

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **September 13, 2013**

Destination: **Albert Porter Pueblo**

Leader: **Richard Robinson**

Number of Participants: **10**

The bad luck associated with Friday the 13th was anything but for the ten members of the SJBAS who attended the rescheduled field trip to the Albert Porter Pueblo. Despite the rains the day before the roads to this site were high and dry but the colors and smells of a fresh rain put the group in a great mood. This site is owned by the Archaeological Conservancy so that a permit had to be obtained to visit the site! What made this trip so special was that Dr. Susan Ryan of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center was there to tell us and her five students about her many years there as the Project Director for work from 2001 to 2004. She even had photographs to illustrate features she was referring to. We are fortunate that this site located on a 11.6-acre preserve was donated to the Archaeological Conservancy by the Porter Family in 1988 to preserve its heritage.

This site with good views in all directions of the surrounding area, two springs and the Woods Canyon was ideal for being inhabited from BM III (AD 500 to 750) thru P III (AD 900 – 1150). The Porter Pueblo had its largest occupation during P II (AD 900-1150). As the population of the surrounding sites, Woods Canyon, the Bass Site Complex and others nearby, fluctuated in 1250 AD as did the Albert Pueblo but in the reverse direction. As the Bass Site and Woods Canyon increased in population the Porter site decreased. However, the Porter site had more public architecture, such as a Chaco Great House and a Tower Kiva. These population fluctuations support the idea of the Porter Site being a community center surrounded by supporting facilities and population. Even the Lowery site was nearby. This site has both P I and P II pottery but less than 1% Chacoan pottery. The 30-room site also had 21 kiva depressions but seemed larger. Susan Ryan has extensive knowledge about this site and it is difficult to repeat all that we learned in our two-hour visit. The appreciation and knowledge about this site was expanded greatly for our group thanks to Susan.

We choose to eat our sack lunches at the Lowery Pueblo where there are picnic tables and restroom facilities, and we visited that site while there. It was particularly fitting after seeing the Porter Pueblo. We also owe special thanks to Tom Hoff, who was going to escort us to the Lancaster site. He went out there to do a dry run (no pun intended) to determine the pass ability of the road. He met us on our way to the Lowery Pueblo and after viewing his mud encased jeep we knew that the road was not possible. Each of us owe him a car wash. Thanks Tom.

- Prepared by: Rich Robinson