

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **March 31 – April 2, 2016** Destination: **Galisteo Basin**

Leader: **Janice Sheftel** Number of Participants: **20**

Twenty SJBAS members visited Galisteo Basin outside Santa Fe on March 31 - April 2, 2016. On March 31, with slight difficulty since there turned out to be two Walmart stores in Santa Fe, the group met to carpool at the Walmart closest to I-25 to visit San Marcos Pueblo, with about 2,000 rooms, owned by the Archaeological Conservancy (AC). Gary Capshaw, the site steward, who lives literally a stone's throw from the site led the group around the site, including the convento, which trip participant Penny Gomez had helped to excavate.

The Pueblo is located at an elevation of about 6,000 feet on the north bank of the San Marcos arroyo, an intermittent tributary of Galisteo Creek. Pottery found on the surface of the site indicates occupation by the early 1300's, with probable occupation to the late 1600's. The Pueblo was active during the Pueblo revolt of 1680, with the settlement abandoned after that time. The presence of reliable springs at the SW corner of the Pueblo and the site's proximity to the turquoise and lead deposits in the Cerrillos Hills were factors in the success of the Pueblo.

Covering about 60 acres, the Pueblo has 22 room blocks which enclose eight to ten plazas. At the NW corner are the remains of the Spanish convento built in the early 1630's. San Marcos is one of only two mission villages in the Galisteo Basin (more... <http://galisteo.nmarchaeology.org/sites/pueblo-san-marcos.html>).

On Friday, April 1, the group met at the El Dorado subdivision Agora store to carpool to the San Cristobal Ranch, an 81,000 acre ranch, privately owned by the Singleton family. We were privileged to have the opportunity to visit this private property, led by Chuck Hannaford, Education Director New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies. SJBAS had visited this site over twenty years ago, before it was purchased by the Singleton family. In the morning, the group visited the extraordinary rock art on the ranch with superb petroglyphs of quetzcoatl-type figures (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quetzalcoatl>) and major corn sites.

In the afternoon, the group visited the ruins of San Cristobal Pueblo, also with approximately 2000 rooms. At neither San Cristobal nor San Marcos were all the rooms occupied at one time. San Cristobal Pueblo contained 8-9 room blocks, several stories in height, organized around five ceremonial plazas. It is estimated that by 1400 CE, the Pueblo, built principally of stone, unlike the mostly adobe San Marcos Pueblo, was home to 500-1,000 people. The San Cristobal Pueblo is located by a huge year-round spring. The hardest members of the group ended the San Cristobal visit by hiking to a world view rock-in shrine.

On Saturday, April 2, the SJBAS field trippers visited Arroyo Hondo Pueblo, also an AC site, led by site steward Jay Shapiro. Jay is so enthusiastic about sharing the site that he led our group even though it was his birthday. The site is five miles SE of Santa Fe. About 1300 CE Arroyo Hondo began as a 100-room Pueblo near a spring and along the lip of a deep canyon. It grew rapidly over the next decades to about 1,000 rooms and ten plazas, creating a huge fortified settlement by 1330 CE. Because of drought, the site was abandoned from the 1330's to about the 1370's, when a smaller 200 room settlement was built on top of the original site. When precipitation again declined soon after 1410, Arroyo Hondo's second occupation came to an end following a major fire caused by outside raiders, and the site was never reoccupied.



Although the site has been visited by numerous groups, Penny Gomez found a beautiful point and Nancy Leach spotted a shell amulet with a hole drilled in it.

Prepared by: Janice Sheftel

Participants: