



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2020

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

December 9th Zoom Presentation

On Wednesday, December 9th, at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Andrew Earles will present: "Five Days in Babylon."

Babylon is an iconic ancient city that many of us learned about in ancient civilizations classes from middle school through college. Babylon sits on the banks of the Euphrates River and is home to the ruins of the Tower of Babel and the great walls of the city, among other features. This presentation will provide an overview of Babylon, including the context of the site and surroundings, including Saddam Hussain's now-defunct summer palace, which overlooks the ruins. Dr. Earles will explain challenges facing the ruins of Babylon related to surface water drainage and groundwater.

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Dr. Andrew Earles works for Wright Water Engineers, Inc. (WWE) in Denver Colorado and leads the company's

practice in hydrology and hydraulics. Andrew is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and ten other states. Andrew has been involved in paleohydrology work for nearly all of his 21 years at WWE, starting with documentation of ancient reservoirs at Mesa Verde in the early 2000's. Since then, Andrew has studied sites in Peru (Machu Picchu, Tipon, and others), Cambodia, China, Thailand, Myanmar, Iraq, and France.

[SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Date: **December 9th**

Time: **7:00 p.m. MST**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCs0WWTN1T0lMUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

As my time on the Board is ending, I am encouraged that new members have volunteered. We have a growing society membership, stable budget, increasing number of potential speakers, and a good grasp of using Zoom technology for presentations. I am hopeful the future will allow us to sponsor new field trips and continued in-person lectures at Fort Lewis College. I thank all those Board members who will be keeping our fun organization moving forward and look forward to seeing you at a Zoom lecture, on a field trip, and in person at a lecture next year. Stay safe and engaged in whatever you can.

Sincerely,
Rege Leach

Election of Officers and Bylaw Amendments Update

On November 14th, the Board sent an email regarding the cancellation of the Annual Meeting and voting on two important issues - the Election of 2021 SJBAS Officers and Bylaw Amendments. If you would like a copy of this email sent to you, please contact Susan Hicks at sc53hicks@gmail.com.

You will be receiving an email, not a Survey Monkey request as previously indicated, on or before December 5th that will contain the ballot questions on these two issues and instructions on how to submit your vote.

The November 14th email included the proposed Bylaw Amendments and asked for member input. Additional proposed Bylaw changes as a result of the comments received are indicated in red below. The ballot question regarding approval of Bylaw Amendments will incorporate these additional changes.

II. MISSION STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

4. Share knowledge and inform members and the public of **SJBAS and general archaeological news and activities** by publishing the *Moki Messenger* newsletter.

IV. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, QUORUMS AND VOTING

F. Ten percent (10%) of SJBAS members in good standing is required as a quorum to vote on business at a membership meeting. **Unless otherwise provided by these bylaws, action required by the membership shall be approved by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting.**

VI. BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES Retain the original wording with one new addition.

O. Each Board member (Member) shall have a "back-up", another Board member appointed by the Board in cooperation with the Member to fulfill the Member's duties if, **and while**, the Member is temporarily unable to do so.

The SJBAS Board would appreciate your prompt vote in response to the upcoming December ballot email.

Thank you!

November 5th Board Meeting Highlights

Cancelled in-person Annual Meeting due to pandemic restrictions.

Approved the Slate of Officers, Amended Bylaws, and Letter to Membership in lieu of Annual Meeting, and voting process using email.

Janice has Zoom presentations confirmed through March 2021. We anticipate Zoom presentations through May 2021. Richard Brown and Hunter McCleary will continue to coordinate Zoom presentations.

Current membership is 177.

Field trips - We do not anticipate that activities and sites will open for groups before May 2021. In the meantime, our field trip coordinator and trip leaders continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will begin to plan field trips when it is safe to do so.

Next Board Meeting

SJBAS members are always welcome to attend and participate in our Board meetings. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on January 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. using Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact Susan Hicks at sc53hicks@gmail.com and she will send you the link.

In Memoriam – Linda Robinson

Long time SJBAS member, Linda Robinson passed away on Saturday, November 14, 2020. Linda was preceded in death by her husband Richard. Together Linda and Richard planned and led so many memorable trips for SJBAS members. They took us to many special places and introduced us to numerous professionals in the archaeological community. We owe them both an immense debt of gratitude for all they gave to SJBAS members individually and collectively. Many of us have special memories of trips with Linda and Richard that will live on in our memories. We honor them by passing on these experiences and knowledge to other SJBAS members. We mourn their passing, and we love and will never forget them. – Gail Schulz

CSWS John W. Sanders Internships

Spring 2020 intern, Amanda Vodicka, Anthropology '20 & Fall 2020 intern, Rosie Fox, Anthropology Fall '20

Both Amanda and Rosie are working with the Center's archaeological materials collected from the Brougner Site in Montezuma County. These collections are part of a large backlog of uncatalogued archaeological collections, which staff and students are working to address now that the Center is transitioning to more archaeology-friendly collections management database. Amanda and Rosie have been inventorying and rehousing the artifacts. Once the new collections management database is up and functioning these items will be thoroughly cataloged into the new system and made available for research. Through their work, both interns are helping Center staff to create consistent procedures and protocols that can be used in addressing other backlogged archaeological collections. The big picture goal is to make these collections accessible to researchers at Fort Lewis College and beyond and we could not do it without the hard work of Amanda and Rosie!



Rosie Fox named as John W. Sanders Intern

Rosie Fox, Anthropology Class of Fall 2020, will be working as the John W. Sanders Intern thanks to funding provided by the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society. Through this internship, anthropology and archaeology students are paid to work on projects at the Center of Southwest Studies. This semester, Rosie will continue the work started by former intern Amanda Vodicka in cataloging and rehousing archaeological collections from the Brougher Site here in Southwest Colorado. This is an extremely timely project as the Center moves to its new collections database, which is better equipped to capture all of the information that is important in managing archaeological collections and will make these materials more accessible for collections-based research! – CSWS Timelines - Fall 2020



That's “Hawksome”

This Redstone projectile point from eastern Tennessee was made by people at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,500 years ago! It fortuitously made its way to Durango, where Jesse Tune, assistant professor of Anthropology, and his students were able to study it. These types of hands-on student research opportunities in the Anthropology Department help students learn about the past, as well as how to scientifically illustrate artifacts.

Cortez couple receives archaeology award

Have you found pottery shards on your property? Ever wonder if that little hill in your backyard is an ancient ruin? Since 2008, the Hisatsinom Archaeological Survey Program has helped landowners identify prehistoric sites with the goal of education and preservation. Hisatsinom means “ancient people” in the Hopi language.

This month, the program’s creators, Bob and Diane McBride, were awarded the Ivof K. Hagar Award from the Colorado Archaeological Society for their long-term outreach and research contributions. They were nominated by the local Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society. The award is named after a well-known Colorado avocational archaeologist. – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

Animas Museum launches online exhibits

The Animas Museum, a repository of everything historical in La Plata County, including its people, places and events, has been closed to in-person visits since the onset of COVID-19. In the meantime, staff members have been busy creating online exhibits, now totaling 10 with more to come, said Jeremy Foote, president of the board of directors. One of the first [online exhibits](#) was produced this spring in response to the national attention on the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. The Animas Museum’s exhibit focused on the 1918 pandemic, from a local perspective. – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

Mesa Verde – Ancestral Puebloan remains and funerary objects returned

"Our hearts are happy that our ancestors have made their journey home and are at rest where they belong."

- Fredrick Medina, Governor of the Pueblo of Zia

As many of you know, the remains of 20 Ancestral Puebloans and 28 funerary objects were reinterred at an undisclosed location in Mesa Verde National Park on September 12th. The Board of Directors of the Mesa Verde Foundation extends a heartfelt "Thank You!" for your interest in and support of this remarkable conclusion to an effort that has been under discussion for the better part of seventy years!

These items were part of the excavation, removal, and exportation to Sweden undertaken in 1891 by the explorer and scientist, Gustav Nordenskiöld. He was 23 years old at the time. The collection was then sold to a Finnish doctor, who ultimately bequeathed it to the National Museum of Finland. The outcry over this series of events led to the protective provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the establishment of Mesa Verde National Park in the same year.

In 2016, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office had requested an inventory of the collection from the Finnish museum. This study resulted in the cataloging of 614 items, including some human remains. Following detailed discussions between the U.S. State Department, the Finnish government, and the four sovereign tribes that trace their heritage and culture back to the Ancestral Puebloans (the Hopi Tribe and the Pueblos of Acoma, Zia, and Zuni), a joint agreement was executed.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Finnish President Sauli Niinisto formally announced the agreement at the White House in October of 2019, setting the wheels in motion to plan the sensitive logistics of preparing the remains for their return, transporting them to Mesa Verde, choosing the location, and planning the ceremony itself. Unfortunately, because of COVID, tribal leaders were unable to travel to Finland to escort their ancestors back home, although this had been their original plan.

Thanks to your support, the Mesa Verde Foundation was able to make a \$5,000 donation to the Park, which was used to offset the costs of the excavation of the burial site, travel expenses for some of the participants, equipment rentals, and other miscellaneous expenses incurred outside of the Park's regular budget.

Online Archaeology Events

December 1st webinar from Archaeology Southwest: "Beloved Things: Micaceous Bean Pots and Connections to the Hispanic New Mexican Homeland"

Join us on December 1, 2020, when Preservation Archaeologist Shannon Cowell and Kelly Jenks (New Mexico State University) will discuss "Beloved Things: Micaceous Bean Pots and Connections to the Hispanic New Mexican Homeland." In times of stress, we seek comfort and reaffirm identity through heirloom tools and methods. Shannon and Kelly present a case study on Hispanic women and heirloom bean pots. Here is the link: <https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/event/beloved-things-micaceous-bean-pots-and-connections-to-the-hispanic-new-mexican-homeland/>.

Archaeologists discover Viking-age ship burial in Norway

Archaeologists using radar technology have discovered a millennium-old ship burial in southeastern Norway, at a site that they hope will offer clues about life during the period after the fall of the Roman Empire through the end of the Viking Age.

Lars Gustavsen, a researcher at the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research and the lead author of a paper on the findings, published Wednesday [in the journal *Antiquity*](#), said his team made the discovery in April 2018 in Gjellestad, Norway. A farmer notified the local authorities about his plans to build drainage ditches in one of his fields, prompting the archaeological survey. ([Read article](#))

With Gratitude and Appreciation, a Message from Crow Canyon's President

As the traditional holiday season starts in the United States, at Crow Canyon it leads to reflection and remembrance. While we as a nation celebrate, recognizing our history is paramount. The Thanksgiving holiday takes place during Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month, and the Friday after Thanksgiving is Native American Heritage Day. At Crow Canyon, we are hopeful these holidays lead to education and understanding and we are thankful for the opportunity to celebrate what we learn from our partners. Our work recognizes the infinite significance of Native American history, contemporary Native communities, and the future of Indigenous lives and cultures. Twenty-one Pueblos, including Hopi and Zuni, the Ute Mountain Ute, the Southern Ute, the Northern Ute, Diné (Navajo Nation), Jicarilla Apache, Paiute communities, and other Indigenous peoples all have long-standing connections to the central Mesa Verde region.

We have learned so much from our Native neighbors and partners, yet in American society, Indigenous people are not recognized as the original inhabitants of the country we all call home. At Crow Canyon, we understand our responsibility to listen actively and authentically for understanding, have the courage to be made uncomfortable, and to hold space for stories that retell experiences of pain, broken promises, and heartbreak, as well as stories of hope and triumph.

We have a responsibility to take it upon ourselves to acquire the cultural competencies we need to be useful to Native people in this moment in history. We have a responsibility to put to good use the resources we have as scholars, students, and most importantly, fellow humans.

We measure everything we do at Crow Canyon by whether it broadens our understanding of the shared human experience. Our work depends entirely on the histories and knowledge of Indigenous people in the past and present—how they organized communities and social networks through time, incorporated religion and ritual into community life, responded to disasters and uncertainty, and related to people of different cultures and backgrounds. The central Mesa Verde region is extraordinarily unique because of its cultural richness, diversity, preservation, and density of archaeological sites, as well as its active connections to the living and vibrant Native cultures of the greater Southwest.

The information we gather about Native history and practice benefits all humanity. Our Native partners share this value with non-native people who have caused incalculable damage to the cultures we now turn to for inspiration. Just as we acknowledge and express gratitude to our Native partners for the gift of our work, we hope that others will acknowledge Native Americans' inhabitation in what is now America, before and after contact.

On Thanksgiving and the following Native American Heritage Day, we are intentional about our gratitude for the privilege of working on this landscape, access to nourishing food, and the love and affection of our friends and family. As Crow Canyon Trustee Dr. Joseph H. Suina reminds us, we must also support those outside of our families and communities:

“In our community of Cochiti, we offer prayers for the world – not just for us, but for other cultures, other countries, for the world to be in balance again.” - Dr. Joseph H. Suina

We are immeasurably grateful to all of you who support and participate in our mission at Crow Canyon. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday.

With love and affection,
Liz Perry
President and CEO
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

Regional Archaeology News

Crow Canyon Basketmaker Communities Project Final Interpretive Report

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is pleased to announce the publication of the Basketmaker Communities Project Final Interpretive Report and Companion Database! From 2011–2017, the Basketmaker Communities Project focused on a pivotal, yet under-investigated, time in history—the Basketmaker III period (A.D. 500–750). Focusing on early Pueblo growth, this multi-year project addressed research questions pertaining to community organization, migration, environmental change, settlement and land-use patterns, and population shifts through time. The first farmers in the central Mesa Verde region established not only vast farmsteads, but cultural frameworks that became the hallmarks of Pueblo society. This is Crow Canyon’s 10th major publication of a multi-year research project accomplished in the context of public education and American Indian involvement. Hit “Control” and [click here](#) to read the **Final Interpretive Report** and hit “Control” and [click here](#) to visit the companion **database**.

Archaeological Conservancy Virtual Tour Series – Pueblo San Marcos

Come along on a Virtual Tour of Pueblo San Marcos, led and narrated by President Mark Michel! Pueblo San Marcos is a 65-acre Conservancy preserve located just southeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The site is also known locally as the "Turquoise Pueblo" for its proximity to the Cerrillos Hills and as a center of trade for the mineral that dates back hundreds of years. The people of San Marcos produced the first lead-glazed pottery in the region and were instrumental in the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. This property is also one of The Conservancy's first acquisitions. Learn more about this fascinating site in [Episode 2: Pueblo San Marcos](#) of our Virtual Tour Video Series!

Interview with Bruce Babbitt

Until recently, protecting the environment was a bipartisan issue for Americans. But in an era marked by bitter divides, this is no longer the case. Bruce Babbitt, former governor of Arizona and Secretary of the Interior in

the Clinton Administration, believes that environmental protection can again be a unifying issue for Americans. But to get there, advocates will need to rebuild consensus around issues that have wide support, like public lands and the benefits afforded by a healthy environment, and engage stakeholders who have often been ignored. <https://bit.ly/37NvHHo> - Mongabay

Commentary: Standing Together for Quitobaquito

Wall construction rips away our freedom as O’odham. It erases our traditions, culture, language, songs, ceremonies and stories. Border wall construction continues 500 years of violent colonialism. It means we lose everything that makes us O’odham. <https://bit.ly/31NYx6R> - Hon’mana Seukteoma at the blog of the Center for Biological Diversity

Dating Clovis

New testing of bones and artifacts shows that Clovis tools were made only during a brief, 300-year period from 13,050 to 12,750 years ago. Michael Waters, distinguished professor of anthropology and director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, along with Texas A&M anthropologist David Carlson and Thomas Stafford of Stafford Research in Colorado, have had their new work published in the current issue of *Science Advances*. <https://bit.ly/2HyPVcS> - Heritage Daily

Michael R. Waters, Thomas W. Stafford Jr., and David L. Carlson, “The age of Clovis—13,050 to 12,750 cal yr B.P.,” *Science Advances* 21 Oct 2020: Vol. 6, no. 43. DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aaz0455. <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/43/eaaz0455>

Extensive Pleistocene Trackway Preserved in White Sands National Monument

Several thousand years ago, a young adult moved barefoot across a muddy landscape. A toddler was balanced on the adult’s hip. There were large animals—mammoths and ground sloths—just over the horizon. It was a perilous journey, and scientists reconstructed it by closely studying an exceptional set of human and animal footprints found recently in the southwestern United States. <https://nyti.ms/3or4zno> - New York Times

Historical Treaties between Tribes and the United States Now Digitized

For many Native American tribes, historical treaties are a fraught reminder of promises made—and broken—by the United States government over centuries of colonial expansion and exploitation. The documents are also of paramount importance today, as tribes and activists point to them as binding agreements in legal battles for land and resources. Thanks to a newly completed digitization effort by the U.S. National Archives and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) in Santa Fe, researchers and the public now have unprecedented access to hundreds of these critical agreements. <https://bit.ly/3lRpNca> - Smithsonian Magazine

Introducing the Tribal Archaeology Network

The Tribal Archaeology Network (TAN) is a grassroots organization by Indigenous archaeologists and those working with and serving Tribes and Native American communities. We foster networking, support, knowledge sharing, education, training, and mentorship. TAN strives to connect archaeologists in all aspects of

the field including academia, cultural resource management, museums, Tribal governments, State/Federal agencies as well as Tribal Monitors, Traditional Cultural Specialists, students, and others.

<https://bit.ly/3dIZdPu> - Tribal Archaeology Network (via Makoons Consulting and Oregon State University)

Continuing Coverage: Bears Ears Monument Advisory Committee Meets as Judge Deliberates

An advisory committee made up of San Juan County residents met Friday for the third time to discuss the management of Bears Ears National Monument. But the plans they're making could be thrown out if Democrat Joe Biden wins the election or a federal judge rules against the Trump Administration's 2017 reduction of Bears Ears. <https://bit.ly/37roCfE> - KUER (NPR)

Commentary: Escalante Canyons National Park Would Be a Mistake

A bill was recently reintroduced to establish Utah's sixth national park known as the Escalante Canyons National Park. The name suggests a possible increase in protections for a place full of unique biodiversity and sacred indigenous places, as well as world-class research opportunities for paleontology, archaeology, and climate change. But instead, this proposal strips away protections and establishes a "national park" that will essentially transfer public lands away from the public to special interests aimed at monetizing the [Grand Staircase-Escalante National] Monument. This misleading proposal will only serve to solidify President Trump's illegal 45% reduction of GSENM's original acreage. Instead of parceling the Monument into different units and allowing special interests to exert control over the excised lands, we need to restore the original boundaries of the contiguous Monument and focus on protecting the outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural resources of Grand Staircase. <https://bit.ly/3dLE07B> - Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

The legislation calls for the park's boundaries to "fall within the Escalante Canyons Unit of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument," though they were not specifically outlined in the measure. The bill also "codifies three separate and distinct national designations, Grand Staircase National Monument, Escalante Canyons National Park, and Kaiparowits National Monument" from the remaining lands inside the Grand Staircase monument. <https://bit.ly/37pl3VP> - National Parks Traveler

Video: Uranium Mining and the Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is one of the natural wonders of the world and the ancestral home of Native peoples. But all of this is threatened by uranium mining. <https://bit.ly/37vF6Dv> - Grand Canyon Trust and Center for Western Priorities

New Research Photo Database at Crow Canyon

Crow Canyon is excited to announce our new and improved research photo database! As part of our mission to support public archaeology, we updated our research archives with a photo database that is user-friendly and accessible to everyone. Our staff and researchers gather a large number of photographs documenting excavations and the material culture of the Mesa Verde region. These images are an important feature to the research we conduct and a necessary part of the scientific archive. This new feature will allow descendant community members, researchers, citizen scientists, educators, and students to search for specific fields and locate relevant images. Follow this link to the [photo database](#).

Study Examines Mimbres Pottery and Social Organization

It is beloved today for the designs: antelope, fish, jackrabbits, lizards, bats, scorpions, bighorn sheep, parrots and sacred figures. And that's where most of the attention on Mimbres pottery has been focused: what's depicted and how cool or charming it is. But pottery and Mimbres social organization hadn't been brought together. Academically, the pottery lived in a vacuum of its own. Now, a new study by researchers at Arizona State University's School of Human Evolution and Social Change highlights the meaning behind the painted designs. <https://bit.ly/3dn4f3Y> - ASU Now

Michelle Hegmon and Will Russell recently wrote a blog post about the study. We shared it here, but in case you missed it: <https://bit.ly/3kGy8i4>

Video: Paul Reed Interview on Greater Chaco

On October 1, Paul Reed spoke with host Scott Michlin about why Greater Chaco should be protected and what needs to be done. <https://youtu.be/FJLGDag1OYs> - KSJE

On September 28, Archaeology Southwest hosted a virtual media event with United States Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM), Governor Brian D. Vallo (Pueblo of Acoma), Octavius Seowtewa (Pueblo of Zuni), and Paul Reed. We shared it here, but in case you missed it: <https://youtu.be/GhCZhrUVqpQ>

Commentary: Dam, Uranium Mining Threaten Indigenous Lands

For the Hopi, the land now known as the Grand Canyon is one of the most culturally significant places in our culture and history. The Grand Canyon is the place we believe from which we emerged and will return when we pass to the next life. This land is home to sacred sites central to the culture and beliefs of thousands of Indigenous people. However, due to the Big Canyon dam proposal and the growing threat of uranium mining, our sacred land is more at risk than ever. <https://bit.ly/3iZtlqK> - Maree Mahkewa in the Arizona Daily Sun

Museums, Nonprofits, and Restorative Justice

On July 16, 2020, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) and the Yale Union (YU) announced that YU would transfer its land and building in Portland, Oregon, to NACF. The historic building will become the headquarters of the NACF and in late 2021, after a period of co-programming, YU will dissolve as a nonprofit. ...As a non-collecting center for (non-Indigenous) contemporary art, one might think it unlikely that YU would place decolonization high on its list of strategic priorities. In fact, it has chosen to go beyond sharing power, or returning objects obtained through colonial appropriation, and turned over all its assets to an organization representing the Indigenous cultures dispossessed by American colonists. <https://bit.ly/2FupcO2> - American Alliance of Museums

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2020

President	Rege Leach	rleach@frontier.net
Vice President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Secretary	Paula Lutz	paula@durango.net
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

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Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
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Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain	chambrke@aol.com
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	michellemckibben56@gmail.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year; however, if you paid dues in 2020, these would carry over through 2021. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**