

# SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **April 14, 2012**

Destination: **Navajo Pueblitos**

Leader: **Richard Robinson**

Number of Participants: **8**

There were weather predictions of a 60 percent chance of bad weather, with 1 to 2 feet of snow predicted for the San Juan Mountains. Despite these forecast conditions, eight SJBAS members met with David Eck, New Mexico State Lands Archaeologist, in Bloomfield, NM with sunshine as the wind speed picked up. We made it to both the Three Corn and Old Fort Pueblitos without a hitch.

Three Corn Pueblito is a large site situated on top of a detached sandstone massif. Three stick hogans were reported at the site and ten ground-floor rooms in two room blocks with an additional two second story rooms. The site was occupied around 1732, but tree ring dates give a range of time but are difficult to read due to the building materials. The base also had petroglyphs of three corn plants of which one required a good imagination but were unique in their form, possibly indicating the site had a special significance beyond its view and line of sight signaling capabilities. After a long discussion about the relationship between the Utes and Navajos and watching the dark clouds blowing in, we decided to go to the Old Fort before lunch.

The Old Fort Pueblito is also a large site surrounded by a defensive wall with controlled entrances. This site has eight stick hogans, with one still standing, and twelve ground-floor rooms forming two room blocks and at least four second story rooms. The site was occupied around 1730, but is one of the largest of the Gobernador Phase and was unique in having masonry-lined tunnel entrances to the hogans, covered entries, and the outer defensive wall.

The wind picked up and the snow fell horizontally so we decided to have lunch in Bloomfield at an indoor establishment. There we had a long comfortable conversation around the table. We are very lucky to have David Eck accompany us on these trips. He is very knowledgeable and answers our questions on a personal level taking time with everyone. Remember that you must have a state permit to visit these sites.

- Prepared by Rich Robinson

Participants: Rich Robinson, Kathleen and Jim Shadell, Jill and Bill Tripp, Marion and Andy Simon, Brigitte Stehlik