

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **June 3, 2011**

Destination: **Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

Leaders: **Richard Robinson** Number of Participants: **14**

As fourteen members of the SJBAS made a left turn onto road Montezuma County Road K on June 3, 2011, they were greeted with an eye full of the beautiful Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (CCAC). Sleeping Ute Mountain is visible from this location for those interested! During the next several hours we obtained a CCAC organizational overview and its impact on the archaeology of the Four Corners. Mark Varien, Vice President of Programs, is an excellent orator with endless knowledge about the population of the people in the Mesa Verde region from about 900 to 1300 AD. This knowledge had a lasting impact on our understanding about this area and the people who lived here. He also talked about the abandonment of the area. He gave us a birds' eye view of the CCAC's future project of learning about the Basket Maker Communities Project.

After lunch we enjoyed a tasty bite made by one our Durango's own residents Jim Martin the CCAC Chef. We then toured Crow Canyon's laboratory and curation room. This room had many excellent examples of the areas' potters' work. During this time we were given an in depth view and understanding of the importance of the areas' pottery by Fumi Arakawa, a lithics technology analyst. Arakawa also discussed how pottery can be used to date the occupation of a site from which it is found.

Next we traveled to a new site that CCAC is working on near Goodman Point and met Grant Coffey to see how his work in a trench could be interpreted to learn about a kiva that was there. As the day concluded we did a quick walk through the great kiva at Goodman Point.

Every one of us left with a better understanding about Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, how its 25 years of important research is achieved, their role in education, their work to be a good neighbor, and their role in understanding the people who lived in the area and why these people left. Hopefully Mark Varian will be able to give a talk at one of our meetings in the future.

- Prepared by Rich Robinson

Participants: Linda and Richard Robinson, Elsa and Lee Horowitz, Letha and Bill Cagle, Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller, Jim Shadell, Rae and Rick Moeller, Jerri Lincoln, Margo and Ernie Cotton