

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



Website: www.sjbas.org

The Moki Messenger

May 2014

Next Meeting – May 8th

Our next SJBAS general meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Larry Baker M.A., Executive Director of Salmon Ruins and the San Juan County Museum Association, will present a program about the solar/lunar observatory at Salmon Ruins.

From 1993 to present, Larry Baker has served as the Executive Director of the San Juan County Archaeological Research Center and Library at Salmon Ruins. As a Southwestern archaeologist with over 37 years of professional experience, Mr. Baker has been involved in numerous archaeological endeavors including: research, cultural resource management, and ruins stabilization/historic preservation. Research interests focus on prehistoric and historic architecture, archaeo-astronomy, and Ancestral Puebloan periods of Northwestern New Mexico, having been involved in the Salmon Ruins and Rio Puerco Valley projects during the 1970's. He serves as the Principal Investigator of the center's archaeological consulting firm, Division of Conservation Archaeology.

April Meeting Notes

Janice welcomed the group, and mentioned that our annual June Picnic will be held again at Edgemont Ranch picnic ground on June 12th. She also explained that the May 31 - June 1 PAAC class in Durango on Field and Laboratory Photography needs four more participants or it will be cancelled. Members should contact Foxie to sign-up. Jim Shadell gave a brief overview of his upcoming Ute Mountain Ute Service Project weekend. Bob Powell discussed his Gray Canyon/San Rafael trip and announced that the 2014 Pecos Conference will be held in Blanding, Utah from August 7th – 10th; the conference website is up and registration begins on April 15th. Rich still has room on his April 15th trip to the B Square Ranch near Farmington. Bob Danielson mentioned his July 23rd Tomboy Mine field trip with the knowledgeable Rudy Davison as our guide.

Jay Harrison introduced Fort Lewis College student intern, Madison Glass, who has been one of our John W. Sanders Internship Fund beneficiaries. She gave a short presentation about the work she has been doing regarding provenance of items in the Charles McClain collection. Peggy Morris explained that \$200 in matching funds are available, so this is a great time to donate toward the John W. Sanders Internship Fund.

The speaker, Dr. Tim Riley, gave a fascinating and fast moving presentation: "The Lower Pecos Canyonlands and Archaic Rock Art: The Divergence of Ancestral Cosmologies". The Lower Pecos Canyonlands lie just east of Big Bend national Park in Texas. There are hundreds of rock shelters with evidence of human habitation stretching back over 13,000 years to the Clovis period. The first archaeological activity took place in the 1930's when museums came to collect artifacts and some rock art research was began. From 1958 through 1969 salvage archaeology took place before many of the sites were inundated by the Amistad Reservoir. These efforts resulted in a good chronology of the various occupations. From 1974 through 1984 more sophisticated research was conducted by universities. The Hinds and Baker Caves were thoroughly excavated.

The earliest occupations include Clovis peoples, often known as the mammoth hunters, from about 13,000 years ago, Folsom peoples who were bison hunters from about 11,500 to 9,500 years ago, and Late Paleo-Indian peoples who hunted small game and gathered plant materials from 9,500 to 8,500 years ago. The Archaic peoples were broad spectrum hunter gatherers from 8,500 to 1,000 years ago. They used grinding stones to process seeds and grains and used earth ovens to cook sotol, agave, and prickly pear pads. They also left the first evidence of rock art about 4,000 years ago in what we call the Pecos River Shamanic style. Researchers believe many of the pictographs, often in a polychromatic style, depicted a shaman confronting the spirit world on behalf of the group. It is likely that peyote, sacred datura, and other medicinal plants were used to achieve an altered state.

In the Late Archaic period of 3,000 to 1,200 years ago, the bison returned and new groups filtered into the area. The Late Prehistoric and Proto-historic period of 1,200 to 500 years ago saw the introduction of pottery and the bow and arrow. Rock art was mostly in a red monochromatic style with stick figures. At Hinds Cave, Dr. Riley used coprolites, fossilized human fecal material, to gain a very accurate assessment of the diet and menu of these people.

Annual SJBAS Members Picnic - June 12th

The SJBAS Annual Picnic "semi potluck" will be held Thursday June 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the Edgemont Ranch Picnic Ground on Florida Road. Thanks to our member David Wright, an Edgemont Ranch resident, for allowing us to use this facility again.

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. Bring alcoholic beverages of your choice, if you wish.

The picnic ground entrance is the first right after the Edgemont Ranch main entrance. The entrance is across the road from the giant pine cone sculpture and will be marked with a sign. The club will provide bratwursts, hot dogs, buns, condiments, disposable tableware, bottled water, iced tea and lemonade and seating.

Please sign up at the May meeting, or RSVP to Foeie Mason at fmason@frontier.net by June 9th, so we have a fairly accurate head count with our food order for brats, hot dogs and buns. 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 email Foeie at fmason@frontier.net or call her at 970-247-0252

PAAC Class in Durango

We still need a few more participants to ensure that this class will be convened. "Field and Lab Photography" will be the next PAAC course to be offered on May 31 through June 1 in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. This 15-hour course will be taught by Assistant State Archaeologist Kevin Black; it is open to the public, and no prior classes are required. Equipment and methods of archaeological photography, both in the field and in a controlled lab situation will be discussed. This class would be valuable for anyone interested in taking part in a field school or volunteering on a dig. Participants are welcome to bring their own cameras to the class, although it is not required. Total cost for the class is \$12.

To reserve a space, make out a check to the Colorado Historical Society and mail it to Florence Mason, 1940 County Road 250, Durango CO 81301 prior to May 20th. More details can be found at www.historycolorado.org/oahp/field-and-laboratory-photography. For further information contact Florence Mason at fmason@frontier.net.

Field Trip Report – B-Square Ranch – April 15th – by Richard Robinson

On April 15th, fourteen SJBAS members joined with Linda Wheelbarger at the Greeting House of the B-Square Ranch. It took us about 70 minutes to get there from Santa Rosa Park, and we were greeted with a pleasant day with temperatures in the mid 60's. Not too cold, not too warm, not too dry nor too wet with blue skies and light breezes. We were greeted at the gate and escorted around the headquarters by a large number of peacocks, turkeys, geese and some deer.

Linda has given several presentations to our organization several times and escorted us around the ranch at least two previous times in the last 10 years. Among her other achievements, she has been involved with the Dolores Archaeological, the Animas-La Plata, Rifle-San Juan Powerline and Vermejo Park projects. With so many opportunities here, she moved to Farmington in 1981, where she worked in the San Juan College Cultural Resource Management Program. She was also the co-director, along with Meredith Matthews of their contract archaeology office. The preceding opportunities positioned her well to teach the field school and other courses at San Juan College.

The combination of her experiences in the area and her ability to ensure enthusiasm in her listeners made Linda the perfect host for our day at B-Square Ranch. Tom Bolack acquired the 12,000-acre ranch located just south of Farmington in 1957. He and now his son, Tommy, have managed this ranch as a wildlife refuge, working farm and ranch, two museums and an archaeological preserve. A dozen P II and P III Ancestral Puebloan sites have been recorded. (Take note, Marlo, one of the museums is an electro-mechanical museum.)

In 1972 the first research and field school was attempted at the Sterling site on this ranch. After many years of varying success, Tommy contacted the San Juan College in 1998 and started the Totah Archaeological Project that included San Juan College and the B-Square Ranch researching this archaeologically rich area and providing a field school for those desiring. Nine ceramic groups have been identified. Totah is a Navajo word that refers to "A Land among the Waters." Farmington is such a place with three rivers, the Animas, La Plata, and San Juan. The B-Square Ranch forms an approximation of a triangle with the long edge encompassing seven miles of the San Juan River. The western end of the long edge includes the confluence with the Animas River and the Eastern edge is near the Gallegos Wash. In other words this area is rich in riparian species and a desirable place for food production particularly in the arid South West. This site was excavated from 1972 to 1974 by Eastern New Mexico University. This site was determined to be a one story great house with 25 rooms that may have been occupied from 950 to 1040 AD. The true size of this site is not known because and a undetermined amount of it was washed into the San Juan River. Red Mesa ceramics has been identified indicating Chacoan heritage.



We visited two areas with petroglyphs, the second Stewart Canyon having seven sites over a half mile was very impressive. There are an usually large number of spirals, animals and anthropomorphs. One of the many interesting glyphs was "Tlaloc" or "Google Eye" a Mesoamerican god. Around 1970 Howard Smith did his thesis on San Juan Petroglyphs. Most are south facing.

The last two sites that we visited were side by side (less than 1,000 feet from each other) on the San Juan River terrace. The Point site, the location of the much work during the last several

years, has produced a lot of interesting information. It appears to be a great house having a great kiva, an enclosed plaza, and an elevated tower. The views from this site are extensive. The nearby Needle dominates the landscape and has two petroglyph panels. A ramp leading to the mesa located above has a large scatter of artifacts along it. The site was occupied from 800 to 1300 AD, but several critics question it being a Chacoan outlier.



The Tommy site was discovered by Tommy in 1987 while constructing catch basins to control run off. The site was covered with one to three meters of sand! This large complex had at least 10 pit structures, several room blocks, four large trash mounds and many pit features. A hundred burials were documented and ceramics indicate late P I to early P III occupation. Points located were small side-notched projectiles made of jasper, chert and San Juan agate.

These two sites were rich in artifacts and yielded much interesting information about the area and may indicate Chacoan occupation prior to other large nearby sites.

We stayed beyond our planned 3:00 P.M. departure but thought that we could wear down Linda but we had to go after 5:00 P.M. and she showed the endurance of a professor who could go on forever about her favorite topic!

Ute Mountain Ute Service Weekend – April 26 – 27 - by Jim Shadell

This was a weird outing. There were a dozen of us: Andy and Stephanie Gulliford, Lyle Hancock, Rusty Chamberlain, me, and seven members from the CAS Denver Chapter. We succeeded in completing our assigned tasks, cleaning out a long, shallow diversion dam located on the canyon rim directly above Treehouse Ruin and repairing a portion of the washed-out, eroded trail leading to the site. Part of our crew shoveled sediment from the diversion dam into buckets and lowered them by rope 80 feet down to the crew at the ruin. That crew carried the buckets over to the damaged trail and spread the dirt. Others did weeding and brush removal at the trailhead facilities. We wrapped things up soon after lunch, because Rutherford, our tribal work supervisor, deemed the task completed and because he wanted to get out of the remote location before the roads turned to what my father used to refer to as "Durango gumbo". We caravanned back to the tribal campground where everyone dispersed, save Lyle and me, who were planning to camp. It began to rain and there we were, the two of us, with nothing to do and nowhere to go! We couldn't even get out of our cars without mud building up under our boots, so, with little to do but take refuge from the rain and wait until dark, we eventually decided to bag-it and return home!



The next day, Andy was the ONLY person to show up for the free guided tour of the site of our choice. He got a personal tour of some of the most significant rock art sites in the park!

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>May 10</p>	<p><u>Historic Durango Walking Tour</u></p> <p>Join us for a one-mile walk through the Historic District of Durango escorted by Dr. Andrew Gulliford and listen to the stories the buildings have to tell. Trip limit is 16. Contact: Mary Ann Hiller - 970-259-5170 johnhilldurco@durango.net</p>
<p>May 11</p>	<p><u>Alkali Ridge in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument</u></p> <p>We will join members of the Hisatsinom Chapter for a moderate hike on a mesa top with Jerry Fetterman, a well-known archaeologist, to view this area near the CO-UT state line. A large P-I site is being considered. The availability of a permit, weather conditions or schedule may dictate the actual location and date. High-clearance, 4-WD vehicles are required, and there is a trip participation limit of 7 for each chapter. Trip Leader: Rich Robinson - 970-764-7020 robinson7150@gmail.com</p>
<p>June 21</p>	<p><u>Aztec Ruins National Monument for Summer Solstice</u></p> <p>This is a day trip to experience the summer solstice at Aztec Ruins. We will leave Durango at 5:00 a.m. sharp in order to catch the sunrise. This unique event will be followed by a presentation about archaeoastronomy. Trip Leader: Rich Robinson. Contact Mary Ann Hiller: 970-259-5170 johnhilldurco@durango.net.</p>
<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. Trip Leader: Rich 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 and snacks. We will leave Santa Rita Park at 7:00 a.m. High-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles are required, and there is a trip participation limit of 20.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Bev and Bob Danielson – 970-385-1058 bnbdan@bresnan.net</p>
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In Memoriam

Many of you remember Bruce and Em Polich who were active in the 90s and early 2000's. They moved to Denver several years ago for health reasons and to be near a daughter, Mimi. I heard from Bruce recently with the sad news that Em had died in late February. There will be a small memorial service for Em on May 10th in Denver. Bruce's health is much better than it was during his last years in Durango. He would love to hear from friends and fellow campers from SJBAS. His address is Bruce Polich, 1027 Washington Ave, Golden, CO 80401 and his phone number is 720-383-5077. He can't hear the ring, but he checks for messages regularly. -- Shaila Van Sickle

Center of Southwest Studies – Herald article about new Textile Exhibit

<http://www.sjbas.org/TextileExhibitCSWS.pdf>

Hisatsinom Chapter News

As part of the Four Corners Lecture Series, the Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present Dr. Susan Ryan on Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss *New Approaches to Architectural Analyses: Ancestral Pueblo Kiva Production in the Northern Southwest*. Ryan summarizes analyses of PII and PIII ancestral Pueblo kivas in the San Juan region to shed light on production practices. Her research examines kivas to address how architecture emphasized the ways in which features were actively mediated to create and maintain social structure, social identity, and community integration. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

Hisatsinom Activity Report – First Qtr. 2014

<http://www.sjbas.org/HisatsinomActivityReport.pdf>

Hisatsinom May Newsletter

<http://www.sjbas.org/MayHisatsinomNewsletter.pdf>

Chipeta Chapter April Newsletter

http://coloradoarchaeology.org/Chipeta/Newsletters_Current/The-Uncompahgre-Journal-April-2014-Vol-31-Issue-4.pdf

Pikes Peak Chapter April Newsletter

<http://www.sjbas.org/PikesPeakChapter-April-newsletter.pdf>

CAS All Points Bulletin April

<http://www.sjbas.org/CASBulletinApril2014.pdf>

Crow Canyon April Newsletter

https://www.crowcanyon.org/e-newsletter/2014/April/cover_page_april_2014.html

Mesa Verde Events

<http://www.sibas.org/MesaVerdeRangerGuidedHikes.pdf>

<http://www.sibas.org/MesaVerdeRide.pdf>

New Mexico Archaeology

<http://www.sibas.org/MusicOfPrayerRock.pdf>

SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Peggy Morris	sipapu_72@g.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	(vacant)	

Other Positions

Moki Messenger contact	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.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.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <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 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.sibas.org/Application.pdf>, including Liability Waiver and Site Etiquette forms.