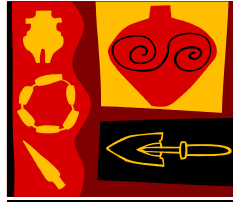


MOKI MESSENGER
**Newsletter of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society Chapter
of the Colorado Archaeological Society**
August 2012



A Note from Your Editors

Our usual, wonderful “Moki Maven” (aka Beverly Dittmer) is away in London to watch her granddaughter swim in the Olympics, so we have put this Moki out in her absence. We apologize for the format, and assure you Beverly will be back on the job next month!

SJBAS Monthly Meeting: **August 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Cen. for SW Studies Lyceum, Fort Lewis College. Wayne Lorenz of Wright Water Engineers, Inc. will speak on Ancient Roman Water Systems.** Learn about the skills and high standard of care that gave Roman engineers renown and enabled some Roman public works to last 2,000 years. These projects were testaments to the engineering and surveying expertise of the Romans. Wayne has spent the last 12 years researching ancient Roman water systems and will present his research findings on two specific sites, Barbegal Mill, Aqueduct in South France, and Aqua Augusta Aqueduct, also known as the Serino Aqueduct and Water Distribution, Pompeii, Italy. Wayne, President of Wright Water Engineers, Inc., is also the Director of Roman Aqueduct Studies for the Wright Paleohydrological Institute and has supervised nine field research visits to France and Italy. He has published the results of this research in *Current World Archaeology*, *Journal of American Water Works Association*, *American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Journal of Irrigation and Drainage*, *ASCE Civil Engineering Magazine*, and *American Water Resources Association Impact Magazine*.

Welcome to New SJBAS Members: Starting this month, the Moki will welcome new members. This month we are introducing Lori Norton, and Marie and Jim Hirschberger.

Hisatsinom Chapter Speakers: Cortez Cultural Center, 6:30 p.m.; **August 7**, Paul Reed. At the Hisatsinom June meeting, Jonathan Till, archaeologist with Abajo Archaeology in Bluff, UT, discussed findings of his project on White Mesa, a 60-acre uranium processing facility between Bluff and Blanding, UT, with the Denison Mine Mills. 231 sites were originally documented by the State of UT in the 1970s and 1980s. Jonathan's crew added 27 sites to the original survey. Interesting finds included: 70 firepits; a BM III site excavated by Abajo in the early 1980s. This time they excavated the midden, including 170 azurite balls from the Lisbon Valley south of Moab; a dearth of BM II sites; a site dating to mid-PII (AD 1055-1078) without the typical Prudden-unit footprint; gaming pieces made of bone; a plethora of Brushy Basin Chert in PII sites compared to the Basketmaker sites despite the fact that its source was very close; and gizzard stones.

SJBAS Field Trips: **Aug 18 or 19**, Champagne Springs, near Dove Creek, with 400 rooms and 100 kivas, while excavation is ongoing. Those who sign up may vote on date. It can be very busy with 20+ people moving around, tapes and levels for measuring finds, sifting screens, and bags for the collections, notebooks and photographers. Because of site size, it will take time to gather all needed information.

Some rooms had a large number of animal bones -- turkeys, dogs, and bear. Contact Mary Ann Hiller at 970-259-5170. Hats, sunscreen, cold drinks and sack lunch needed.

Sept 22-23, Dinetah Pueblitos and Petroglyphs, 2-day trip, offered as a B&B trip with two beds/room at the School House, to visit the School House and Fire Place pueblitos, an equinox petroglyph, and other features in the area. Those wishing a day trip may participate in some activities. (TL: Jerry Lincoln, jkinindia@gmail.com).

Sept 26, La Plata Canyon, Day trip to Parrot City, county seat of La Plata County from 1876 to 1881. Learn about early history of SW CO from John Sanders, 259-0841.

Oct 3-5, Cedar Mesa, 3-day car camping trip to hike sites in White Canyon and on Cedar Mesa. Hikes will be several miles long and moderately difficult, with some exposure on sandstone ridges. High-clearance 4WD vehicles required. Limit: 12. (TL: Barb & Lyle Hancock, 764-4531, lylehancock@bresnan.et).

Oct 13, Historic Ranches in Largo Canyon, "Wild, Woolly and Wonderful: The Upper Landscape of Upper Largo Canyon," day trip, with Jim, BLM archaeologist. Limit: 20. (TL: Rhonda Raffo & Jim Mueller, 259-8870, rhondaandjim@msn.com).

Oct 25-28, Winslow Area/Hopi Mesa. 4-day motel trip to visit sites/ petroglyphs. Hopi guide on Black Mesa will provide unique cultural opportunities. Visit Homolovi State and Petrified Forest National Parks. Limit: 20. (TL: Mary Ann Hiller, 259-5170, johnhilldurco@durango.net).

Nov 11-13, Jemez Mountains, 3-day motel/car camping trip to attend San Diego Feast Day at Jemez Pueblo, with food and dances. Visit sites and petroglyphs on east side of Jemez River. Limit: 20. (TL: Janice and Brooks Taylor, durangofolk@frontier.net.)

Hisatsinom Chapter:For information, call Jane Williams, trip coordinator, 565-8867, jswill@frontier.net.

Lamb Spring Archeology Tour, Aug. 4, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m., sponsored by Douglas Cnty, Archeology Conservancy and Lamb Spring Arch. Board, includes background video and site walking tour. Reservations required: 303-660-7460.

Dinosaur Dig Adventure, Sept. 11-13: Rocky Mountain PBS and the Museum of West. CO's three-day "Tracks and Bones Expedition," is an introduction to geology, paleontology and adventure. Day 1: Visit canyon country to see dinosaur tracks; Day 2: Spend a day assisting paleontologists in digging at a quarry famous for yielding many of the area's important fossils; Day 3: Tour geology of the area on raft trip on CO River through Ruby and Horsethief Canyons. Cost: \$699/person. Includes transportation from Dinosaur Journey Museum, lunches, one dinner, raft trip, tours and instruction. Appropriate for ages 5 and older, but children must be accompanied by participating adult. Tickets and more info: 1-888-488-DINO. Net proceeds will be donated to RMPBS.

SJBAS Field Trip Reports, (by Richard Robinson) On **July 11, 2012** eight SJBAS members met Rudy Davison at the Silverton Visitor center for a trip over Cinnamon Pass to Carson City. Rudy has a radio receiver/mike system allowing for communication along the way. We also made stops for explanation about mines, geology and flowers, visiting Burrows Park and Sherman town sites as well and the Tabasco mine and mill which operated around 1901 – 1904. The area was rich in mining activity and just happens to be scenic as well. Sherman town site was a convenient way station for traffic between Animas Forks and Lake City. A 150 ft. dam collapsed in 1900 and removed most of Sherman. Burrow Park town was a mining camp around 1877 near Tellurium, Whitecross, and Sterling. Peoples' hopes were high, both in altitude and dream wise, but few aspirations ever materialized. The group made it up a rough road to Carson City another active mining town, with Carson #1 being built in 1881 after the discovery of Silver over the divide, to be followed by Carson # 2 on the N side of the continental divide where gold was the item of interest in 1896. The group walked through a large motel/boarding house with many outside entrances. The walls were covered with the names and initials of recent visitors who left their marks to

the disgust of the group. Four spent the night camping and took Engineer Pass back to Animas Forks the next day, with only one flat tire. The break allowed for lunch and a rest stop. It was a long trip to see some unique sites and scenery. And Rudy, as always, added something special that no one else can provide. On **June 21**, six members of the SJBAS and two Hisatsinon members attended the early morning Summer Solstice program at the Salmon Ruins in Bloomfield NM. By using cut outs and photos from the early 1900's, the sun patterns on grinding stones in a corner of a room that would have occurred many, many years ago were recreated. A large crowd attended this program which was open to the public. The group rotated allowing each person several views of the shadow and light patterns as the sun rose. Larry Baker and his Archaeo-Astronomer volunteer presented additional Information about the Archaeo-Astronomical significance of the site.

PAAC Schedule: <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>. **Aug. 11**, Denver, Site Forms Wkshp;
Sept 6, Denver, Rock Art Studies (sess. 1 of 7);
Sept. 8-9, Pueblo, Field & Lab Photography;
Sept. 12, Denver, Site Forms Wkshp;
Sept. 13 & 20, Denver, Rock Art Studies (sess. 2 & 3);
Sept. 21-24, Montrose, Prehistoric Lithics Description & Analysis;
Sept. 27, Denver, Rock Art Studies (sess. 4);
Oct. 4, Denver, Rock Art Studies (sess. 5);
Oct. 11 & 18, Denver, Rock Art Studies (end - sess. 7 & 8); **Oct. 20-21**, Alamosa, Intro to Lab Techniques;
Oct. 24 & 30, Boulder, Hist. Arch. (sess. 1, 2 of 7);
Nov. 2-5, Dolores, Basic Site Surveying Techniques;
Nov. 7 & 14, Boulder, Hist. Arch. (sess. 3 & 4);
Nov. 16-19, Gunnison, CO Arch.;
Nov. 20 & 28, Boulder, Hist. Arch. (sess. 5 & 6);
Dec. 5, Boulder, Hist. Arch. (end, sess. 7);
Dec. 7-20, Denver, PAAC Lab Project (lab project occurs on intermittent dates at the North Warehouse in central Denver; call or email for info).

CONFERENCES: **2012 (85th) Pecos Conference**, **Aug. 9-12**, Pecos National Historical Park, 17 miles east of Santa Fe, NM; co-hosted by School for Advanced Research, Mus. of Indian Arts and Culture, NM St. Historic Preservation Office and others. For more information:
www.swanet.org/2012_pecos_conference.

Utah Rock Art Research Assoc. Symposium, **Sept. 21-24**, Vernal, UT.

Plains Anthropological Soc. Conf, **Oct 3-6**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; www.ou.edu/cas/.

CAS Annual Mtg., **Oct. 5-7**, Boulder, CO; www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/htm.

Great Basin Anthropological Conference, **Oct. 17-20**, Stateline, NV.

MUSEUMS/EXHIBITS: **Anasazi Heritage Cntr.** "Pieces of the Puzzle, New Perspectives on the Hohokam," highlights recent Hohokam discoveries, thru October 2012, with artifacts from the Pueblo Grande Museum and AZ St. Mus. (970) 882-5600, www.co.blm.gov.

NM History Museum/Palace of Governors. *Telling New Mexico: Stories from Then and Now*, 500 years of history. Long term ("LT"). *Santa Fe Found: Fragments of Time*, archaeological and historical roots of America's oldest capital city. LT. *Tesoros De Devoción*, bultos and retablos dating from the late 1700s to 1900. LT. *Segesser Hide Paintings*, earliest known depictions of colonial life in US. LT. *Native American Portraits: Points of Inquiry* features more than 50 of the most beautiful and elegant portraits in the collections of the Palace Photo Archives. Thru Nov. 4, 2012.

Museum. of Indian Arts & Culture/Lab of Anthropol. (505-476-1269; indianartsandculture.org) *Woven Identities*, 250 baskets by artists representing sixty cultural groups in West. No. Am: SW, Great Basin,

Plateau, CA, NW Coast, and Arctic. www.miaclab.org. (LT) *Here, Now and Always*: explore SW's indigenous communities and landscapes. *Buchsbaum Gallery of SW Pottery*, story of two millennia of pottery making in SW Pueblos. *They Wove for Horses: Diné Saddle Blankets*, highlights Diné weavers and also the design skills of Diné silversmiths. Thru Sept. 2, 2013. *Margarete Bagshaw: Breaking the Rules* celebrates an American modernist, who, like her grandmother, Pablita Velarde, and mother, Helen Hardin, is connected to her artistic forebears. Thru Dec. 30, 2012.

NM Museum of Art. *It's About Time: 14,000 Years of Art in NM* presents 120 works of Native, Hispanic, and European-American art as one long chronology.

Museum of International Folk Art. *Statehood: New Mexican Art from the Past 100 Years*, a NM Centennial exhibition, until March 13, 2013. (505-476-1200; internationalfolkart.org)

Governor's Gallery, NM State Capitol, 4th Floor. *NM Art Tells New Mexico History*.

Albuquerque Museum of Art & History, *Exploring Art of the Ancient Americas, the John Bourne Collection*. 19th and Mountain NW (In Old Town), thru August 26, 2012.

Centennial Village Mus., Thru Sept 30, W-SA, 10 a.m. 4 p.m., S 12-4 p.m., 1475 A. Street, Greeley

National Park Fee-Free Days. Sept. 29 and Nov. 10-12. In addition, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), and USFS will waive their entrance and standard amenity fees on **Sept. 29** and **Nov. 10-12**. The USFWS will also have a fee free day on **Oct. 14** to recognize Natl. Wildlife Refuge Week. Reclamation will waive standard amenity fees on **Sept. 29** and **Nov. 12**.

Archaeology: Southwest

Archaeologists Work Side/Side with Fire Crews in Mancos to Protect Sites, Checking Terrain for Cultural Resources that could be Damaged in Fighting Fire. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, June 30, 2012) Sometimes, the work of protecting sensitive cultural sites is straightforward, as in the case of the fire which burned 5,000 acres at Mesa Verde Natl. Park in 1996, and the Bircher and Pony fires, which charred over 21,000 acres within the park in 2000. Park officials and fire management teams knew protecting the park's famous cliff dwelling and other excavated sites was a priority, but the fire was also burning in locations that had not been surveyed for archaeological sites. As a result, archaeologists were asked to work with firefighting teams to ensure that fighting the blaze did not damage unknown sites. In places, dense with cultural history, such as SW CO, fire has a way of revealing what time has hidden. Fire officials managing large wildfires work hard to ensure that what is uncovered is also protected. Archaeologists are basically advisors to fire fighters. They give guidance on whether a dozen can be put in a specific place or if that line needs a light touch. Mesa Verde benefitted from the cooperation of archaeologists and firefighters as 372 new ancient sites were discovered after the 1996 fire and nearly 1,000 new sites were found after the fires of 2000. Area archaeologists estimate there could be just as many pieces of cultural history in Weber Canyon as at Mesa Verde. There is probably a whole suite of history in Weber Canyon, from Ancestral Puebloan to Basketmaker III and Pueblo III and also evidence there of archaic and early occupation, as well as early homesteading and mining history.

Crow Canyon's ("CC") Research into Basketmaker III Period Recognized by \$245,720 Grant from Natl. Science Foundation ("NSF") to Support Two Seasons of Field and Lab Research. (Summary, *CC Newsletter*) This is the first Time CC has received a grant directly from NSF, rather than as a subaward. NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950, the only federal agency dedicated to the support of fundamental research and education in all scientific and engineering disciplines.

Nine Mile Canyon Road, UT, Reconstruction Project Yields New Archaeological Finds, Including Fremont Indian Pit House. (Summary, *Daily Sentinel*, May 22, 2012) The pit house is one of at least a dozen cultural sites that have been unearthed in the past year. Researchers are finding out stuff they had no idea existed, in places where they didn't know they would be. The road project, which will improve access to natural gas wells near the canyon, is a cooperative effort between Denver-based Bill Barrett

Corp., and Carbon and Duchesne counties. They're required to protect the canyon's cultural sites and post archaeological monitors. Nine Mile Canyon is home to at least 1,000 rock art sites, which contain more than 10,000 individual images that date back to the Fremont Indians. Drawing tourists from around the world, the canyon also features Native American granaries and dwellings. Pit houses were dug into the ground and featured a roof structure on top. The pit house being excavated is the first of its kind found so far up Nine Mile Canyon.

Strater Hotel Turns 125. (Summary, Cortez Journal, April 21, 2012) Ever since it was a gleam in Cleveland pharmacist Henry Strater's eye, the Strater Hotel has been front and center on the Durango stage. The Strater was built in 1887 at a cost of \$70,000, more than \$1.7 million in today's dollars. Constructed of 376,000 native red bricks with hand-carved sandstone cornices and sills, it is now home to the world's largest collection of American Victorian antiques. In the early days, many locals would close their homes in the winter and move into the Strater, where every room had a wood stove, and the hotel boasted a strategically designed three-story privy. The hotel has welcomed Will Rogers and presidential candidate John F. Kennedy, as well as providing inspiration to Western author Louis L'Amour, whose favorite room, No. 222, allowed him to listen to the honky-tonk piano in the Diamond Belle Saloon while writing. Rod and Laurie Barker have owned it since 1983, the third generation of Barkers to own the Strater since 1926.

US Quarter with Image of Chaco Canyon's North Wall and Two Ancient Community Spaces Unveiled. The US Mint launched the 12th coin in the series of Amer. the Beautiful quarters in front of a crowd of 250 people at Chaco Culture Natl. Hist. Park.

Robert Redford's Plea to Preserve Desolation Canyon from Oil and Gas Development. (Summary, SW Arch) It was designated as a Natl. Hist. Landmark in 1968. John Wesley Powell explored Desolation Canyon a century earlier, one of the last uncharted places in the lower 48 states. For thousands of years before that, the region was home to American Indian tribes, including the Hopi, Fremont and Ute people. Their pictographs and petroglyphs still line the canyon walls, silent reminders linking us to the most fundamental roots of civilization.

Groups Identify Marker Trees Shaped by Native Americans. (Summary, Durango Herald, April 1, 2012) A pecan tree, more than 300 years old, stands out from the others in a forested area of Dallas, a 25-foot segment of its trunk slightly bowed and running almost parallel to the ground before jutting high up into the sky. It, like numerous others across the country known as Indian marker trees or trail trees, was bent in its youth by Native Americans to indicate such things as a trail or a low-water creek crossing, like an early road map. The mission of the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition is protecting and maintaining the trees and celebrating the heritage the trees represent. There is time pressure to let people see the trees before they are gone. The coalition has recognized four marker trees in TX and is investigating reports of about 32 others across the state. The Jasper, GA-based nonprofit Mountain Stewards has been compiling a database of the trees since 2007, documenting about 1,850 Indian marker trees in 39 states. Those who research the trees have a verification process: they must be old enough -- at least 150-200 years old. It helps if scars can be found that would indicate a tree had been tied down. Mother Nature can bend a tree to look almost like an Indian tree. People contact the group three to five times a week to inquire about whether an oddly shaped tree is a marker tree.

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FIRST CLASS