

# SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



[www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org)

## The Moki Messenger

March 2015

### March SJBAS Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies. After a brief business meeting, Ali Scotten will present "Iranian Archaeology: Magical Rituals and Social Identity in Sassanian-Period Persia".

Ali Scotten is founder of Scotten Consulting, a company providing insights into the sociocultural and geopolitical issues facing the Middle East. He holds a Masters in anthropology from the University of Chicago and a Masters in International Relations from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. Prior to his career as a consultant, Ali conducted archaeological excavations in the Southwest United States, Iran, Israel, and Jordan, where he studied as a Fulbright Scholar. He also spent 11 years as a child in Saudi Arabia, where he gained his love for archaeology through visits to ancient caravan stops in the desert and searching for the remnants of the old Ottoman railway destroyed by Lawrence of Arabia, himself a former archaeologist.

### February 12<sup>th</sup> SJBAS Meeting Notes

Janice welcomed everyone, including several new members and a few guests, and handed out several Preservation Month posters to post around town. She announced upcoming field trips to Mesa Verde Visitor Center and Anasazi Heritage Center behind the scenes tours, the Cochise County Exploration. Bob Powell described his upcoming field trips to Hovenweep and Montezuma Creek, and to the Moab area and San Rafael Swell. Mark Gebhardt reminded everyone to pay their annual dues and he encouraged guests to join the club. Janice also announced the our annual Holiday Party will be held at the FLC Ballroom again on Thursday evening, December 10<sup>th</sup>, and that our annual SJBAS picnic will again be held at the Edgemont Ranch picnic ground on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Janice explained that SJBAS and the Center of Southwest Studies are co-sponsoring the CAS annual meeting and conference in Durango on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Doug Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution on "Kennewick Man." There will be many opportunities for SJBAS members to volunteer before and during the conference. On Friday evening, October 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a reception for conference attendees at the Toh-Atin Gallery and the Himalayan Café is going to prepare a buffet dinner for the CAS Board. The Rochester Hotel is offering a complimentary room for our conference keynote speaker, and Maria's Bookstore is going to offer "Kennewick Man" books for sale.

Terri Hoff, our SJBAS CAS representative, gave a brief summary of the recent CAS quarterly Board meeting, and announced upcoming CAS Board meetings in Salida on April 25<sup>th</sup> and at the Anasazi Heritage Center on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The CAS annual meeting and conference will be held in Durango on October 10 – 11, and logistics information will be published in

the CAS Surveyor in the March-April issue. Terri introduced Karen Kinnear, the CAS representative responsible for organizing the annual conference. There is a new CAS committee developing a statewide list of speakers for presentations at CAS chapter meetings, and ten years of Southwestern Lore is now available on CD. The CAS website is being redesigned, and will likely be able to accept credit cards and PayPal payments. Raffle items for this year's Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund include two Native American flutes and a 7-inch spherical Acoma seed pot.

## **Presentation by Jason Chuipka – Navajo – Gallup Water Project Archaeology – An Overview of Archaeology and Water Projects in the West, and How We Know What We Know about Prehistory**

Jason Chuipka M.A. RPA is a principle investigator at Paleo West Archaeology and heads the Farmington, NM office while serving as the Principal Investigator for the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Cultural Resources Project, the largest federal archaeology project in the U.S. He has 20 years of fieldwork experience and has been directing archaeological projects in Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado for more than a decade.

Jason's presentation began with an explanation of why the Reclamation Act of 1902 is the most important legislation in the history of the West (hint... it is about water). Then he gave an overview of the most significant Bureau of Reclamation water projects in the Southwest: the Glen Canyon/Navajo Reservoir Project lasting from 1956 – 1963, the Dolores Project (McPhee Reservoir) from 1978 – 1984, the Animas – La Plata Project (Ridges Basin), and the current Navajo – Gallup Project due for completion in 2024. It was the archaeology work done on these projects that provides us with so much of what we know about pre-history in the Four Corners Region.

The archaeological investigation and clearance for the Glen Canyon (Lake Powell)/Navajo Reservoir Project was a university program that standardized archaeological techniques and took a regional perspective. It established regional chronologies, spurred research in the region, and set the model for an interdisciplinary more holistic approach to archaeological projects.

The Dolores Project concentrated on early village formation from the 700's – 800's. It carried over and built on techniques from the Glen Canyon/Navajo project, and was on the cusp of "contract archaeology" looking at the incredible variability of sites, not just a "type" site. Over 500 archaeologists were involved, and this project was the first to use computers for data collection.

The Animas – La Plata Project used the archaeological investigative system from the Dolores Project as a template. Sites dated back to the early 700's with massive pit houses and lasted through the Pueblo I period. The project involved four years of field work and data collection and five years writing it up. The two main villages were at Blue Mesa and in Ridges Basin. The Sacred Ridge site had over 100 pit houses in sight of a four-meter-tall tower made of jacal. Apparent internal conflict caused a violent end to the occupation in 825. After this time, the whole Animas valley was abandoned for 1,000 years.

The current Navajo – Gallup Project involves archaeological investigations and clearance for over 280 miles of pipeline, several pumping plants, and two water treatment plants planned to carry water from the San Juan River near Shiprock to the eastern section of the Navajo Nation, southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the city of Gallup. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 authorized construction of this important project as a major component of the Navajo Nation San Juan River Basin Water Rights Settlement in New Mexico. The act requires that all project features are completed no later than December 31, 2024. The area involves over 8,000 years of occupation, with prehistoric, historic, and modern sites, including a vast array of traditional cultural properties. There are over 600 sites along Highway 491 showing a veritable layer cake of complex occupation that require archaeological and ethnographical evaluation, including Chacoan outliers. The project involves close coordination and participation from numerous tribal and governmental entities. So far the summary report for over 5,000 pages of survey data is 900 pages long.

## **Annual Membership Renewal**

If you have not yet paid your annual SJBAS dues, you're late. Payments were due by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please get your checkbook now, and write a check. If you already have signed Liability Waiver and Site Etiquette forms on file, you do

NOT need to fill out these forms again. If you have new information such as a postal or email address change, you will need to complete a membership renewal form. All three forms may be found by following this link: <http://www.sjbas.org/Application.pdf>. Print and complete the form(s) you need, write a check to SJBAS for the appropriate amount, and mail it to our Chapter Treasurer, Mark Gebhardt, at 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Current dues are \$23 for an individual with no Southwest Lore (SWL), \$31 with SWL mailed; \$30 for a family (two or more) with no SWL, \$40 for a family with SWL mailed. Student memberships are \$10. Dues will be going up after March 31<sup>st</sup>, so make sure you pay this month to get the current rates. Donations to the John W. Sanders Internship Fund may also be made when you pay your membership dues. If you have any questions, please contact Mark at [mark@virtbiz.com](mailto:mark@virtbiz.com).

## **More than Meets the Eye – behind the scenes at the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center and Anasazi Heritage Center**



Nine SJBAS members were treated to fantastic behind the scenes tours at the Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center (VRC) and the Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) on February 26. Both locations included extensive artifacts of Ancestral Puebloan and earlier people and face some of the same challenges of space and provenance.

Dr. Tara Travis, our guide at Mesa Verde, has a unique professional background to give her a broad perspective on the VRC building and collections in it. With her building architecture degree, she helped as liaison for the construction of the VRC, so discussed some of the special features we see. The sculpture on the sidewalk outside shows a Puebloan climbing down toeholds on a cliff, the sitting statue by the front door welcomes visitors with her bag of corn and inside the rotunda a storyteller beckons visitors to gaze at the native artwork and out a window to Point Lookout and the landscape of the ancients. Buff sandstone masonry walls from a quarry near Dove Creek recall the rich soil that made the Four Corners Region an agricultural mecca for so many individuals over time.

The VRC opened to visitors in December, 2012. Visitors can peruse the gift shop, view the dioramas featuring life-sized sculptures with faces created from masks of real people and get information and tickets to MV tours. In addition, windows allow for viewing the research library, special artifact preparation areas, and archive storage and display. Interactive computer programs allow the viewing of some of the three million objects in the collection. Mesa Verde holds the fourth largest collection in the Rocky Mountain region and is currently photographing not only archaeological artifacts but plant and fossil items for their website.

With her Ph.D. in Public History, Dr. Travis is the supervisory museum curator. Curators oversee all aspects of the acquisition, documentation, preservation, and use of park collections. Dr. Travis led the packing and moving of the museum collections from the sometimes substandard old facilities on Chapin Mesa to the fire proof, climate controlled and state-of-the-art location within the VRC. Our tour took us from the delivery door for artifacts all the way to the drawers and display shelves used to house the collections. Procedures for incoming items include a three stage freezing cycle to kill insects such as beetles and silverfish and the conservation room feature vents and gloves help to protect staff from possible contamination from heavy metals or viruses - i.e. hanta virus - on excavated items where mice were present.



After the artifacts arrived in the new building, National Park conservators worked to evaluate the condition of the items. The collection is grouped by material type, not location. A *conservator* cares for cultural collections by applying scientific methods to preserve and restore artifacts and is a specialist in a specific material (ceramic, textile, etc.). When necessary, ceramics glued together in the past with cellulose nitrate need to be stabilized with newer adhesives. How much restoration an item receives is a difficult trade-off between an original and reworked look.

One of the most fascinating artifact groups is Mary Colter's collection. Mary was an architect at the Grand Canyon and a well-known figure in the southwest. She purchased many items from local tribes during her

residence and bequeathed these to the Mesa Verde Museum in the 1920s.

The group stopped for lunch in Cortez at the Pepperhead Restaurant before traveling to the Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) near Dolores.

The AHC was originally built to house the artifacts and associated records recovered from the [Dolores Archaeological Program \(DAP\)](#), a massive project to salvage the research value of a large archaeological area in southwest Colorado, once densely settled with thousands of home sites, before construction of McPhee Dam and Reservoir. The AHC is one of three federal archaeological repositories operated by the Bureau of Land Management. It stores and protects over 3.5 million artifacts recovered from public lands in Southwest Colorado. Prehistoric pottery, woven fiber items, and stone tools are among the fragile items permanently preserved for research.

Curator Bridget Ambler greeted the group and ushered us into an educational display room to view a variety of black on white ceramic artifacts. These included a ladle showing wear from scooping from one side. A beautiful ceramic pot that originally had the bottom broken showed the care its owners took by making holes for twine to strap it back together. The holes were made with tiny awls of stone.

The AHC museum faces many of the same challenges as Mesa Verde in the questions of stabilization of artifacts. They will accept well documented collections from individuals. However, a conundrum surfaces when stolen items are recovered from thieves who plunder sites and steal artifacts for drug money. By Federal mandate, the museum cannot sell the items, but the lack of provenience of the items and lack of space make it difficult to store them indefinitely.



The Puebloan communities around Mesa Verde area worked together. There were 21 contemporary tribes that had their own styles. Fiber ware included yucca sandals whose weaving pattern was unique to a clan. In addition, AHC holds the archives of the Wetherill's - early ranchers who first excavated in the area. One of the treasures from the Wetherill's collection is a quiver with projectile points secured on the outside. The sheath holds arrow shafts which are time consuming to construct, so are used many times over.

SJBAS is fortunate to have such a rich archaeological treasure house in southwest Colorado. Stewardship and respect go hand in hand with our educational purpose. Our members can help protect the historical and

archaeological resources by volunteering our time with these valuable museums.

- Tish Varney, Field trip leader

### 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](http://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.

<p>March 5 - 8</p>	<p><b>Exploring Cochise County – Arizona</b></p> <p>This is Gail and Marlo's popular four or five-day trip in Southeast Arizona. Follow this link for the itinerary: <a href="#">Exploring Cochise County</a> or see the write up below. Participants usually stay in a motel in the Sierra Vista area, and the trip participation limit is 20. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leaders Gail and Marlo Schulz at <a href="mailto:mschulz@frontier.net">mschulz@frontier.net</a> or 970-946-5234.</p>
<p>March 12</p>	<p><b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Ali Scotten presents "Iranian Archaeology".</p>

April 9	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Dr. Kerry Thompson - NAGPRA
April 11 - 12	<p><b>Hovenweep N.M. and Montezuma Canyon – Utah</b></p> <p>On the first day of this two-day motel or camping trip, we will visit either the main Square Tower Complex or the outlier sites at Hovenweep National Monument, and rock art sites and the Three Kiva site in the Montezuma Creek Valley. We will spend the second day visiting surface sites, cliff dwellings, and rock art panels further north in the Montezuma Creek Valley. All of the walks are nearly level and less than ¼ mile long. Overnight options include a motel in Blanding or camping at Hovenweep. Trip participation limit is 16 with no more than 4 vehicles. For more information or to signup, contact trip leader Bob Powell at <a href="mailto:robertlpowell@durango.net">robertlpowell@durango.net</a> or 970-385-8949</p>
April 20 - 22	<p><b>Cedar Mesa and Natural Bridges N.M. – Utah</b></p> <p>During this three-day camping or motel trip, we will visit ancestral Puebloan sites in Natural Bridges N.M. and in remote canyons on Cedar Mesa. The hiking will be moderately difficult with some off-trail hiking required; hikes may be up to seven miles long and include elevation changes of over 600 feet. 4WD/HC vehicles will be necessary, but carpooling will be arranged. We will camp in the dispersed BLM campground in Comb Wash, but participants may also stay in hotels in Blanding. The trip participation limit is 12. This trip is full, but there is a waiting list. For more information or to signup, contact trip leaders Barb and Lyle Hancock at <a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a> or 970-764-4531.</p>
May 3 - 6	<p><b>Moab, Green River and the Northern San Rafael Swell – Utah</b></p> <p>This well-researched, four-day camping or motel trip includes visits to a wide variety of rock art sites near Moab, Green River, and the northern San Rafael Swell in Utah. We will also visit the John Wesley Powell River Museum in Green River. Some of the more notable rock art panels include the Buckhorn Wash and Rochester Panels. All walks are short and on level ground with the exception of the ¼-mile paved trail to the Rochester Panel. There are options of one, two, or three days of camping or no camping at all. Trip participation limit is 16 people and 6 vehicles. Carpools will be arranged. For more information or to signup, contact trip leader Bob Powell at <a href="mailto:robertlpowell@durango.net">robertlpowell@durango.net</a> or 970-385-8949</p>
May 14	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - speaker Arthur Joyce - "Oaxaca, Mexico"
May 15 - 17	<p><b>Salinas Pueblo Missions – New Mexico</b></p> <p>During this three-day motel trip, we will visit the ruins of three mission churches at Quarai, Abó, and Gran Quivira and the partially excavated Gran Quivira pueblo. We will also visit the Petroglyph National Monument near Albuquerque. The trip participation limit is 20. For more information or to signup, contact trip leaders Andy and Marion Simon <a href="mailto:mandyandarion@gmail.com">mandyandarion@gmail.com</a> or 970-749-2927.</p>
May 16	<p><b>Historic Preservation Month Driving Tour of La Plata County Historic Cemeteries</b></p> <p>This public tour will be led by Dr. Ruth Lambert of the San Juan Mountains Association. It will begin at the Bayfield Library and last 3 to 4 hours. For more information, contact Andy Gulliford <a href="mailto:gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu">gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu</a>.</p>
May 27 - 29	<p><b>Navajo National Monument - Keet Seel Backpack – Arizona</b></p> <p>Backpack to one of the best preserved ancestral Puebloan sites in the Southwest. This 3-day trip includes car camping one night in the developed campground at Navajo N.M. and the second night in the backcountry campsite at Keet Seel. The hike is a rugged and strenuous 17-mile round trip hike with 1,000 feet of elevation loss and gain. The Park Service trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to signup, contact trip leaders Lyle and Barb Hancock at <a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a> or 970-764-4531.</p>

Mark your calendars... Mark Varian, Research and Education Chair at the [Crow Canyon Archaeological Center](#) and a principal investigator for the Village Ecodynamics Project, will speak at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Life Long Learning program at Noble Hall, room 130, at Fort Lewis College, at 7:00 pm on "The Pueblo Indian Occupation of the Mesa Verde Region".

The [Village Ecodynamics Project](#) is a network of archaeologists, geologists, geographers, computer scientists and economists seeking to explain key aspects of the late prehistory of the northern Southwest through empirical research and modeling.

### **Celebrate Cedar Mesa – March 6 – 7 in Bluff, UT**

*"Celebrate Cedar Mesa is our annual gathering of people who care about the Cedar Mesa area. If you've attended in the past, we're planning to raise the bar even higher with a weekend of events that's sure to intrigue anyone who loves the natural and cultural wonders in Bluff's backyard. Events will include service projects, the documentary film premier of *Waking the Mammoth* at 7:00 Friday evening, slideshows, presentations, research updates, good food, music, dancing, hiking and more! Learn more and register at [www.cedarmesafriends.org/celebrate](http://www.cedarmesafriends.org/celebrate)."*

[Celebrate Cedar Mesa Poster.pdf](#)

### **Book and Author Luncheon**

The Durango Branch of the American Association of University Women invites you to attend its annual Book and Author Luncheon, a fund raiser in support of AAUW scholarships. This year we are honoring FLC Professor Emeritus and AAUW/Durango Branch Member **Shaila Van Sickle**.

[Van Sickle Flier 2015.pdf](#)

### **Lecture Opportunity (Cortez, CO)**

The Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present **Lillian D. Wakeley** on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss "**Giving and Taking Away: the Geologic Largesse of the San Juan River Corridor**." Lillian will discuss the extraordinary concentration of petroglyphs and other archaeological features along the San Juan River from Bluff, UT, to Comb Wash and the geologic processes that created the landscape and that attracted people here for millennia. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

### **Hisatsinom March Newsletter**

[March 2015 Hisatsinom Newsletter.pdf](#)

### **Article about the pending public closure of lands within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument**

[CANM access.pdf](#)

### **CAS website with the 2015 forms for the Alice Hamilton Scholarship.**

Deadline for application is March 31, 2015.

[http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/Education/SCHOLARSHIP/alice\\_hamilton\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/Education/SCHOLARSHIP/alice_hamilton_scholarship.htm)

### **Dates for the 3 remaining CAS quarterly meetings**

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

## Upcoming Conferences in Colorado

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA), March 12-15, Estes Park, Colorado

Pecos Conference, August 6-8, Mancos, Colorado

Rocky Mountain Anthropological Association, September 24-27, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Conference, October 10 - 11, Durango, Colorado

American Anthropological Association, November 18-22, Denver, Colorado

## SJBAS Recommended Reading List

Winter is a good time to curl up on the couch with a good book. Here is a link to our SJBAS reading list; these books have all been recommended by SJBAS members.

<http://www.sjbas.org/Reading.htm>

## SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	<a href="mailto:jsheftel@mbsslip.com">jsheftel@mbsslip.com</a>
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	<a href="mailto:fmason@frontier.net">fmason@frontier.net</a>
Vice President	Jim Mueller	<a href="mailto:rhondaandjim@msn.com">rhondaandjim@msn.com</a>
Vice President Field Trip Program	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a>
Secretary	Barb Hancock	<a href="mailto:barbhancock@bresnan.net">barbhancock@bresnan.net</a>
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	<a href="mailto:mark@virtbiz.com">mark@virtbiz.com</a>
CAS Representative	Terri Hoff	<a href="mailto:tthoff@hotmail.com">tthoff@hotmail.com</a>
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	<a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>

## Other Positions

Moki Messenger contact	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a>
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	<a href="mailto:jsheftel@mbsslip.com">jsheftel@mbsslip.com</a>
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	<a href="mailto:jtripp51@yahoo.com">jtripp51@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a>

## 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.

- |                          |   |                               |         |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.