

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



www.sjbas.org

The Moki Messenger

November 2016

Next SJBAS Meeting – November 10th

Instead of a regular monthly meeting, our November meeting will be held in collaboration with the Life Long Learning Lecture Series on Thursday, November 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in Noble Hall, Room 130, at Fort Lewis College. Speaker Jim Judge, Ph.D. archaeologist and retired faculty of FLC, will present: “Confronting Climate Change, Then and Now – Lessons from Chaco.”

Dr. Jim Judge is a professor *emeritus* of [anthropology at Fort Lewis College](#) in Durango, Colorado. He is the former director of the [Chaco Center of the National Park Service](#) and a leading expert on the prehistoric cultures of the Southwest. Dr. Judge holds a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and is the author of numerous publications on the Chaco culture.

SJBAS Meeting Report – October 13th

Attendance: approximately 38
Submitted by Barb Hancock

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Foxie Mason, Vice President, opened the meeting in the absence of Janice Sheftel, President.

Foxie began the meeting with a thank you to the volunteers who had arranged the food and beverages for the social prior to the meeting. She then called for announcements:

- Peggy Morris introduced the Center’s Intern and again thanked the Membership for supporting the John Sanders Internship Fund which provides for 2 Interns for the Center annually.
- Cammi spoke briefly about her experience as an intern and her assistance in developing the National Parks exhibit which ran this summer at the Center. She appreciated the opportunity to see the bigger picture and creative process that is part of preparing an exhibit.
- Tish Varney made several announcements

- The Colorado Archaeological Society (“CAS”) annual conference held last weekend in Grand Junction was a great success. Although a Member of SJBAS did not win the raffle, the organization raised record monies from both the sale of raffle tickets and the silent auction. All monies benefit the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund.
 - The next PAAC course will be held in Dolores in early November. The focus of this course will be Laboratory Preparation and Techniques. In addition, the new state archaeologist, Chris Johnson, is asking for recommendations for other courses for this year. Any Members with ideas should please direct them to Tish.
 - Tish purchased a “historic” SJBAS banner at the CAS auction to present to Janice Sheftel. She showed the item to the Membership assembled and will present to Janice on another occasion.
- Barb Hancock standing in for Lyle Hancock reminded the Membership that a field trip planning meeting is scheduled for November 16th at 3:30 p.m. location to be announced once the number of participants is determined. Barb reminded the Membership that field trips are an important and fun part of the club and that Lyle needs participation from members to both lead trips and to participate in the planning session to make it happen.
 - Bob Powell reviewed his upcoming field trip to see Pueblitos which will be Saturday, October 15th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The group will assemble at Santa Rita Park on Saturday morning. Bob asked interested Members to please contact him in advance.
 - Foxie Mason announced that copies of the biography of Doug Owsley, forensic anthropologist with the Smithsonian and 2015 keynote speaker at the CAS conference, are available for sale for \$10. She also mentioned that the club is hoping to have Doug here again in September 2016 to speak again.
 - Peggy Morris announced that she will be coordinating her final silent auction to benefit the John Sanders Internship Fund as part of the Holiday Party in December. Last year the auction netted \$1,200.00 for the fund. Peggy is asking for donations for this year’s event.

In addition, Peggy stated that the club will be looking for a new volunteer(s) to take on the auction or other ongoing fund raising efforts for the internship fund.

Important Dates:

- **November 10th** there will not be an SJBAS meeting. Instead, SJBAS is deferring to the Life Long Learning lecture which is scheduled for the same evening and Members are encouraged to attend. Jim Judge will be lecturing in Noble Hall and his topic is: Confronting Climate Change – Then and Now.
- **December 8th** is the SJBAS Holiday party which will be held in the Student Union Ballroom at Fort Lewis College. More details will be forthcoming in the Moki, via e-mail, and on the club website.

There being no further announcements or club business, Foxie adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and introduced the evening’s speaker:

Dan Simplicio, Cultural Specialist with Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Vanished: or could we all Vanish?

It’s time to make your plans for the annual SJBAS Holiday Celebration and Party!

Thursday, December 8th, 6:00 p.m.

Ballroom, Fort Lewis College

The Party will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar and appetizer table followed by dinner and program activities. The dinner will be buffet style. The buffet entrees will include a chicken and beef selection. Included are side accompaniments, salad, dinner rolls, bread/butter, tea and coffee, and dessert.

Activities will include a program featuring the 2015-16 SJBAS activities; introduction of new society members; door prizes; election of 2016 chapter officers, and good holiday cheer. Join your friends for this fun party and hope to see you there! Peggy Morris will again conduct a silent auction to benefit our Center for Southwest Studies Intern program.

Members may invite non-members to attend.

To make reservations, follow this link to the [Holiday Party Reply Form 2016](#), complete the form, include a check payable to SJBAS, and mail it to Mark Gebhardt, Treasurer, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Deadline is December 4th.

For additional information, contact Fokie Mason at fmason@frontier.net or phone 970-247-0252; or Jim Mueller at rhondaandjim@msn.com.

CAS Annual Meeting Report

The Grand Junction Chapter hosted the 81st CAS Annual Conference and Annual Meeting October 7-10 at the University Center at Colorado Mesa University (CMU). This was a tall order since the chapter had only re-formed a little more than a year ago. It seemed that *all hands on deck* was the motto for the meeting. The weekend offered Friday field trips, a social followed by a Larry Ruiz film and CAS quarterly meeting, a Saturday full of interesting speakers with Dr. Steve Lekson as the keynote banquet speaker, silent auction and raffle for Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund, the CAS Annual Meeting and Sunday ending with more single and two-day field trips.

There were 204 total registrations including those who only registered for the keynote speaker. Approximately 172 signed up for the whole conference. There were 17 field trips with 152 registrations for trips. Some of those were people who took both a Friday trip and a Sunday or Sunday-Monday trip. Five of the trips were on Friday and 3 trips were two-day, Sunday and Monday. The most popular of those 3 was 9 Mile Canyon with 11 participants.

I was pleased to represent SJBAS at the conference and only one chapter – Vermillion (Craig, CO) – was not present at the meeting. Details of the Quarterly Board Meeting will be in a separate SJBAS board report as well as on the CAS website. The pertinent news was the pending vacancy for Kris Holien, CAS Recording Secretary and Larry Evans, Publications. The executive board will appoint an interim secretary if none is found by January. No other changes were expected for the board. The next Conference and Annual Meeting will take place at History Colorado in Denver, October, 2017.

The highlight after the Friday night social was the Larry Ruiz film, *Waking the Mammoth*, a commentary of how time takes on different meanings through the ages depending on the culture. Following the film, Dr. John Seebach, Archaeology Assistant Professor at CMU led a question and answer session. It was good to see numerous students attending the session.

The Saturday conference was chock-full of 13 great presentations plus an update on the Montrose museum building project. The CAS website lists the various talks, but you had to be there to really enjoy the breadth of topics. Talks ranged from Prehistoric Bison Hunting in Western Colorado (Sonny Shelton), the Juan Rivera Expedition (Stave Baker) to Provenience – A Sense of Origin (Connie Massingale).

During the entire day, the silent auction and raffle for the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund was in full swing. This was the first year the local chapter was in charge of both collecting items for and running the silent auction. Again, the Grand Junctions Chapter offered items too numerous to count with donations coming in from many chapters. No information to date is available on the proceeds from either the auction or the raffle that featured an original ceramic pot made especially for CAS! (The **"Zebra Sentinel"** stands 32" tall, featuring African porcupine quills, by Colorado Springs artist Jerry Rhodes. Value estimate: \$900+). The winner of the pot was Warren Nolan from the Pueblo Chapter – lucky guy!

The CAS Annual Meeting followed the conference presentations. The minutes of the meeting will be posted by Secretary Kris Holien on the website. President Karen Kinnear announced that the proposed internet information policy and procedures were still a work in progress. The 2017 quarterly board meetings are as follows: January – Pikes Peak, April – Salida, July - Cortez and October – Denver.

As a grand finale to the conference, keynote speaker, Dr. Steve Lekson, Ph.D. University of Colorado (CU) presented an intriguing discussion illuminating his latest Chaco Canyon theories and research. Dr. Lekson is Curator of Archaeology and Professor of Anthropology at the Museum of Natural History at CU. Having Dr. Lekson speak at a SJBAS event would be a treat!

The fantastic Sunday/Monday field trip went to Nine Mile Canyon, a treasure trove of world-famous rock art of Fremont and Ute origins. The tour north of Price, UT was led by Layne Miller a long-time advocate of petroglyphs. His stories and lifetime experiences in the area added to the amazing views. The second day was spent at sites in the San Rafael Swell and areas south of Price. A short field trip report appears in another section of the Moki.

The CAS conference is full of educational and interesting talks and events. It's a great time to get excited about the many activities available to members who enjoy archaeology, Mark your calendar for next year's conference!

- by Tish Varney, SJBAS CAS rep

Field Trip Planning Meeting – November 16th

It is that time of year again when we begin planning field trips for the upcoming year. Lyle Hancock is our chapter field trip coordinator, but we encourage all members to help plan and execute our trips. This year's field trip planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th, at 3:30 p.m. The location will be somewhere in Durango, but will not be determined until we get a sense of how many people will attend. If you are interested in coordinating a field trip or have ideas for trips, please join us and help plan our trips. Contact Lyle at lylehancock@bresnan.net for more information or to sign up to attend the meeting.

Field Trip Report – Yucca House National Monument – October 1st - Trip Coordinator - Tish Varney

On October 1st, fourteen SJBAS members traveled to Cortez and met NPS park ranger, Jill Blumenthal, our guide to tour Yucca House National Monument. Jill was well qualified to lead us, coming from 10 years as Crow Canyon Archaeological Center education and lab staff and currently the Education and Volunteer Coordinator at Mesa Verde. Yucca House is under the supervision of Mesa Verde National Park. It is located 10 miles south of Cortez along the flanks of Sleeping Ute Mountain. You'd never guess there was a major archaeological site accessed by traveling a dirt road through private land. We were glad to have Jill leading the carpool as the way is not clearly marked.



Yucca House, one of the largest archaeological sites in southwest Colorado, is unexcavated and appears as two areas with large mounds of rubble. It acted as an important community center for the Ancestral Puebloan people from A.D. 1150-1300. A large spring originally flowed through the middle of the complex, so Yucca House was originally called Aztec Springs, although there is no connection with the Aztec people of Mexico. However, the Sleeping Ute Mountain is called by the Utes and other tribes as the "mountain with yucca", so the name changed from Aztec Springs to Yucca House.

Much of the visible architecture dates to the Pueblo III period and preservation of the site will give archaeologists an opportunity to answer many questions as the techniques for learning about the past improve. Jill warned us that rattlesnakes make this their home as well although only a tarantula and a garter snake were visible. The upper house rises 15-20 feet above the surrounding architecture and plaza area and commands a sweeping vista of the valley. This pueblo has an estimated 600 rooms, 100 kivas and a great kiva, large enough to house the community.

Evidence of the pristine nature of this site shows up with the many potsherds and corn cobs scattered over the ground. Jill demonstrated that the proper way to share an artifact with others was to mark the location with the toe of the shoe and pick it up to show. The object is then returned to the exact same spot where it came from. Collecting and making piles of artifacts for all to see defeats the effectiveness of **provenience** – maintaining the relationship of an object with its original location. Provenience helps archaeologists interpret the culture through its objects. Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 prohibits removal of artifacts from a site.

Although many archaeological sites have disappeared through vandalism and development, Yucca House remains protected well into the future as a valuable intact resource. Jill brought this site alive with her narrative guiding us back in time and presenting many questions to ponder.

Tish Varney, SJBAS field trip leader

Upcoming Field Trips and Activities

November 10	SJBAS meeting – in collaboration with the Life Long Learning Lecture Series, our meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Noble Hall, Room 130 – Dr. Jim Judge, archaeologist and retired faculty of the FLC Anthropology Department, will present: “Confronting Climate Change, Then and Now – Lessons from Chaco.”
November 16	Field Trip Planning meeting – Contact Lyle for details, lylehancock@bresnan.net .
December 8	SJBAS Holiday Party – Fort Lewis College Ballroom

PAAC Classes in the Spring – letter from Chris Johnston, the new Assistant State Archaeologist

Hello all,

As many of you heard at the CAS Annual Meeting, I am not going to be offering traditional classes this coming spring while I make some changes to the program. These changes are mostly minor, but there are many, so in order to help PAAC move forward I need to take a "semester" to revamp the program; teaching and prepping for classes does not leave a lot of other time to think about how to adjust things and implementing some new strategies.

I know this comes on the heels of my request to you for spring schedule needs and I apologize for that. It was not until after I sent that did I sit down with our leadership team and talk strategy that we collectively realized in order for me to do this right I need my time and attention squarely on the future direction of PAAC for the next 6 months or so. I've attached my report from the annual meeting to this email for those of you that have not seen or heard it yet.

I must reiterate, this does NOT mean the end of PAAC, and it is not just the "new guy" showing up to change how things are done. On the contrary, much of the program and the classes will remain more or less the same, but we need to move in a slightly different direction with our certifications and how we quantify our return on the investment the state makes in the program. It is for the continued success of PAAC that I need to take this time away from teaching to help ensure the program can stick around for another 40 years. I hope you understand, and please feel free to pass along any questions, concerns, or ideas. One question that I've already received is about people working towards certifications

that may feel the carpet is being ripped out from under them. Trust me, those people are at the front of my mind and any changes will remember them and I'll be sure to make every possible option available to them. And again, the changes aren't going to be that drastic.

I will be reaching out to specific chapters in the coming weeks about some volunteer opportunities that my colleagues and I are arranging and will make announcements of these as necessary.

Thanks for all of the work you do, and please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions.

Best,
Chris

Hisatsinom Chapter News

Hisatsinom Newsletter November 2016 [Hisatsinom Newsletter](#)

The Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present Gail LaDage on Tuesday, November 1st at 7:00 P.M. at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss "The Pictured Cliffs: A Return to Waterflow." Gail discusses some of the 4,000 petroglyphs that are part of the Pictured Cliffs site, located near Farmington, N.M. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) News

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

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

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

SJBAS Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxy) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Jim Mueller	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Secretary	Barb Hancock	barbhancock@bresnan.net
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	mark@virtbiz.com
CAS Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net

Other Positions

Moki Messenger editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster and email coordinator	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 Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.**