

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



www.sjbass.org

The Moki Messenger

August 2016

Next SJBAS Monthly Meeting – August 11th

Our next meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 11th, in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, speaker Laurie Webster will present: "Clothes Make the Person: Clothing Diversity in the Prehispanic Southwest." This program is being held in collaboration with the Four Corners Summer Lecture Series and there will be a public reception in the CSWS foyer starting at 6:00 p.m.

Clothing is one of the most visible ways in which people communicate their social roles and identities. In the late prehispanic Southwest, someone traveling from the Four Corners area to communities in the Flagstaff, Verde Valley, Upper Gila, or Sonoran Desert regions would have encountered people wearing a different style of dress. This presentation explores the regional diversity of clothing styles among prehispanic societies on the Colorado Plateau and south of the Mogollon Rim.

Dr. Laurie Webster is an anthropologist and textile consultant who resides in Mancos, Colorado. She is a visiting scholar in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona and a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History and the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Her publications include the books *Beyond Cloth and Cordage: Archaeological Textile Research in the Americas* and *Collecting the Weaver's Art*, and numerous articles about Southwestern perishable technologies. Since 2011, she has served as director of the Cedar Mesa Perishables Project, which is documenting early perishable collections from southeastern Utah.

July 14th Meeting Report

Over 100 SJBAS members and visitors attended our July 14th meeting held in collaboration with the Four Corners Summer Lecture Series. After a brief business meeting, Paul Berkowitz presented: "Billy Malone: Indian Trader Hubbell Trading Post."

Malone lived most of his life on the Navajo Reservation working as an Indian trader; he was the last real Indian trader to operate the historic Hubbell Trading Post. In 2004, the National Park Service launched an investigation targeting Malone, alleging a long list of crimes that were "similar to Al Capone." In 2005, Paul



Berkowitz, a criminal investigator for the National Park Service, took over the case. His investigation uncovered serious problems with the original allegations, raising questions about the integrity of his supervisors and colleagues as well as high-level NPS managers. Follow this link to the full article about the presentation in the Cortez Journal: ([Read article...](#)). In the photo, from left to right: Paul Berkowitz, fellow Indian traders Bruce Burnham and Hank Blair, and Billy Malone.

Volunteers Needed

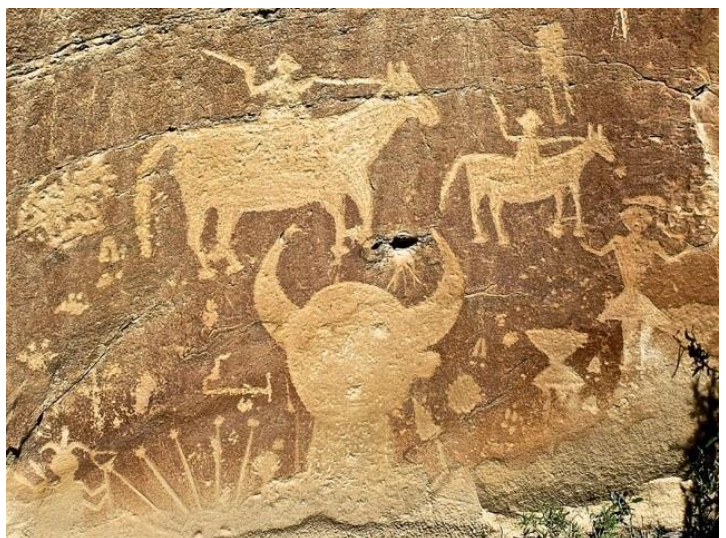
SJBAS is looking for volunteers to help setup and manage the 6:00 p.m. reception that the board proposes to offer before certain monthly meetings. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com.

Field Trip Report - Pueblito Culture in Largo Canyon Area – by trip leader Bob Powell

On May 20, I drove to the area to check on roads. Roads in San Juan County were being graded that day; roads in Rio Arriba County were deeply rutted, but passable and not muddy, as they were last year. The next day, Saturday, a group of SJBAS members met at Santa Rita Park and carpooled to Aztec, then to Bloomfield and east on US 64 to the Largo Canyon road. There we met two members from Pagosa Springs, Baron Haley and Chris Kilgore. At the parking area we discussed the general history and culture of the Pueblito era. In 1696 the Spanish Governor, Diego de Vargas, defeated the second Pueblo Revolt. The governor then began a serious program of reprisals and punishment for the leaders and pueblos that had revolted. Many of the northern Pueblo Indians fled west to Acoma, Zuni and Hopi areas, some went east to the Great Plains and a few joined the Navajos in the Gobernador area near the present Navajo Reservoir. The Navajos had engaged in many raids and battles with the Spanish. It is not known whether whole families moved, or just young males that had fought the Spanish. Anyway, the Pueblo groups were certainly a minority within the Navajo tribes.

The Pueblo groups brought with them a few Pueblo customs like flagstone buildings and more use of carvings on rock walls. During the day, we viewed some examples of those aspects of the Pueblito subculture. The subculture lasted only two or three generations. After that time, the people of Pueblo ancestry either became fully assimilated or returned to their pueblos. The Navajo tribes moved west, where the geological formations (Nacimiento Shale) do not provide flagstones for construction or smoothly surfaced rock walls for petroglyphs. The subculture was also limited in area from about La Jara (Cliff Rose) Canyon west to Bloomfield and from 10 to 35 miles south of the San Juan River. The Gobernador/Largo Canyon area is one of few in the region that have flagstones suitable for construction. All but a few structures near the Navajo Reservoir are about day's walk south from the San Juan River floodplain where Utes were established. The Navajo and Pueblo people were pressured by Jicarilla Apaches on the east, by the Utes to the north, and by the Spanish to the south. They finally left the Largo Canyon area, moved west and southwest and never returned as a tribe. The Pueblito subculture was always a minority and was restricted in both area and time.

We drove up Largo Canyon, past the two large dead cottonwoods, turned left and easily crossed the almost dry Largo Wash. The road to the Cuervo (Crow) Canyon petroglyphs site had just been graded and we were able to drive to the trailhead, unlike last year. We spent a long time at the site, viewing both Navajo and Pueblo style petroglyphs on the west-facing wall of the massive San Jose Sandstone. Lower strata of San Jose Sandstone are massive (few joints) and smooth, excellent for petroglyphs, but poor for construction flagstones. Upper strata of that formation have many vertical and horizontal joints and provide numerous flagstones, but poor surfaces for petroglyphs. Rock drawings and most Pueblito structures are vertically separated. Later, while still in Cuervo Canyon, we looked at the Big Man panel from a distance. We did



not have time to cross the canyon through the heavy brush.

We returned to the main road and drove southwest to the Mustang Ranch. Just before reaching the ranch buildings, we stopped to view the Largo School Pueblito that was above us on a small cliff. We saw and discussed the wild horses that were being habituated to humans. From there on the roads were deeply rutted but we could drive safely by staying on the high ridges. We drove onto Encinada Mesa and many miles northeast until we reached the Gould Pass Pueblito. On the way we saw a small herd of pronghorns. Just before parking we stopped to take photos of the pueblito perched on top of a large boulder.



After parking, we walked a short distance toward the pueblito and ate lunch. After lunch I took the group around the south and southwest side below the structure to view a possible midden. No household trash was even in the deep cracks. The building could not have been used as a long-term home. We then climbed up into the structure and onto a porch with a superb view. We then discussed its possible construction and usage. The building used unfinished San Jose flagstones with a lot of mud mortar. There was no permanent water supply nearby, no signs of a small water gully, so the structure had to have been built in spring during the snow melt time or during the summer monsoon season. The building does not have a fireplace or a vent hole in the ceiling, so it could not be used as a live-in residence. Because it is on a windy ridge, it would be very uncomfortably cold in

the winter. No source of water is close by, so it would not be usable during the early summer before the monsoon season.

Some authors write that pueblitos were defensive. Ute raiders from the north or Apache raiders from the northeast could approach to within a hundred yards without being seen. The view in those directions is restricted. People in the building could expel a short time raid, but could not survive a siege because there is no water supply. So its function probably wasn't as a defense fort. We discussed: what then was its purpose? The group proposed several possibilities. It provides excellent far-ranging views of grasslands to the southeast, south and southwest. A hunter could stay there for a short time and search for herds of pronghorns or elk. It could be used as a temporary shelter while gathering piñon nuts in mid-fall. It could have been used as a way-station for travelers, a vision site for young men, or as a picnic site for a family or group. There was no decision on what was the most likely use of the structure.



We left the Gould Pass Pueblito and drove down off the high mesa to the next level lower. The road was not passable last year because of deep mud puddles. Before reaching the next pueblito we stopped and walked to see the 200-foot drop-off where Cuervo Wash changes from a small creek in a grassland to a deep canyon with steep walls. We drove a short distance farther, parked, and walked a short distance to the Citadel Pueblito, again built on top of a large boulder. It is near the head of one branch of Cuervo Wash. During wet years, there would have been a small creek just below the structure. We were several hours later than planned, so we did not have a long discussion at that site. We had enjoyed good weather all day. Then began the long drive back to Durango. Again we saw a herd of pronghorns. With the large number of junctions and

unmarked roads going in all directions, it would be very easy to get lost on Encinada Mesa. This day, we all made it directly back to the Largo Canyon road, but I have become lost twice in the past.

Field Trip Report - Lewis Mill Hike and Tour – by trip leader Lyle Hancock

On July 21st, ten SJBAS members joined our intrepid guide and Telluride historian Rudy Davison for a 4.4-mile hike to the Lewis Mine and mill in the upper reaches of Bridal Veil Basin. We drove up the Black Bear Pass road to the Bridal Veil Falls power station where we turned around at the last switchback before the road becomes one-way. From this scenic spot at 10,300 feet we began our hike to the mine.

Rudy is truly a wealth of knowledge about the history of Telluride and all the mines in the area, and he knows his wildflowers and geology, too! We paused often to discuss various historic mining structures, check out the minerals in rocks along the road, and appreciate the incredible bounty of high country wildflowers that were at their peak. After hiking a couple of hours we reached the alpine basin of Bridal

Veil Creek where the scenery was truly breathtaking. At this point we had some weather moving in, but we were still dry. As the mill came into view the lighting started to pop and we hurried to reach a cabin next to the mill that is often left unlocked to offer shelter for visitors. When the mine was operating, several miners lived at this cabin. Now we were at 12,448 feet! After lunch in the cabin, Rudy showed us around and we toured the mill which has been partially restored and is now owned by San Miguel County. The mine was never profitable, but they sure spent a lot of money trying. It was amazing how much equipment the miners had hauled in to build the mill and work the mine. The headframe had toppled over, but the mill building and machinery were mostly intact. In spite of a few hand rails, walking through the mill and up and down precarious stairways seemed pretty treacherous. This would not be a place for children!



The Lewis Mill was built circa 1907, but the mine and mill operated for only three years. The mine complex consisted of a mine portal, a triple/tram house, the five-story mill, a bunkhouse and business office. The mill was powered by electricity from the Smuggler-Union Hydroelectric Power Plant at Bridal Veil Falls and it is an outstanding example of all timber-frame construction. The technology and equipment used in the mill mark the transition from stamp mill technology to full chemical flotation. The Lewis Mill is the only remaining transitional mill in Colorado to retain its original milling equipment, as its remote location prevented World War II metal salvage programs from scavenging the original machinery.

Colorado Preservation, Inc. (CPI) promotes historic preservation statewide. In 1998, CPI listed the Lewis Mill in its Most Endangered Places Program. Over the next few years CPI formed partnerships with the Idarado Mining Company, the mine's owner, the towns of Telluride and Mountain Village, San Miguel County, and the Colorado Historical Society that resulted in stabilization efforts commencing in August, 2001.

The \$125,000 project reconstructed structural framing members and re-established the roof sheathing. A helicopter was used to bring in the necessary construction materials. In addition to stabilizing the whole structure and roof, the interior was cleaned up, flooring was restored and handrails installed so visitors could tour the mill safely. In 2009, the mill and mining complex were placed on both the Colorado State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Recently, Idarado Mining Company conveyed ownership of the mill to San Miguel County.

PAAC Schedule – August through December

Follow this link for the second half of the 2016 PAAC Schedule: [PAAC Schedule 2016 2nd half](#)

Colorado Archaeological Society News

CAS Surveyor <http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/PUBLICATIONS/Newsletters/Newsletters.htm>

CAS Bulletin Board <http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/bulletinboard.htm>

CAS Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1425711501080053/>

Please share your photos, upcoming events, links to archaeological articles etc. and let other CAS chapters in the state know what you have been up to.

2016 Alice Hamilton Scholarship Raffle

The 2016 Scholarship Raffle Prize is the "Zebra Sentinel", a 32-inch tall decorative ceramic vessel made especially for CAS by Pikes Peak Chapter member and nationally-known ceramic artist Jerry Rhodes. ([See the 2016 Raffle Flyer...](#)) SJBAS board members will have tickets on sale at upcoming meetings and events. Tickets are \$3 each and four for \$10. If you cannot wait for the next meeting, please contact Terri Hoff at tthoff@hotmail.com or phone 970-882-2191.

Center of Southwest Studies Summer Lecture Series

Here is a link to the CSWS Summer Lecture Series flyer: [CSWS Summer Lecture Series flyer](#).

Utes, CU develop archaeology field school – article in Durango Herald

The Ute Mountain Ute tribe is working with the University of Colorado anthropology department to develop a field school to document and preserve ruins on the reservation. During the first two-week session in June, twelve students traveled to the reservation to study the ancient Cowboy Wash Pueblo, southwest of Towaoc. The pueblo was occupied during the late Pueblo III period, 1100 to 1300. ([Read article](#))

900-year-old Village Recorded in Volcanic Badlands of New Mexico – article in Western Digs

In the black-rock badlands of northwestern New Mexico archaeologists have documented a 900-year-old village with unique ties to Chaco Canyon. Consisting of more than a hundred separate sites, including a two-story great house with as many as 85 rooms, the newly recorded community shows a strong influence of Chacoan culture, but at the same time, it appears to have other qualities not found anywhere else. ([Read article](#))

Upcoming Field Trips and Activities

August 11	SJBAS meeting - speaker Laurie Webster - "Clothes Make the Person: Clothing Diversity in the Prehispanic Southwest." This program is being held in collaboration with the Four Corners Summer Lecture Series and there will be a reception in the CSWS foyer starting at 6:00 p.m.
September 8	SJBAS meeting - speaker Dawn Mulhern from FLC - "Mortuary Practices of the Durango Basketmakers"
September 15 - 18	Rock Art near Bluff and Ancestral Puebloan Sites on Comb Ridge - Utah This four-day camping trip will start with a reception in Bluff and short hikes to nearby rock art panels. Then the group will make a base camp along Butler Wash and do several moderately difficult day hikes to remote Ancestral Puebloan sites on Comb Ridge . Hikes are generally less than six miles roundtrip, but do include off trail scrambling. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information and to sign up, contact trip leader Andy Gulliford at gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu . This trip is currently full, but there is a wait list.
September 25 - 26	Mesa Verde Backcountry Hike with NPS guide This will be a two-day trip with an afternoon hike to Petroglyph Point on the first day, an optional overnight at Far View Lodge , and a backcountry hike on the second day to Oak Tree House . This 2-hour, 1-mile round-trip hike is moderately strenuous. Expect a narrow, unpaved, uneven trail, with steps carved into the sandstone, steep drop-offs, and two ladders (4-foot and 15-foot). Total elevation change is 200 feet. Trip participation limit is 10. Tour fee is \$25. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leaders Jim and Rhonda at rhondaandjim@msn.com .
October 1	Yucca House National Monument This is a day trip to one of the largest Ancestral Puebloan sites in Southwest Colorado. The tour of this unexcavated puebloan community near Cortez will be led by NPS guide Jill Blumenthal. For more information or to sign up, contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net or 970-259-4099.
October 7 - 10	CAS annual meeting and conference in Grand Junction
October 13	SJBAS meeting- Dan Simplicio from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center - "What Happens When Migration Stops?"
October 15	Pueblitos near Navajo Reservoir – New Mexico This will be a day trip to visit three Navajo Pueblitos. We will drive down through Aztec and return through Ignacio. The longest walk is ¾ mile over relatively flat terrain. 4WD/HC vehicles are necessary, but we will arrange carpools if necessary. The trip participation limit is 16. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Bob Powell at robertlpowell@durango.net or 970-385-8949.
November 10	SJBAS meeting - speaker Sherrill Spaar - "Archaeology of Greece"
November... ?	CANCELLED Tour the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum and new Growth Fund Building . For more information or to sign up, contact trip leaders Jim and Rhonda at rhondaandjim@msn.com .
December 8	SJBAS Holiday Party – Fort Lewis College Ballroom

Articles about management of public lands in Utah and the proposed Bears Ears national monument

Management of public lands in Utah and the proposed Bears Ears national monument – article in Outside Magazine

This comprehensive, well-written article is about the land management deal proposed by Utah congressman Rob Bishop. The deal, sometimes called the “grand bargain,” proposes opening up some federal lands in Utah to development while protecting others, thus ending the current public land management gridlock. ([Read article](#))

Top Obama officials met in Bluff, UT for Bears Ears Public Meeting - article in Durango Herald

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and other top officials from the Obama administration hosted a public meeting in Bluff, Utah, on Saturday, July 16th, to discuss future management of the Bears Ears region. ([Read article](#))

Bears Ears National Monument – editorial in Durango Herald

“Cedar Mesa, Dark Canyon, Grand Gulch and Valley of the Gods are all places with names that evoke the almost mythical natural landscape familiar to many residents and visitors of the Four Corners who have hiked, hunted, floated and appreciated the archaeology in them. They are big places with open spaces one can imagine not looking too much different than they did millions of years ago.”

“Bounded to the west by the Green and Colorado rivers, to the east by Highway 191 from Moab to Bluff, and along the southern edge by the San Juan River, the 1.9 million acres of public and ancestral lands known as the Bears Ears may soon receive permanent protection. Some say this is long overdue – by a century or more.” ([Read editorial](#))

Push for Bears Ears monument marks latest Western lands fight – article in Durango Herald

([Read article](#))

Interior leader hears from public on Bears Ears monument proposal – article in Durango Herald

([Read article](#))

Emotions run high over monument designation in Utah – article in High Country News

Battle lines over a proposed Bears Ears monument are blurred, dividing tribes and towns ([Read article](#)).

Opponents dominate hearing for proposed Bears Ears monument – article in Durango Herald

Hundreds of people who oppose the proposed Bears Ears national monument in southeastern Utah showed up at a Senate field hearing to voice their displeasure for the plan that Gov. Gary Herbert called a “political tomahawk.” ([Read article](#))

SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxie) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Jim Mueller	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Field Trip Program	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Secretary	Barb Hancock	barbhancock@bresnan.net
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	mark@virtbiz.com
CAS Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net

Other Positions

Moki Messenger Contact	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal

Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.**