

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



www.sjbas.org

The Moki Messenger

June 2015

June SJBAS Meeting and Annual Picnic – June 11th

The SJBAS Annual Picnic “semi-potluck” will be held Thursday, June 11th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Edgemont Ranch Picnic Ground on Florida Road. Thanks to our member David Wright, an Edgemont Ranch resident, we are allowed to use this facility again this year.

The picnic grounds are on the right past the Edgemont Ranch main entrance. The access road is across the highway from the giant pine cone sculpture and it will be marked. The club provides brats, hot dogs, buns, condiments, disposable tableware, bottled water, iced tea and lemonade. Members whose last names begin with A through F should bring a side dish; last names G through K a dessert; L through R an appetizer; and S through Z a salad. You may bring adult beverages, if you wish.

If you have not already signed up for the picnic, please RSVP to Foxie Mason at fmason@frontier.net by June 8th, so we have a fairly accurate head count for our food order. You may bring family members, friends and prospective new members. If you would like to volunteer to be on the set up or the cleanup crew, please contact Jim Mueller at rhondaandjim@msn.com or 504-259-9564.

Feel free to contact Foxie Mason at fmason@frontier.net or Jim Mueller at rhondaandjim@msn.com or 504-259-9564 if you have questions or need additional information.

May 14th SJBAS Meeting Report

Janice welcomed about 30 SJBAS members and announced that the upcoming PAAC site survey class to be held in Durango was full. She also mentioned that there was going to be a PAAC site form workshop held on October 11th at the CAS annual conference. Jim Mueller shared information about the upcoming SJBAS picnic to be held on June 11th. Janice did a quick review of upcoming field trips through July and introduced the evening’s speaker, Dr. Arthur Joyce.

Presentation

Dr. Arthur Joyce presented: “Lord & Deer,” “Jaguar Claw,” and the Journey to the “Land of the Sky:” Archaeology and History of the Tututepec Empire, Oaxaca, Mexico. He summarized the archaeology of the lower Río Verde Valley beginning with the earliest agricultural villages dating to 1,800 B.C. and tracing the rise of the city of Río Viejo at 100 B.C.

Dr. Joyce gave a fascinating presentation describing how he used Mixtec Codices in combination with early colonial documents and modern archaeology to develop an understanding of the rise of the Tututepec Empire. The site of Tututepec has long been known from Early Colonial documents as the capital of a powerful Late Postclassic (A.D. 1100-1522) imperial center in the lower Río Verde Valley of Oaxaca. Until recently, however, little has been known of the archaeology of the site. Dr. Joyce discussed the origins, founding, extent, chronology, and aspects of the internal organization and external relations of the Tututepec Empire based on the results of a regional survey, excavations, and a reanalysis of ethnohistoric documents, including Mixtec Codex, sacred books of the Mixtec people painted around 1,500 A.D. These codices referred to events that took place around 1,100 A.D. when Lord 8 Deer, “Jaguar Claw” rose to power in the Rio Verde Valley and founded the powerful political entity of Tututepec.



During its heyday, before being conquered by Hernan Cortez in March of 1522, Tututepec was a major urban center that covered over 2,127 hectares and had a population of possibly 50,000 people. It was built in the foothills above fertile plains that provided excellent growing areas for cotton and food crops such as maize, beans, and squash. The city was organized into barrios and terraces were constructed for residential areas. There were ritual locations and mounded architecture. Mixteca-Puebla polychrome pottery was popular and some wares in elite families were painted like the Codex. After the conquest, the Tututepec Empire was devastated by disease.

CAS Annual Meeting and Conference at Fort Lewis College - October 9 - 11

SJBAS is hosting the CAS annual meeting and conference. Follow the links below for more information and to register for the conference and field trips.

[CAS Annual Meeting Information.pdf](#)

[Annual Meeting Registration Form.pdf](#)

[Annual Meeting Field Trip Registration Form.pdf](#)

SJBAS Archaeology Volunteers

CAS and the SJBAS board would like to know what SJBAS members are volunteering at various archaeology-related places. For example, are you a site monitor for the San Juan Mountains Association? If you are an archaeology volunteer, please email Lyle at lylehancock@bresnan.net to share a brief discussion of the volunteer work you do. Lyle will compile the results for the SJBAS board and CAS.

Field Trip Report - Moab, Green River and the San Rafael Swell – Rock Art - May 3rd – 6th – Bob Powell

Our group of twelve met at the Hole-in-the-Rock Rest Area south of Moab to sign in, do introductions, and get a trip briefing. Bob handed out spiral bound trip pamphlets that were full of information about the rock art we would see and the geology along our route. The first site we visited was the Golf Course site adjacent to the Moab golf course. Then we had lunch at Zax in Moab and headed over to Utah Scenic Byway 279, a.k.a. the Potash Road, to visit petroglyph sites of the Formative period along the Colorado River. One 125-foot-long panel displayed a wide variety of anthropomorphs, animal and abstract figures. Another panel had a large bear. There were a number of climbers along the cliff walls

known to local climbing aficionados as “Wall Street” and a fellow came along flying a drone. Yuck! Who would have ever imagined... From there we drove to Green River. About half the group set up camps in Green River State Park while the rest checked into motels.



We formed carpools and drove to several interesting panels along the Green River in Gray Canyon. Although the weather was threatening, we were lucky to have dry roads as the gray Mancos shale is impossible to drive on if it gets wet. We drove about 16 miles to the end of the road at the Nefertiti Rock parking area to view a beautiful Fremont panel depicting a number of elk. At another site along the river on a heavily patinated slab were two large trapezoidal Fremont human figures. Then we drove several miles up Tusher Canyon to view some very old Fremont and Archaic petroglyphs of elk, sheep, dots, necklaces, simple human figures and a footprint. We returned to Green River just in time for a late happy hour and dinner.

On the second day, we drove toward Price and then west on the Green River Cutoff Road to the foot of Cedar Mountain to see several Fremont petroglyph panels on large boulders that had tumbled down from the cliffs above. We were near an old railroad grade and there were a few inscriptions left by the railway workers in 1881. We ate lunch at an isolated developed rest area and then drove south down Buckhorn Wash to see several sites including the famous 130-foot-long Buckhorn Wash Pictograph Panel. This amazing panel was right along the road and had suffered significant vandalism. However, in 1995, an effort by professional restoration workers removed much of the graffiti. There were numerous Barrier Canyon style pictographs and some

Fremont petroglyphs. Then we continued down to the San Rafael River Recreation Site and stopped to admire spectacular monolith towers and high cliffs surrounding the site. We returned to Green River for the evening.

On the third morning the weather looked pretty wet, but we headed out to see what the road conditions were like. After driving a few miles on muddy roads toward Swazey’s Cabin and rock art sites at the Head of Sinbad, we decided to abort that part of the trip and visit other sites along paved or surfaced roads. We returned to I-70 and took the Moore Cutoff at the Eagle Canyon Overlook. We stopped at a turnout to see various petroglyphs, including a very large snake, and some dinosaur tracks. Then we drove a few miles to the Rochester Panel trailhead, had lunch, and hiked about a third of a mile to the famous panel that has hundreds of petroglyphs. We spotted a number of cowboy glyphs, including horses and mules with riders, in Muddy Creek Canyon below the Rochester site. Later we returned the way we had come to see if we could find the “juggler” petroglyph. We had a nice walk, but no luck finding the rock art. We continued for a couple more miles along the dirt road to view large “cannonball-like” concretions that had formed in one of the sandstone layers above Short Canyon. We returned to Green River with enough time for happy hour at the campground before heading to Ray’s Tavern for a fun group dinner and celebration.



On the fourth morning, we drove to the popular Segó Canyon rock art site north of the deserted settlement of Thompson Springs. There were large separate panels of culturally distinct Barrier Canyon, Fremont, and Ute pictographs and petroglyphs. It was a successful trip and everyone had a good time and learned a lot.

Field Trip Report - Aztec Ruins National Monument - April 29, 2015 – by Trip Leader Rich Robinson

Hisatsinom and SJBAS members were encouraged to spend the first part of the visit by walking around the site to freshen up their memories of the importance and architectural significance of Aztec Ruins. We must remember that the magnificent structure we see is only a small percentage of what was originally there. There were several construction times and an estimated 353 rooms built in a rectangular plan around a court, of which 119 were on the second level and twelve on the third. This presently called West Ruin, was built between 1110 and 1113 AD, with a plan based on religious



principles. There is also a great kiva, measuring some 70 ft across that has been reconstructed and a great place to get the feel and design of such a place. Chacoan pottery has been found here at Aztec Ruins but the location of its manufacture is unknown and is not found in the abundance to be expected for a site of this size. Having more artifacts present on site would be beneficial to providing answers to that question.

Yes there is also an East Ruin which is considered the other half, and it has not had much excavation or stabilization, hiding secrets that may shed light on many unanswered questions. Don't forget the green stone line incorporated in the exterior wall! Remember that Aztec Ruin is on the Chaco Meridian as presented by Dr. Steve Lekson.

We then had about an hour to view the new exhibits of the remodeled museum. They have worked hard and have a redesigned and larger space, improving the public's experience. It had been 50 years since the last major work upgrade of their display. They have added a computer and screen module which allows you to choose the topic of the presentation. This technology advancement will allow them to make updates and add changes much easier. They also have a new well done introduction film which has included many of the original photos of the site. Do not let me forget that they have also have obtained artifacts from the site via inter museum loans, making their displays much more relevant!

The staff at the Monument were pleased with our attendance to view and critique their new exhibit. We also had an interesting question and answer session with Chief of Visitor Services Lauren Blacik. There were many good questions about the displays, the sites history and archaeology. We helped them become aware of a mechanical malfunction with the equipment showing the introduction film which had only been in use for the preceding 24 hours.

The Aztec site represents an important transition between Chaco and the Mesa Verde societies. One was diminishing and the other growing. Styles were changing on their way to Aztec and again on their way to Mesa Verde. Some crafts once thought to have represent the people of Mesa Verde actually started at the Aztec site and were continued forward.

Interesting questions of modern archaeologists will now have a better place to be researched, and where the public can learn about them. This joint venture between the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society and the Hisatsinom Chapter made a good impression, despite several cancelations the last couple of days. I would like to thank the San Juan Basin Archaeological Societies members Sandy, Larry, Janice, Shaila, Eliane, John, Rosalie, Jim, Rhonda, and Linda for representing us and of course Lauren Blacik and every member of the parks dedicated staff. -- Rich Robinson

Field Trip Report - Keet Seel Backpack – May 27th – 29th – by Lyle Hancock



Thirteen adventurous SJBAS members participated in this field trip to Navajo National Monument; ten backpacked into the Keet Seel cliff dwelling and two enjoyed a tour of the Betatakin site. We stopped at the Shiloh Bakery in Cortez for fresh baked cinnamon rolls, had lunch at the Anasazi Inn café in Tsegi, AZ, and arrived at Navajo National Monument just in time for our 3:00 p.m. Keet Seel orientation. Then we set up camp at the Canyon View campground. Everyone went all out providing delicious treats for happy hour. Joan took us to see a mysterious arrowhead-shaped etching in the sandstone near camp, but we could not identify its origins.

We started hiking at 8:30 a.m. the next morning with the goal of reaching Keet Seel before 2:30. The first 2.5 miles were a decent of several hundred feet into the canyon; the remainder of the 8.5-mile hike was generally on flat terrain in the wash bottom. Our shoes got wet, but it was not as difficult as expected. We set up camp in a designated backcountry campsite near Keet Seel and walked over to the site for our tours.

Our Keet Seel tour guide was Steve Hayden, whose grandfather, Irwin Hayden, was the first professionally trained archaeologist to excavate and do stabilization work at Keet Seel. In 1933 and 1934, Irwin worked side by side with John Wetherill, and Steve's father was one of the site excavation assistants. The excerpts below are from "Navajo National Monument: A Place and Its People" by Hal Rothman - 1991, An Administrative History.

"During the 1930s, two of the three major ruins in the monument received attention from the NPS. Judd's stabilization work at Betatakin in 1917 had held up well. In the early 1930s, there seemed no need for additional work. Keet Seel faced greater threats. Little work had been done in the ruin since the era of Wetherill and Cummings, and it was in need of stabilization. For this purpose, the Museum of Northern Arizona sponsored a project funded through the Civil Works Administration. Archeologist Irwin Hayden took charge of the project, which worked at Keet Seel and Turkey Cave in 1933 and 1934."

"Hayden's CWA project performed work similar in character to Judd's project in 1917. At Keet Seel, Hayden's crew cleared unexamined areas, removed the dirt from backfilled ruins, recorded architectural details, and rebuilt collapsed walls. Hayden also re-excavated and stabilized two kivas in Turkey Cave, according to John Wetherill, finding much that Kidder had overlooked in 1923. The work was done well, earning Keet Seel the reputation as one of the best-preserved ruins in the Southwest."

"Keet Seel also yielded some interesting discoveries. Early in 1934, Irwin Hayden and Milton Wetherill uncovered the skeleton of a child in a trash midden at Keet Seel. With the skeleton were two pieces of Pueblo II type pottery, far older than the ruin itself. Other finds followed, including what appeared to be the skeleton of a parrot. Such unexpected results showed that the "down-and-dirty" emphasis of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century archeologists on collecting left many hidden treasures."



As one hikes up the canyon, it is hard to imagine how the Anasazi of Keet Seel grew enough food to sustain the population of the large village. As we learned from Steve, when Keet Seel was flourishing, the valley was wide and a meandering stream provided plenty of water for marshland, crops, and small lakes. At some point during the last occupation, a significant hydrologic event caused a sand dam at the mouth of the



canyon to break and subsequent down cutting of the flat valley significantly reduced the amount of land available for farming. Photos from 1909 show this down cutting to have reached Keet Seel. Since then a huge channel at least 100 feet deep in some parts is all of what remains of the once fertile agricultural landscape.

Our group enjoyed a beautiful evening at camp and headed out early the next morning for a cool walk back to the trailhead.

For all the information about Navajo National Monument you could ever want and the early days of archaeology in the Southwest, please follow this link to [“Navajo National Monument: A Place and Its People” by Hal Rothman - 1991, An Administrative History.pdf](#). This is an amazing article with an incredible amount of information.

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.

June 11	SJBAS annual picnic at Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds
July 9	SJBAS meeting - Fred Moeller, Old Vero Man Site; Alex Wesson, SWCA
July 25	Ute Mountain Tribal Park Tour This will be a day trip to visit Inaccessible House, Casa Colorado, and Casa Blanca cliff dwellings in a rarely visited area of the Tribal Park. The tour will take about five hours, with only a couple miles of hiking. The tour fee is \$35 per person. We will carpool from Durango. For more information or to signup, contact Lyle at lylehancock@bresnan.net or 970-764-4531.
July 31 – Aug. 2	Winslow area – Homolovi, Petrified Forest, Painted Desert - Arizona This will be a three-day camping or hotel trip to the Winslow area. We will visit sites in the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest N.M., and at Homolovi State Park and take part in the August 1 st Suvoyuki Day celebrations. For more information or to signup, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain chambrke@aol.com
August 6 - 9	Pecos Conference in Mancos area
August 10	Silverton Historical Walking Tour Andy Gulliford will be our guide on this day trip to explore Silverton. We'll walk around town, visit their museum, archives, and cemetery, etc. Participants should bring cameras, binoculars, and a picnic lunch. We will leave Durango at 7:45 a.m. and meet Andy on the steps of the Silverton Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. For more information or to signup, contact trip leader TBD
August 13	SJBAS meeting - speaker Sherry Spaar (Sherrill) - "Greece"
August 25 - 28	Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument – Utah This will be a 4-day camping trip to a variety of sites in the Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument. We will tour the Anasazi State Park and Fremont Culture museum in Boulder, and ancestral Puebloan and Fremont sites. Dinner at the famous Hells Backbone Grill in Boulder is optional. For more information or to signup, contact trip leader Foxie Mason fmason@frontier.net 970-247-0252
September 10	SJBAS meeting - speaker Tim Riley - "Coprolites"
Sept. 16 - 17	Mesa Verde Backcountry Hike with NPS guide This will be a two-day trip with an afternoon hike to Petroglyph Point and overnight at Far View Lodge. The moderately difficult backcountry hike led by a Park Service ranger will be a couple of miles long with no more than 500 feet elevation loss and gain. Trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to signup, contact trip leaders Jim and Rhonda at rhondaandjim@msn.com .

Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund Raffle

Auction items for the Alice Hamilton Scholarship fund were unveiled at the CAS Qtr Meeting. The drawing for these two flutes and painted bowl will be part the CAS Conference October 9 - 11 in Durango. Tickets are available at Chapter meetings at 1 for \$3.00 or 4 for \$10. The purchase price of the tickets is tax deductible.



PAAC Courses in Durango

Site Form Workshop

Kevin Black will also teach a one-day PAAC class at the CAS annual meeting on October 11th. This will be a free, “**Site Form Workshop**” offered for the first time outside Denver. It should run about 8 hours, starting at 9 a.m. and ending before 5 p.m. It is not a formal course, but instead focuses on how to transform field survey forms into final forms for our statewide database. For further information or to register, contact Tish Varney at (970)259-4099 or tishvarney@att.net.

The Chocolate Trade, Chaco Canyon, 800 AD-1200 AD – a winning paper by Montana Tucker, Fort Lewis College student – published here with the author’s permission

[Chaco Cocolate.pdf](#)

Denver Chapter Newsletter – May

[Denver Chapter Newsletter - May 2015.pdf](#)

Hisatsinom Meeting – June 2nd

The Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present Brunella Santarelli on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss “Technological Analysis of Pueblo I Lead Glazes from the Animas-La Plata Project, Durango, Colorado.” Brunella will discuss recent research glaze paint on pottery in the Upper San Juan region, the earliest use of glaze paint on pottery in the Southwest. Her research fills a missing gap in the knowledge of ceramic technology of the Southwest and examines composition, morphology and isotope signatures of the Pueblo I glaze paints in an effort to reconstruct the technology of production. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

Hisatsinom Newsletter - June

[Hisatsinom Newsletter June 2015.pdf](#)

Chipeta Newsletter – May

[Chipeta May 15.pdf](#)

Mesa Verde National Park News

Wetherill Mesa is now open to the public, including bicycling the 5-mile Long House loop trail. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/meve or call 970-529-4465.

Mesa Verde Association e-Newsletter <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=9098cc13-3c1b-453c-a36d-29074e824de4&c=488a7670-b5ec-11e3-868b-d4ae529a848a&ch=489a54f0-b5ec-11e3-8699-d4ae529a848a>

Colorado Archaeological Society

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

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

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

Please share your photos, upcoming events, links to archaeological articles etc. and let other CAS chapters in the state know what you have been up to.

SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	jshftel@mbssllp.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	jshftel@mbssllp.com
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Please complete the SJBAS application form, <http://www.sjbas.org/Application.pdf>, make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the application form to our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.**