

THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



AUGUST 2008

The next meeting of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society, our chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, will be on Thursday, August 14th, commencing at 7:00 PM, and will be held in the Lyceum of Fort Lewis College's Center of Southwest Studies. The gathering will feature a talk by Mona Charles, of the college's Anthropology Department, who will tell us about her work at "Old Fort Lewis". As most of you know, the original Fort Lewis was a military post of the 1880's, first established near Pagosa Springs and later moved to what is now the town of Hesperus during a period of intermittent friction between Indians and the local mining and ranching communities. After the abandonment of the post in the 1890's, the buildings were used as an Indian school; in subsequent years the property became a two-year state college and an agricultural experiment station, and the college was eventually moved to the mesa above Durango and became the four-year college of today. Mona Charles, who many of our members first met when she and her students were conducting an archaeological excavation of the Darkmold Basketmaker Site near Trimble Springs in the Animas Valley, is now making a survey of the historic military base; we'll be glad to hear her report regarding this recent project.

We have two chapter outings scheduled for this month, the first of which will be a day trip to Beaver Meadows, in the Piedra River area east of Bayfield,, where trip leader Mary Ann Hiller will show us a variety of aspen bark inscriptions made by former-day Basque and other sheepherders; these carvings illuminate the lives, times and preoccupations of those wandering shepherds of the past century. This trip is planned, weather permitting, for Saturday, August 16th, with a departure from Durango's Santa Rita Park at 8:15 AM; no particularly strenuous hiking is anticipated,, and participants should bring a sack lunch and water. Mary Ann will tell us more about the plans for this trip, and what we expect to see and do, at our August meeting, when the usual sign-up sheet will be available, or you may call her (970-259-5170) for further details and about adding your name to the trip roster.

Our chapter's second trip of this month is scheduled for August 21st and 22nd, and will focus on the examination of historic mining sites and remains in and near Summitville and Creede, Colorado. Our group will meet and depart from Santa Rita Park at 8:00 AM Thursday, travel over Wolf Creek Pass and proceed by way of Route 380 to Summitville for a brown bag lunch. Summitville was a gold mining camp lying at an elevation of 11,480 feet that thrived from 1870 to 1900, and many of its original buildings still stand; the community was temporarily rejuvenated when open pit gold mining using cyanide leaching was started in 1984, but this ceased in 1991 after problems with fish kills on the Alamosa River occurred. Following the Summitville visit our group will

drive to Creede, the community which boomed in 1889-1893 after the discovery of veins of silver ore; the local citizenry of that era included the notorious Soapy Smith, Calamity Jane, Bat Masterson, Bob Ford and other desperadoes and raunchy characters. After exploring Creede there should be time to visit the local historical museum and, that evening, some of our gang may wish to attend the Creede Repertory Theater, which will feature "Quilters", a musical presentation. On Friday morning our people will gather at the Creede Underground Mining Museum at 10:00 o'clock for a one-hour guided tour; the several-hour Bachelor Historic Tour by automobile will follow, with stops at old mines and town sites, as well as the Creede Cemetery. Trip leader Bruce Howard suggests that, although ordinary vehicles will be suitable for this outing, 4WD may be preferable for a part of our trip; and, as-always, we'll carpool whenever possible. As regards overnight accommodations, available lodgings include motels, bed and breakfasts, RV parks and campgrounds in the area; the Allington Inn (formerly the Comfort Inn) in South Fork (telephone 719-873-508.6) is suggested and reservations should be made well in advance. We'll hear more about the plans, for this annual visit to the mining country at our August meeting, or you can contact Bruce (970-385-4539 or brucehoward@frontier.net) for additional details.

Fifteen of our members went on our chapter's mid-July excursion, a tour of Spring Creek Valley and its adjacent ridges near Bayfield. San Juan Public Lands Archaeologist Bruce Bourcy, assisted by Bonnie Hildebrand, perhaps our chapter's most savvy avocationalist, took the group to a number of Pueblo I sites, jacal structures which appeared to have been burned and which were surrounded by scatters of diagnostic neck-banded pottery sherds. This fine trip was organized by Gail and Marlo Schulz - thanks, you two, for arranging this visit to a part of Colorado that many of us have never seen before!

The next of the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) classes in the Durango area is scheduled for September 5th through 7th, and will be the basic "Introduction to Archaeology" module. The instructor will be Kevin Black, Assistant State Archaeologist, and the classes will be held in the Lyceum of Fort Lewis College's Center of Southwest Studies. If you're a new comer to our organization and know nothing about the PAAC thing, we wish to point out that this is an educational program sponsored by the Colorado State Archaeologist and the Colorado Archaeological Society; its objective is to provide those people who are interested in archaeology but who have no formal training in the subject with a knowledge of the fundamental principles and procedures used in the study of prehistory at a nominal cost. If you'd like to know more about PAAC, and perhaps enroll as a student, you can contact Peggy Morris at 382-8688(sipapu72@q.com), our chapter's PAAC Coordinator.

The 2008 Annual Pecos Conference, as was announced in our previous issue of our newsletter, will be held in Flagstaff in early August. According to Conference Chairman David "Major highlights of this year's Pecos Conference front row seat to knowledge that is literally earth-discovery of a massive comet impact 12,800 years ago might have ended the Clovis period, melted the shield, sparked epic forest fires, brought an end to Pleistocene megafauna, and ushered in the cold pluvial of the Younger-Dryas. Evidence now seems irrefutable was indeed a major comet impact in North America. The "Black Mat" of Clovis times now is known to contain particles that can only be explained by extraterrestrial origin. Now comes the hard part: what does all this mean, for both our understanding of specific events at the close of the Pleistocene, and our general theories of climatic and cultural change? What are the implications for archaeology (including Southwestern archaeology)? We will have on hand a panel of experts who made this remarkable discovery to present the results of their research and engage our questions. A live presentation of research results will take place on Friday night, followed by a panel discussion on Saturday morning. Pecos participants will be encouraged to ask questions of our panelists in both sessions".

"The second major highlight is a badly-needed synthesis of new research on the origins of agriculture in the Southwest. Recent discoveries... have accumulated faster than our ability to absorb and synthesize them. Sponsored by the Museum of Northern Arizona and Desert Archaeology, a group of experts will convene for an advanced seminar at Colton House just prior to the Pecos Conference. Their discoveries and theories will then be presented in a Friday morning plenary session on early Southwestern agriculture. In the spirit of the original Pecos Conference, this session hopes to present a new synthesis of the origins of agriculture in both the northern and southern reaches of the Southwest, something that so far is unprecedented in Southwest archaeology. At a minimum, this session promises to highlight recent advances in our understanding of the timing and nature of the transition to agriculture across the Southwest, and to identify major areas of contention and future research."

"In addition, we will highlight the 50th anniversary of the Glen Canyon Project and recognize the contributions of David Breternitz to the research programs and development of the Museum of Northern Arizona. Professional workshops will also be presented on state of the art archaeological mapping and imaging, legal ethical, and procedural dilemmas in CRM, and new advances in the identification and dating of ceramics. There will also be a presentation of films on archaeology, including vintage films of archaeological expeditions of the 1930's, 1950's and 1960's. We will also screen a film created as part of the "Hopi Foot prints" project, designed to teach Hopi history', culture and language to Hopi youth through collaborations between Hopi elders, teachers, and archaeologists"

These annual Pecos Conferences are always exciting and stimulating affairs, of great interest to both professional and avocational archaeologists, and the above comments by Dr Wilcox suggest that the 2008 gathering should be of more than usual interest. Perhaps someone in our chapter might volunteer to arrange carpooling to Flagstaff?

Greetings from the Flagstaff Pecos Conference



Wilcox, include a shaking: that just Canadian ice the conditions that there

2008 Pecos Conference

August 7-10
Flagstaff, AZ

Registration is OPEN

<http://snipurl.com/1t5aa>

or call MNA

at 928-774-5211, ext 203

(Not sure about text that should be here)... abundant Anasazi remains that are scattered throughout the Four Corners region. And yet, to be truthful, the ruins and rock art that we see on our excursions aren't really as impressive as we tend to believe — neither Pueblo Bonito nor Cliff Palace, for example, show the grace and architectural sophistication of the Parthenon or the ruined cities of the Inca and Maya and, as regards graphic art, the petroglyphs and pictographs that we find intriguing are mere scribes when compared with the much older paintings found in the caves of France or Spain. And yet we experience a distinct thrill when, during a hike through a remote canyon of the Southwest, we discover a tiny cliff dwelling tucked away in a hidden alcove, or stumble upon carved stick figures or painted hand prints on a sandstone wall! Your Moki Messenger editor is unable to provide reasonable explanation for the powerful appeal of such local antiquities, but perhaps the following suggestion by Gary Topping, found in his book "Glen Canyon and the San Juan Country" (University of Idaho Press, 1997) may shed some light upon this matter.

The world has many beautiful places, and although the canyon country of the Colorado Plateau offers brilliant colors, dramatic topography, and scenic attractions to rival anything on the planet, perhaps its most enduring appeal to casual tourists as well as seasoned explorers has been the ubiquitous presence of Anasazi remains. The Spanish were too preoccupied with their quest for the wealth of the supposed Seven Cities of Cibola or with the search for converts or, more darkly, with their quest for slaves, to comment at much length on the Anasazi sites they encountered. But to the Americans, from the soldiers under Colonel Washington who first saw Chaco Canyon in 1849, to the government surveys of the 1870s, to backpackers over one hundred years later, the Anasazis have exerted an undiminished appeal.

Why? For scientists, the opportunity to study the remains of a primitive culture that occupied the canyon country for over a millennium offers obvious potential for adding to the story of the development of mankind. But why have the Anasazis captivated the rest of us

so completely, from the casual hiker poking around in a cliff house and pondering a pictograph, to the collectors who provide a consistent and lucrative market for the thieveries of pothunting vandals? It is a problem for the psychologist rather than the historian, but perhaps Nathaniel Hawthorne pointed toward its solution in the preface to *The House of Seven Gables*, when he observed that America is "a country where there is no shadow, no antiquity, no mystery, no picturesque and gloomy wrong, nor anything but a commonplace prosperity, in broad and simple daylight." Can it be that the Anasazis provide those shadows, that antiquity, those mysteries for which we hunger?

Frankly, after rereading the above quotation, your editor is not convinced that Mr. Hawthorne has a particularly persuasive explanation for the attraction of Anasazi relics and remains. But what the hell — can any of you readers come up with a better reason as to why we'll hike for miles and miles through the sagebrush and prickly pear just to see a few tumbledown walls and scratches on the rocks?

Project

Project



Background

The Southwest partners in early Southwest Colorado tourism has grown in and historic sites. archaeological sites visitation practices that stem from lack of knowledge about proper visitation etiquette.

Colorado Cultural Site Stewardship Program was established by SJMA and federal 2000 in response to an identified need to address cultural resource preservation. is Internationally recognized for its remarkable cultural resources. Cultural the last five years, and the impact of visitation compromises fragile prehistoric Archaeological monitoring from CSSP Indicates that over 50% of all Impacts on are human-caused and that about 95% of these are based on inappropriate

While visitation to these sites is important to the cultural tourism of our region, we must remember that they are important to both local people and Native Americans that have long historical and cultural ties to our area. At the alarming pace of the loss of these resources, we must be proactive now to preserve them for future generations.

Goals of the CSSP:

1. Train a cadre of site stewards to monitor the condition of important and irreplaceable cultural resources.
2. Continue and expand community education concerning the importance and protection of cultural resources.
3. Establish and maintain partnerships with other cultural organizations to enhance preservation efforts.

To date, over 175 prospective stewards have attended training workshops; 100 stewards currently monitor 110 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. Volunteers logged over 2,500 hours in 2007 and over 10,000 hours since the beginning of the program.

The Family Stewardship Project

The Family Stewardship Project is modeled on SJMA's award-winning site stewardship program, it is the first stewardship program to include youth and their parents using the procedures established in the CSSP. The purpose of the project is three-fold.

1. Youth will train along with parent(s) or adult mentor to become site stewards. Families would learn about aspects of archaeology and history together in a mutual learning environment. Together, the families would learn the procedures and protocols of monitoring important sites that are significant to our area's history. Hiking or walking to your adopted site can provide interesting and meaningful activity for your family.
2. Site monitoring will help to develop an appreciation for the irreplaceable natural, cultural, and historic resources that has shaped our corner of the state. Education will provide understanding of the diverse histories of ethnic groups that have contributed to the story of our area.
3. This program will help to train the next generation of preservationists, important cultural resources are disappearing at an alarming rate due to increases in public interest and inappropriate visitation. You and your family can make a difference. Young people trained today will be the leaders in protecting archaeological sites in future generations.

How Can You Become Involved?

Join the team of other families interested in preserving our area's unique resources.

For more information on how your family can become stewards of these irreplaceable resources, contact

Diane McBride

Project Coordinator

(970)560-1643

CALL for PAPERS

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Colorado Archaeological Society



SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2008



The Colorado Archaeological Society is seeking presenters for its 2008 Annual Meeting to be held September 27-28, in Montrose, Colorado. Paper and poster sessions will be held on Saturday, September 27th. Paper presentations are limited to 20 minutes. Posters will be displayed all day.

Professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and students are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Please send your paper/poster title, author(s), background information on yourself (-couple of sentences), abstract (-100-200 words), and audio-visual needs to Kris Holien via email or snail mail by September 5th.

Email: Mb9iM1l@§2L£2ni

Snail mail: Kris Holien

Re: CAS Annual Meeting 1439 Bluebell
Drive EstesPark, CO 80517

The 2008 Summer Presentation Series at Aztec Ruins National Monument will feature five programs, all of archaeological interest, this month. The first of these will be "An Intimate Early Evening Tour of the Aztec West Ruin by a Park Ranger" on Thursday, August 7th, commencing at 7:00 o'clock. This will be followed on Saturday, August 9th, by a talk by Phillip and Judy Tuwaletstiwa, of Hopi, concerning "Chaco: An Intellectual Phenomenon". On Thursday, August 14th, Dr Laurie Webster, of the University of Arizona (and a former SJBAS member), will tell us about "Aztec's Place in the Pueblo World: Textiles, Basketry and Wood". On Thursday, August 21st, National Park Service archaeologists Aron Adams and Shanna Diedrichs will give a program concerning "Preserving the Ancestral Pueblo Future: Stabilization Challenges at the Aztec West Ruin". And on Thursday, August 28th, National Park Service historian George Herring will discuss "Aztec Ruins: How the Ruins and City got the name Aztec". All of the above-mentioned events will be at Aztec National Monument, at 7:00 PM, and admission is free. We hope that a contingent from the Durango area can attend, and can carpool. You can call 505-334-6174 (Extension 230) for further information about the Presentation Series, and you might call Rich Robinson (970-259-1943) if you wish to carpool.

CORRECTION: Sometimes (quite often, actually) your editor slips up, and his most recent slippage was in the July issue of the Moki Messenger, when he implied that Irene Wanner was the sole arranger of our recent Chaco Canyon excursion. Irene was involved with planning this solstice outing, but we should also have pointed out that Judith Isaacs was also a trip organizer. So – we wish to thank both of these loyal Jemez members for their good work!

Looking ahead: It's quite a long time until Christmas, but Lyle Hancock is already making plans for a Powerpoint presentation to enliven our holiday party. He would appreciate it if each of our 2008 field trip leaders, or their helpers, would provide him with several digital photos showing highlights of their trips. You may contact Lyle at lylehancock@bresnan.net.