

# SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



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

## The Moki Messenger

October 2014

### Next SJBAS General Meeting

The next SJBAS meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Lyceum in the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Bill Reitze will present: "An Update of Archaeology of the Colorado Plateau."

Bill Reitze (B.S. University of New Mexico, M.A. Colorado State University, ABD University of Arizona) is the park archaeologist at Petrified Forest National Park. He has participated in field projects throughout the Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, the Southwest, as well as in Spain. His interests include geoarchaeology, landscape evolution, mobility, resource use, and the history of archaeology. His most recent published work focuses on Paleoindian populations.

### September 11<sup>th</sup> SJBAS Meeting Report

Janice could not attend the meeting, so vice president Peggy Morris ran the show. She presented Jeannie Brako from the Center of Southwest Studies with yet another John W. Sanders Internship Fund check for \$500. Jeannie explained that these funds go directly to practical projects at the Center. Intern Jed will use some of these funds to inventory a new collection of Mexican and pre-Columbian ceramics donated by Carolyn Tupper. Madison, a previous intern who made a presentation to SJBAS regarding her work financed by the internship fund, has decided to pursue a career doing museum work in archaeology. Peggy has received another anonymous donation for \$1,000 in matching funds, so your donations will have double the impact. Peggy has also begun taking donations for the holiday party silent auction.

Marion Simon gave a brief overview of their Salinas Pueblo Missions field trip scheduled for the end of October and encouraged participants to sign up. (Unfortunately, this trip has since been cancelled due to the paucity of sign-ups.)

Mark Gebhardt offered our last chance to buy raffle tickets for the CAS Alice Hamilton Scholarship fund. We have sold 117 tickets and have 33 left.

Tish Varney explained the October 24 – 26 PAAC class on the history of archaeology in Colorado. The cost is \$12. The class will be held in Durango at the Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College. Details on the class may be found at <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/paac-event-schedule>. Contact Tish to sign up at [tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net).

Jim Shadell explained that there are issues getting suitable access to the Perins town site above Twin Buttes and he may have to cancel his planned September 17<sup>th</sup> field trip to the Boston Coal and Fuel Mine. (The trip was cancelled.)

## Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction along the Río Verde, Oaxaca, Mexico (How Pre-Hispanic, Human Landscape Degradation Affected the Archaeology of a Drainage Basin)

Our speaker was Dr. Raymond Mueller (aka, brother of Jim). He began his graduate education studying the relationship between Geomorphology and Soil Genesis. His undergraduate education was at SUNY-Buffalo with graduate education at Montana State University and the University of Kansas. Shortly after getting a faculty position at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, a series of serendipitous events resulted in a change in interest to Geoarchaeology. Dr. Mueller's main area of research is in Oaxaca, Mexico where he has been doing research for the past 26 years.

During the early stages of this project, it became difficult to explain the differences we were seeing in past environments and archaeology using local information. After a chance observation during a trip the following year we realized that a possible solution could be found in the highly populated (sites like Monte Alban, Mitla, Yagul, etc.) highlands of the upper drainage. Extensive investigation of arroyo exposures in the Oaxaca Highlands revealed the ubiquitous presence of buried paleosols. These paleosols represent stable landsurfaces separated by sediments from erosion of adjacent hill slopes. Radiocarbon dating of 36 samples indicated that most of the hill slope erosion and valley alluviation occurred prior to Spanish Conquest. Radiocarbon dates of paleosols show several periods of sedimentation. Mid-Holocene dates are probably associated with climate change; more recent periods of erosion are correlated with major changes in pre-Hispanic land use (primarily deforestation). Highland erosion led to profound geomorphic and archaeological changes along the lower Río Verde valley near the Pacific Ocean. A network of abandoned stream channels, with little surface expression, was revealed during extensive soil and sediment auguring. Radiocarbon dating of organic-rich channel sediments associated with archaeological sites provided the means to develop a model of changes in floodplain geomorphology. Channels changed both position and form as the sediment load increased due to changing land use in the highland portion of the drainage basin. Increased sediment load also formed bay barrier islands and enclosed previously open bays, creating new food-rich environments. These environmental changes then influenced demography and settlement patterns along the Lower Río Verde and adjacent coastal areas over the last few thousand years. Current farming practices, using terracing, reforestation, and check dams, are designed to reduce and stop erosion.

### Field Trip Report – North Rim of the Grand Canyon – by Richard Robinson



Six SJBAS members attended the field trip Sept 7

thru Sept 10, to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, which went off with a few minor adjustments. We extended the trip several days to see as much as we could as a reward for the long driving distances. It was great considering the weather bureau had

predicted heavy rains and flash floods thru-out the region which may have kept others away. Oh well! Although we saw thick dark clouds, which was a blessing in what had been expected to be above avg. temps, we had very little rain and comfortable hiking temps. Yea, we even had showers at the campground!

We saw red, black, white, yellow, olive green, and blue pictographs and intriguing style "zip" petroglyphs which represented different groups. Basket Makers referred to as Virgin Anasazi from 100 BC to 500 AD, Ancestral Hopi and others used the canyons and canyon walls to leave their marks.



Most of the visitor centers visited will not tell you anything about the sites and complying with the request to make the report short I will close by saying a picture is worth 1,000 words.



### Field Trip Report – Horseshoe Canyon and Capitol Reef – by Lyle Hancock

In spite of a marginal weather forecast, nine intrepid SJBAS members joined forces to travel to the remote Horseshoe Canyon unit of Canyonlands National Park and to rock art and historical sites in and near Capitol Reef National Park. After a rainy evening at the Horseshoe Canyon dispersed campsite, the group had clear skies for the hike into Horseshoe Canyon to see world famous Barrier Canyon pictograph and petroglyph panels. The group then traveled to Capitol Reef to camp in the secluded group campsite at Fruita Campground. The following day they visited the

Cove site near Torrey where they viewed many Fremont images, including especially prominent pictographs that looked like huge headless elk. They returned to Capitol Reef to hike into Capitol Gorge and see the pioneer access route into the Fruita settlement, view pioneer names carved into the rock walls, and view a variety of petroglyphs. An additional hike took the group to a site called the Tanks, huge water-filled basins in a side canyon that served as a water source for indigenous people and pioneers. The group



finished the day with a delicious gourmet dinner at Café Diablo in Torrey. The last day included visits to historical sites in the park, including the Gifford House, the one-room Fruita schoolhouse, the Behunin cabin, and a popular rock art panel along the Fremont River.



## Upcoming Field Trips

Our 2014 Trip Schedule is available on our website at [www.sjbas.org/Trips.htm](http://www.sjbas.org/Trips.htm). Please check the website schedule periodically to check for trip updates and date changes, and contact the trip leaders directly by phone or email for trip details and to sign up.

<p><b>October 20 - 22</b></p>	<p><b><u>Cedar Mesa, Utah</u></b></p> <p>During this three-day, car-camping trip we will hike into a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. The hiking will be moderately difficult with some off-trail hiking required. Hikes may be up to five miles long. High-clearance, 4-WD vehicles will be necessary, but carpooling can be arranged. The trip participation limit is 12. <a href="#">The trip is full, but you can add your name to the waiting list.</a></p> <p>Trip Leaders: Barb and Lyle Hancock - 970-764-4531 <a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a></p>
<p><b>October 24 - 26</b></p>	<p><b><u>Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument in New Mexico</u></b></p> <p><b>TRIP CANCELLED</b> During this three-day motel trip, we will visit the ruins of three mission churches at Quarai, Abó, and Gran Quivira and the partially excavated Gran Quivira pueblo. What remains today of the Salinas Pueblo Missions are austere yet beautiful reminders of the 17th century contact between Pueblo Indians and Spanish Colonials. We will also visit Petroglyph National Monument near Albuquerque. The trip participation limit is 20.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Marion and Andy Simon - 970-749-2927 <a href="mailto:mandyandarion@gmail.com">mandyandarion@gmail.com</a></p>

## Obituary for Ruth Shields

[RuthShieldsObituary.pdf](#)

## Hisatsinom Chapter October Newsletter

[HisatsinomNewsletter-October2014.pdf](#)

## CAS Quarterly Board Minutes – July 2014

[CAS-QTR-BOARD-MINUTES-July\\_2014.pdf](#)

## CAS Newsletter – the Surveyor – Summer 2014

<http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/PUBLICATIONS/Newsletters/TheSurveyor-2014Summer.pdf>

## Center of Southwest Studies – Fort Lewis College – Fall Schedule

<http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/NewsEvents.aspx>

## CAS Denver Chapter – August Bulletin

[CAS-DenverBulletin-August.pdf](#)

## SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	<a href="mailto:jsheftel@mbssllp.com">jsheftel@mbssllp.com</a>
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	<a href="mailto:fmason@frontier.net">fmason@frontier.net</a>
Vice President	Peggy Morris	<a href="mailto:sipapu_72@q.com">sipapu_72@q.com</a>
Vice President Field Trip Program	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a>
Secretary	Diane Skinner	<a href="mailto:skinnerkatz@durango.net">skinnerkatz@durango.net</a>
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	<a href="mailto:mark@virtbiz.com">mark@virtbiz.com</a>
CAS Representative	Terri Hoff	<a href="mailto:tthoff@hotmail.com">tthoff@hotmail.com</a>
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	<a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>

## Other Positions

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

## San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Annual Membership Renewal

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category (check one)** "with SWL" means the CAS Southwestern Lore journal will be mailed to you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual (with SWL)	SJBAS \$15.00 & CAS \$16.00 =	\$31.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual (no SWL)	SJBAS \$15.00 & CAS \$ 8.00 =	\$23.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (with SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 & CAS \$20.00 =	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (no SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 & CAS \$10.00 =	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student (no SWL)	=	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to John W. Sanders Internship Fund	=	

**Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year.** Make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with this application form to our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.** Donations to the John W. Sanders Internship Fund may be included with your dues payment.

**New members** must complete the full SJBAS application, <http://www.sjbas.org/Application.pdf>, including Liability Waiver and Site Etiquette forms.