



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2019

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

Next Meeting – November 13th

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Randy McGuire will present: “Building an International Archaeology in Sonora, México.” There will be a social at 6:30 p.m. in the CSWS foyer.

The boundaries and frontiers that define modern North American nations and states had no

significance for the ancient peoples that inhabited the continent. But these boundaries have profoundly affected archaeology. In subtle and complex ways, they shape how archaeologists frame questions, how they define their studies, what journals they read, what colleagues they talk to, where they go to school, what institutions they work for and dozens of other aspects of research. We seek to transcend these lines to understand the aboriginal history of Sonora as a dynamic phenomenon. Prehispanic peoples moved back and forth across the modern international border as if it was not there, because it wasn't. Modern archaeologists have not been so fortunate. Sonora lies between two of the most intensively archaeologically researched regions in the world but the quantity of research in Sonora remains relatively low. We have attempted to change this through a collaborative international archaeology that expands our knowledge of Sonora and the Southwest United States.

Dr. McGuire is an archaeologist primarily interested in the development of power relations in the past. He has carried out most of his field work in the U.S. Southwest and is currently conducting a long-term field project in northwest Mexico. He has also done historical archaeology and oral history research in the northeastern U.S. In 2010, he completed a project investigating the 1913-1914 coal strike in southern Colorado. He is starting research in contemporary archaeology on the U.S. – Mexican border around Nogales, Arizona. In addition to historical archaeology, history and ethnology, his interests include quantitative methods, social theory, cultural resource management and archaeomagnetic dating.

We need one more volunteer to help with the November 13th pre-meeting social. Please email Susan Hicks at sc53hicks@gmail.com or call 970-759-7152 if you would like to help.

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President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

SJBAS is a non-profit organization, operated entirely by volunteers. To keep the organization sustainable, SJBAS depends on voluntarism. If you haven't volunteered to help in some way, SJBAS may not be able to sustain its full array of programs. So please, when there is a call for volunteers, raise your hand to participate.

Positions available on Board of Directors

Our Board has three positions open for 2020: President, Vice-President, and Publicity chair. If you are interested in more information on any of these positions or would like to be considered, please contact Vice-Presidents Foxie Mason, fmason@frontier.net, or Susan Hicks, sc53hicks@animas.net.

Volunteers needed at the Annual Meeting

We need two volunteers to help at the check-in table and a few others to help with table decorations and clean up. Again, email Foxie or Susan if you would like to help.

Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

I would like to extend my personal thank you to the SJBAS Board and especially our two vice-presidents, Susan Hicks and Foxie Mason, for organizing our annual meeting and holiday brunch to be held on December 7th. Sign-up information is included in this Moki. Please plan to attend this special program.

Silent Auction at the Brunch

If you have any lightly used items you would like to **contribute to the Annual Meeting Silent Auction** to benefit the John W. Sanders Education and Internship Fund, please plan to come to the Brunch a little early and bring the items and a pen or pencil to fill out a silent auction sheet with item description, value, opening bid and incremental amount of bid raises. SJBAS will provide the bid sheets. If bidding on your item is slow, you are welcome to reduce the minimum bid as the brunch progresses. Note, in the unlikely event that your item doesn't sell, despite any price reduction, it will be yours to take home. If you would like to contribute an item as a door prize, please bring it wrapped.

Be sure to bring cash or a check to pay for silent auction items and to pay your 2020 SJBAS dues.

Election for 2020 SJBAS Officers

The slate of proposed officers for 2020 will be provided in the December Moki, and nominations from the floor can also be made at the annual meeting.

Presentation of 2019 Field Trips and tentative 2020 Trips

In order for SJBAS to have the most complete slide show, please email pictures from 2019 field trips to Lyle Hancock at lylehancock54@gmail.com.

Planning for the Future

With our withdrawal from the Colorado Archaeological Society, SJBAS needs to plan for its future as a self-sustaining organization. Therefore, the Board plans to have structured discussions at the various Brunch tables on member's ideas on how to improve the services we provide to the membership and the community. You will receive a questionnaire by email before the Brunch. Please think about these discussion questions and come prepared with your thoughts on how SJBAS can enhance its programs.

Janice C. Sheftel, President, SJBAS

Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch – Saturday, December 7th, 10:00 a.m.

Reservation deadline is Saturday, November 30th

It's time to mark your calendars and plan to attend! Our Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch will take place on Saturday, December 7th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Vallecito Room at the Fort Lewis College Student Union. Members may invite non-members to join in the fun.

Activities will feature a review of 2019 SJBAS field trips; a preview of 2020 field trips; introduction of new members; door prizes; a silent auction; and good holiday cheer.

The Annual Meeting will include the election of SJBAS officers for 2020 and table discussions to gather member input about the future of our society. A week before the brunch, the Board will send out a list of questions so that Brunch attendees can be prepared to discuss their answers and so those who aren't able to attend can provide their thoughts to the Board.

The brunch will be buffet style with fruit, eggs, diced potatoes, ham, bacon, bagels, banana bread, juice, coffee, tea, and water.

The cost is \$25. This amount helps pay for the brunch plus the use of the room and the excellent AV equipment and technical support. To make your reservation, follow this link to the [Holiday Brunch Reservation Reply Form](#), print the form, and mail your completed form and check (payable to SJBAS) to SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, PO Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302. Get your checks in early to be sure you reserve a seat.

The Silent Auction will benefit the John W. Sanders Education and Internship Fund. Last year we made \$400 for the Fund and this year we hope to do even better. If you have any lightly used items you would like to contribute, please come to the Brunch a little early and bring the items and a pen or pencil to fill out a silent auction sheet which SJBAS will provide. Note, in the unlikely event that your item doesn't sell, it will be yours to take home. In addition, if you would like to contribute an item as a door prize, please bring it wrapped.

Bring cash or checks to pay for silent auction items and to pay your 2020 SJBAS dues.

Come join your friends for this popular event; see you there!

Volunteers are needed to staff the check-in table and help decorate the tables and clean up. To volunteer or for additional information, please contact Susan Hicks at sc53hicks@gmail.com or 970-759-7152.

SJBAS Board Highlights - October 3, 2019

Janice Sheftel will resign as President of SJBAS as of December 31, 2019. She will remain on the Board as Program Chair. Please contact one of our Vice Presidents, Susan Hicks or Fokie Mason, for more information regarding the President's Job Description and Duties.

The Board will be asking for your input for our Long-Range Plan at our Annual Meeting. Each table will have a discussion with a Board Member in response to a Questionnaire to be emailed in advance of the meeting. It should be lively!

Mark your Calendars:

November 22, 23, 24. PAAC Class, *Colorado Archaeology*, by Becca Simon, to be held at FLC. Contact Tish Varney, Education Chair, to register and more information.

December 7, 10 a.m. SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch. FLC Vallecito Room. Silent Auction. \$25 per person. Bring a Friend.

August 6-9, 2020. Fort Lewis College will host the 2020 Pecos Conference in Mancos. More information later.

Recruiting a President for SJBAS Board of Directors

Janice Sheftel will resign as President of SJBAS as of December 31, 2019 but will remain on the Board as Program Chair. We are actively seeking a new Board President who will work with Janice through the end of the year and prepare to become President on January 1, 2020. Please contact one of our vice presidents, Susan Hicks hicks@animas.net or Fokie Mason fmason@frontier.net, if you are interested in more information.

Other Board vacancies include Vice-President and Publicity Chair.

PAAC Class in Durango – ‘Colorado Archaeology’ - November 22 - 24

Becca Simon, assistant Colorado State archaeologist, will present the introductory PAAC Class ‘Colorado Archaeology’ from November 22 - 24 in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at FLC. This will be a good overview for those who are new SJBAS members. Cost is \$20 per person.

Friday, Nov. 22nd, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 23rd, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 24th, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

This course is a general survey of Colorado's American Indian heritage. It discusses the various stages of prehistoric and historic Native American development, time and regional relationships, lifestyles, origins, social organization and technology. Although an outline of historically known tribes in Colorado is included,

the emphasis is on the Pre-Columbian era. The course is necessary for understanding cultural affiliation and cultural use of a region. Anyone remotely interested in Colorado archaeology should take this type of course. Follow this link to a [course outline](#). If you are interested in this class, contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net.

Field Trip Report – Ute Mountain Tribal Park Backcountry Tour

Members that participated in this memorable and enjoyable tour of Johnson & Lion Canyons besides the trip leaders, Rhonda Raffo & Jim Mueller, were Michele and Mark McKibben, Ruth Guarino and Donna Brazell. We were led by Ricky Hayes, who is very knowledgeable and shared a lot about the culture and history of the Utes.

The Ute Mountain Tribal Park could be described as “Mesa Verde Adjacent”, as it wraps around Mesa Verde National Park to the south. Mesa Verde National Park was formed in 1906 to protect the cliff dwellings on the mesa. Of course, pre-Puebloan sites aren’t restricted to the mesa and there are hundreds of sites located in the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation. In the 1960’s Chief Jack House proposed the establishment of Ute Mountain Tribal Park. The park encompasses about 125,000 acres around a 25- mile stretch of the Mancos River, just outside the boundaries of the National Park.

The Ute Mountain Tribal Park has been named as one of “80 World Destinations for Travel in the 21st century”, one of only nine places in the United States to receive this special designation. The structures we visited were originally built in the 1100’s and completely abandoned by 1250 AD.

The Mountain Utes leave shards and other artifacts as offerings to the “mother of earth”, as they strongly believe in respecting and protecting the lands/mother earth for all it has given to the people.



We first visited Porcupine House, located in Johnson Canyon, in an area referred to as the “Hidden Valley.” Legend has it that it got this name because porcupine quills were located at this site. The Mountain Utes dyed the quills and sewed them on to their buckskins. From the canyon rim, only the upper level of the site is visible. There are two ladders installed on the cliff sides used to descend into the canyon. There is a collapsed tower on the rim right next to the ladders.

Porcupine House was built as a 3-story structure in 1140 and 50 years later another Klan occupied the site. It has 60 rooms and 4 kivas. The kivas have the bench and pilaster features that are common to the Mesa Verde-style kivas. Many shards, metates and manos, and corn cobs were visible. Most of the shards are the corrugated types that were typically from cooking pots. There also are some black on white designed pieces.



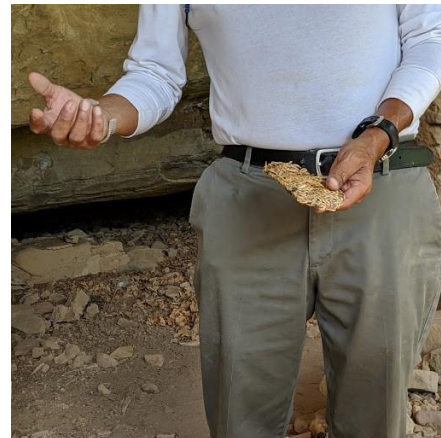
After a lunch stop, we went to Lion Canyon to visit two sites: Tree House and Lion House. Tree House had 27 rooms and three kivas, which were in excellent condition. Some of the kiva walls still had the plaster on them. Many artifacts were here, including pottery shards, grinding materials, corn cobs, etc. One of the unusual artifacts was a small sandal made from yucca fiber, which was amazingly well preserved.

Lion House had 47 rooms and 4 kivas. There was quite a collection of very worn manos and metates in the “kitchen area.” Ricky also pointed out the “Black and Decker area,”

which had deep carvings into the rock, where tools were sharpened, arrowheads were shaped, and arrow shafts were straightened.

The group thoroughly enjoyed the day and look forward to visiting more sites in the Tribal Park.

- By Rhonda Raffo



Fort Lewis College will repatriate Native American human remains

Fort Lewis College is working to give 43 Native American human remains and 51 funerary objects to the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes for reburial to comply with the decades-old Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Scientists reconstruct Ötzi the Iceman’s frantic final climb

The famed mummy died from an arrow to the back on a high alpine mountain pass 5,300 years ago. Now researchers are tracing his unusual movements right before his murder. Read in National Geographic: https://apple.news/A9DZzy30IQPq25CzKkMwS_A

<p style="text-align: center;">Dates</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Upcoming SJBAS Field Trips and Activities - 2019</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Updates are in red.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact trip leaders by phone or email for more information or to sign up.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SJBAS meeting – Randy McGuire will present: “Sonoran Archaeology.”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">December 7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SJBAS annual meeting and holiday brunch – FLC Vallecito Room</p>

Regional Archaeology News

Coming Home: Mesa Verde Repatriation

The remains of 20 Native people and 28 funerary objects will be returned to the tribes with relations to Mesa Verde, the White House announced on Wednesday. The announcement comes after a repatriation agreement was reached between the United States and Finland. Hopi Chairman Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma says he was excited to hear the news about the return. He was interviewed Thursday. “I know these individuals, these Hopi senom, have probably been wandering around lost and have not been to complete their journeys back to their families... it is a big step forward,” says Chairman Nuvangyaoma. – Indian Country Today (article at link has video footage of the Chairman’s interview) ([Read article](#))

The Hopi and Navajo are among 26 tribes that will see the return of ancestral remains from Finland, where the items have been held in a museum after being taken from Colorado almost 130 years ago. The repatriation, announced Wednesday during Finnish President Sauli Niinistö’s visit to the White House, follows years of cooperation between the tribes and the National Museum of Finland to identify the objects and link them to specific tribes. They include more than 600 items of ancestral remains and objects taken from an area that is now part of Mesa Verde National Park. They include the remains of 20 individuals, as well as 28 funerary objects, or items buried with the individuals. Tribal leaders welcomed the return of these items, but lamented that much work remains to be done to recover items from other countries. – High Country News ([Read article](#))

The news has been lauded by Native American tribes, who can finally put to rest their ancestors who were disturbed all those years ago. And, it sends a message of hope that other remains out there, scattered across the globe, can one day return. Bernadette Cuthair, director of planning and development for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, said news of her ancestors coming home hits hard. For years, people have been looting and grave robbing her ancestors’ homes, an act she said her people refer to as a “spiritual violation.” But finally, it feels like there’s a push to put right mistakes in the past. – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

Continuing Coverage: Off-Road Vehicles in Utah National Parks

On Sept. 26, the superintendent who oversees Utah’s Southeast group responded with a memo that doubles down on her previous determination that ORVs present a new use that cannot be squared with the park service’s mission to conserve park resources and cultivate a quality visitor experience. “The propensity of these vehicles to be driven off-road even where prohibited is well established in research,” wrote Kate Cannon, a veteran park service official who oversees Arches and Canyonlands. The park service will continue

to strictly prohibit off-road use, but Cannon fears that it would be impossible for rangers to properly enforce that if ORVs are allowed in her parks. – Salt Lake Tribune ([Read article](#))

Continuing Coverage: Significant Archaeology Recovered in Path of Highway Realignment

Just outside Durango, CO, archeologist Rand Greubel stands on a mesa surrounded by juniper trees and points to a large pit house from the Pueblo I period. It's a circular hole in the ground, about 30 feet across and nearly 10 feet deep. There's a fire pit in the center of an earthen floor, ventilation shafts tunneled into the side walls, and bits of burned thatching that suggest how the structure once continued above the ground. "We knew right away that it was highly significant just because of the sheer size of it," Greubel says. – KRCC (NPR) ([Read article](#))

Podcast: Interview with Filmmakers behind "Common Ground" Documentary on Bears Ears

Carl Moore of PANDOS, a Utah-based native and environmental rights organization, joined Chris and Nell to talk about their work and the film "Common Ground: The Story of Bears Ears." The film aims to humanize this very polarizing issue through interviews with people of all perspectives. – This Green Earth, KPCW (NPR) ([Read article](#)) Trailer and information about the film: <http://bearsdocumentary.com/>

Outrage over Possible Dam Projects at Confluence of Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers

A Phoenix company wants to build two hydroelectric dams less than five miles from the eastern border of Grand Canyon National Park, submerging several miles of the Little Colorado River and the endangered fish habitat it protects. If they're built, the dams could produce more than just electricity. Environmentalists say the project could further imperil the fish, the native humpback chub, interfere with the Canyon's already-degraded hydrology and irreparably damage sites held sacred by at least one Arizona tribe. – Arizona Republic (azcentral.com) ([Read article](#))

In a double whammy that would forever alter the Little Colorado River, the same Phoenix-based company that applied for a preliminary permit for a proposed hydroelectric project and two dams on the Little Colorado River less than five miles from Grand Canyon National Park has a second similar application on the table, according to a notice in the Federal Register. And, if it's possible, this one looks even worse than the first. Located downstream of the first project, this second proposal would sit less than half a mile from the boundary of Grand Canyon National Park. Based on maps provided in the company's application, it appears the project's lower dam would be located only a few miles upstream of the confluence where the turquoise-

blue waters of the Little Colorado join the main stem of the Colorado River inside the Grand Canyon. The reservoir behind the lower dam would flood a Hopi sacred site — the place where the Hopi believe their people emerged into this world.— commentary by Roger Clark at the blog of the Grand Canyon Trust (page includes link to action) ([Read article](#))

ATVs to Be Allowed in Some Utah National Parks

Across the country, off-road vehicles like ATVs and UTVs are generally barred from national parks. For Utah’s famed parks, however, that all changes starting Nov. 1, when these vehicles may be allowed on both main access roads and back roads like Canyonlands National Park’s White Rim and Arches’ entry points from Salt Valley and Willow Springs. The move was ordered Tuesday by the National Park Service’s acting regional director, Palmer “Chip” Jenkins, who directed a memo to Utah park superintendents instructing them to align their regulations with Utah law, which allows off-road vehicles to travel state and county roads as long as they are equipped with standard safety equipment and are registered and insured. Jenkins, who served most recently as the superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, issued the directive after off-highway groups and Utah lawmakers led by Rep. Phil Lyman, R-Blanding, pressured the Interior Department to lift the prohibition. – Salt Lake Tribune ([Read article](#))

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2019

President	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxy) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Secretary	Paula Lutz	paula@durango.net
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster and email coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com

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: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**