conducted by Assistant State Librarian, Kevin Black, and held at the Center of Southwest Studies. Participants included a number of SJBAS members along with participants from other parts of Colorado. Participants found the class interesting, informative and useful according to feedback to the coordinator.

Next Durango Class

October 24-26 Historical Archaeology will be held in Durango at the Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College. Contact Tish Varney to sign up at tishvarney@att.net. Details on the class may be found at <http://www.historycolorado.org/oaHP/paac-event-schedule>.

Site Form Workshops

Two free Site Form Workshops will be held in Denver. The first workshop is on August 6th, the second workshop is on September 6th, and both are conducted by Kevin Black. The site form workshops are scheduled to meet in the office library on the 3rd floor of the History Colorado Center at 1200 Broadway in Denver (<http://www.historycoloradocenter.org>), 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. +/- There is no fee and no need to register through the Local PAAC Coordinator, but please indicate if you are planning to attend. Attendance is open to everyone, not just to PAAC

The two workshops will cover those tasks necessary to transform a partially filled-out field form into a report-ready final form including inking sketch maps, computing legal locations, topographic map plots, artifact illustrations, etc. Volunteers are asked to bring a pencil, eraser, clipboard or comparable writing surface, and any draft forms in preparation. The two workshops will tend to be a bit different based on the questions that come up, so attending both is a viable option.

Hisatsinom Chapter News

The Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present Dr. Karen Adams on Tuesday, July 1st at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss Ancient Yucca quids with Tobacco Contents: Antelope Cave, NW Arizona. Adams' presentation will focus on her research on Yucca quids found in Antelope Cave that date to the Pueblo I period. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

Crow Canyon June Newsletter

http://www.crowcanyon.org/e-newsletter/2014/June/cover_page_June_2014.html

SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbssl.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Peggy Morris	sipapu_72@q.com
Vice President Field Trip Program	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Secretary	Diane Skinner	skinnerkatz@durango.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@mbssl.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.

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.