



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

JUNE 2020

SAN JUAN BASIN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.sibas.org](http://www.sibas.org)

## June 10<sup>th</sup> Picnic **CANCELLED**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, all SJBAS scheduled activities and field trips have been cancelled through September. In addition, the Navajo Culture and Paquime/Casas Grandes field trips scheduled in October have been cancelled by the trip leaders. We will keep members informed in a timely manner as to additional schedule changes or rescheduled activities.

## President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

Our organization is trying to figure out how we can continue in some way through these trying times. Watching Zoom presentations by other organizations like Crow Canyon is one way we have been able to keep our brains connected with archaeology. This has been interesting and better than nothing.

We would like to have our speakers present their topics to our members using Zoom as well. We have all been on Zoom discussions which have been good and some which have had their issues. Our Board members have limited experience using Zoom and are not comfortable coordinating a presentation with our members. Several of our speakers starting in July are willing to give their talks using Zoom but we have to facilitate it.

We need a volunteer who would be willing to be a Zoom host and moderator to connect our speaker, Board, and members. If you have some experience with Zoom and are willing to help please contact me at [leach@frontier.net](mailto:leach@frontier.net).

Sincerely,  
Rege Leach

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[SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities](#)

## **SJBAS Dues – 2020 - 2021**

Oops... some members may have forgotten to renew their SJBAS memberships for 2020. Please renew before the end of June or we must remove you from our membership and email distribution list. You will miss all notifications and links we provide to members about archaeological presentations from a variety of hosts via Zoom. These have proven to be quite popular with members during this time. We would rather not do this, but it is only fair to those members who have paid their dues. Memberships for 2020 will carry through 2021 with no additional fees, so your investment in SJBAS will last for two years. To renew, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**

## **SJBAS Board Highlights from May 20, 2020**

1. For many years, the *Moki* has been published 12 times a year. In an effort to reduce the workload on Lyle Hancock, who publishes the *Moki* on behalf of SJBAS, future publications of the *Moki* will be reduced to 6 a year. We are looking at other ways to reduce the workload on all Board Members due to the difficulty we are experiencing in recruiting volunteers. If you can help SJBAS as a volunteer in any way, please contact Susan Hicks, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com). We do need your help!
2. A benefit from the hysterical historical COVID-19... there will be no membership dues owed by members in 2021 who renewed or joined in 2020.
3. Ah... Another call for your help. We will have three Board Positions to be filled beginning with the January 1, 2021 term: President, Secretary, and Publicity. We **really** do need your help!
4. Have you seen the news about the dire straits that the Navajo and Hopi tribes are in as a result of COVID-19? There are several fundraising sites for you to consider and a list will be published in the *Moki*.
5. As you must know by now, all SJBAS field trips, activities, lectures, and social events have been canceled through September. In September, the Board will review the current status of COVID-19 and the safety of our members in gathering for any event. In the meanwhile, Janice Sheftel is asking all of our speakers if they will Zoom their presentation. More to come on this! Lyle Hancock will continue to send you special emails about Zoom presentations from Crow Canyon, Southwest Archaeology, and History Colorado. Stay tuned! We are still here and keeping those brain waves working and your interest piqued!
6. We are considering the 2021 Field Trip Season. Stay tuned, we will have some things for you to look forward to!
7. For this meeting, the Board met via Zoom. Susan Hicks upped her IT skills and set the meeting up for us. *Thanks, Susan.* As a reminder to all of you, from all of us:

***Stay Close while Staying Apart – We Will Get Through This Together!***

## Support COVID-19 Relief for Indigenous Communities – Friends of Cedar Mesa

While communities across the globe have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of them highly populated cities, rural communities have also been profoundly affected, including Tribes and Pueblos of the greater Four Corners region.

Indigenous communities across the southwest are in urgent need of additional resources to help stem the growing number of cases and support community members in the effort to slow the spread of the virus. As it currently stands, the Navajo Nation is one of the hardest-hit communities in the country and the most heavily impacted hot spot in the southwest. In fact, the Nation currently has the third-highest infection rate in the United States. The Navajo Department of Health has reported more than 2,000 known coronavirus infections. Pueblos, including San Felipe, Zia, and Zuni, are also facing outbreaks of COVID-19.

Together, we have the opportunity to help these communities and the partners we work closely with to protect the greater Bears Ears region. Listed below are a few of the many relief organizations distributing food, water, hygiene products, and aid to communities in need of additional assistance.

We know these are incredibly challenging times for many, but if you are able to give, you will have a direct impact on efforts to help.

[Official Navajo Nation COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

[Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

[Pueblo Relief Fund](#)

[Utah Navajo Health System](#)

[Bluff Area Mutual Aid](#)

[Utah Dine Bikeyah Seeds & Sheep Program](#)

[Emergency Mobile Pantry in Zuni, NM](#)

[Far East Navajo COVID-19 Response Fund](#)

[Havasupai Tribe COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

[The Keshi Foundation](#)

[San Juan Southern Paiute Covid-19 Relief Fund](#)

## Upcoming Online Archaeology Events

**Four Corners Lecture Series Presents: *Sacred Landscape, Sacred People: Connections Between Landscapes and Cultural Identity with Jason Nez***

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 4 at 4:00 p.m. MDT

**WHO:** Jason Nez, Diné Archaeologist at Grand Canyon National Park

**WHAT:** Jason will discuss the connections between sacred landscapes and cultural identity.

This webinar is brought to you by the Four Corners Lecture Series, the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

**[Learn more and register for the Sacred Landscape, Sacred People webinar by clicking here!](#)**

## Arizona State Museum Webinar



On Friday, **June 5**, at 9:30 a.m. MST/PT, **Dr. Irene Bald Romano** will present a webinar, “The Lives of Two Ancient Pandemics and Their Modern Resonance.” In this illustrated talk, Dr. Romano will discuss two pandemics of the ancient world that are well-documented, both from literary sources and archaeological discoveries: the plague of Athens that struck during the second year of the Peloponnesian War (430 B.C.) and was a contributor to the downfall of the Athenian Empire; and the Antonine plague (A.D. 165–180), during the rule of the Antonine Emperors, which heralded the fall of the Roman Empire.

Zoom registration: <https://bit.ly/2Tlaggg>

## History Colorado Webinars

Here is a link to seven webinars from the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation on History Colorado's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI68fpINJM8Bca8KUBZSyPwz7y3Oawo8e>

<p><b>Dates</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Upcoming Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2020</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Updates are in red.</b></p> <p>SJBAS members have proposed the following field trips. Please read <a href="#">General Information About Field Trips</a> for important information about field trips.</p> <p>Please contact trip leaders by phone or email for more information or to sign up.</p>
<p><b>June 1 - 4</b></p>	<p><b>Keet Seel Backpacking – CANCELLED</b> This will be a four-day trip that includes car camping at Navajo National Monument and an overnight backpacking trip (8.5 miles each way) to Keet Seel, one of the best-preserved Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings in the Southwest. A Park Service guide will provide a tour of the cliff dwellings. The backpack is rated by the Park Service as strenuous, plus backpackers may have to carry 6 liters of water per person. For those who want to stay for a fourth day there will be a guided five-mile round trip hike to Betatakin. Difficulty Rating: Hard. Trip participation limit is 10. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Hunter McCleary at <a href="mailto:hunter.mccleary@gmail.com">hunter.mccleary@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>June 10</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Annual Picnic – CANCELLED</b> Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds</p>
<p><b>June 22 – 24</b></p>	<p><b>Ohkay Owingeh Feast Day – CANCELLED</b> 2 to 3-day motel trip to Santa Fe – Combine colorful feast day ceremonies at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo with other sites such as El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Bandelier National Monument, etc. Difficulty Rating: Easygoing. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>July 8</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Meeting - CANCELLED</b> Wayne Lorenz will present: “New finds at Pompei.”</p>
<p><b>TBD</b></p>	<p><b>Fort Lewis College Field School – CANCELLED</b> Details will be forthcoming.</p>

<b>August 5</b>	<b>Chaco Landscapes: Sensory and Political Engagement with Place – CANCELLED</b> Archaeologist Ruth Van Dyke – 7:00 p.m. in Room 130, Noble Hall, at Fort Lewis College
<b>August 7 – 9</b>	<b>Attend Pecos Conference near Mancos – CANCELLED</b> Camp at conference site or do day trips from Durango. For more information or to sign up, contact Foeie Mason at <a href="mailto:fmason@frontier.net">fmason@frontier.net</a> .
<b>August 12</b>	<b>SJBAS Meeting - CANCELLED</b> Liseth Louderback will present: "Potatoes of the Southwest."
<b>Early September</b>	<b>Navajo Nation Fair – CANCELLED</b> Window Rock, AZ – 2-day motel trip during first week of September. Difficulty Rating: Easygoing. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .
<b>September 9</b>	<b>SJBAS social gathering – CANCELLED</b> Details will be forthcoming.
<b>September 19</b>	<b>John W. Sanders Lecture - CANCELLED</b> Trenton Holliday of Tulane University will present: "Meandering Neanderthals – A New Look at our Closest Fossil Relatives."  
<b>September 21 – 24</b>	<b>Chaco Culture National Historical Park 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Astronomy Festival – CANCELLED</b> 3-day camping trip – Park Service programs may include astronomy, star gazing through powerful telescopes and talking with astronomers, site tours, campfire programs, and a sunrise program to observe the autumnal equinox. We will do one or two hikes to backcountry sites (4-5 miles each). Difficulty Rating: Moderate. Reservations for campsites must be made by each SJBAS participant. For more information or to sign up, contact Paula Lutz at <a href="mailto:paula@durango.net">paula@durango.net</a> .
<b>October 5 – 7</b>	<b>Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites</b> – 3-day camping trip. We will camp for two nights in a dispersed campsite and hike to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. 4WD/HC vehicles are required, and participants must be fit and ready to hike all day. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle Hancock at <a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a> .
<b>October 2, 3, 9 or 10 ??</b>	<b>Dinetah Pueblitos and rock art in Largo Canyon, New Mexico</b> – This will be a day trip to visit three Navajo Pueblitos and several rock art panels. We will drive down through Aztec and return through Ignacio. The longest walk is ¾ mile over relatively flat terrain. 4WD/HC vehicles are required; however, if heavy rains occur during the preceding week, we may postpone the trip because of slippery roads. Difficulty Rating: Easy Active. The trip participation limit is 16; we will arrange carpools. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Bob Powell at <a href="mailto:robertlpowell@durango.net">robertlpowell@durango.net</a> or 970-385-8949.
<b>October 9 – 11</b>	<b>Navajo Culture – CANCELLED - Crown Point Rug Auction, Hubbell Trading Post, maybe Canyon de Chelly</b> – 2 to 3-day motel trip. Difficulty- Rating: Easygoing. For more information or to sign up, contact Randy Graham at <a href="mailto:rg44@bresnan.net">rg44@bresnan.net</a> .
<b>October 14</b>	<b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Fred Blackburn will present: "Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins."

<p><b>October 8 - 13</b></p>	<p><b>Paquime / Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico – CANCELLED</b> - 4-day motel trip – This tour of Paquime and nearby archaeological sites leaves by van from Deming, NM. The tour leader is retired archaeologist Paul Minnis who has conducted excavations in the Casas Grandes area and published widely. We will also visit Cave of the Olla, Cuarenta Casas, the Paquime Museum, and various nearby cliff dwellings and some rock art. There will be optional side-trips to nearby historic Hacienda San Diego and an 1880's Mormon settlement. The town of Mata Ortiz is also known for its revivalist pottery industry inspired by Paquime. The cost is approximately \$1,000/person double occupancy and includes lodging, most meals, and travel by van. The first and last nights in Deming are not covered. Dr. Minnis is not charging for his time but would appreciate it if each participant makes a contribution to the archaeology institution of their choice. Difficulty Rating: Easy Active. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Hunter McCleary at <a href="mailto:hunter.mccleary@gmail.com">hunter.mccleary@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>November 11</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Meeting</b> - Rand Greubel, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, will present: "Archaeological Investigations: CDOT's Highway 550-160 Connection Project on Florida Mesa"</p>
<p><b>December 12</b></p>	<p><b>SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch</b> – Vallecito Room at Fort Lewis College</p>
	<p><b>Other Related Trips and Activities</b></p>
<p><b>September</b></p>	<p><b>Excavation Opportunity – Four Corners Research – Champagne Spring</b> – Follow this link for more information, <a href="#">Champagne Spring Excavation</a>, or go to <a href="http://www.fourcornersresearch.com">www.fourcornersresearch.com</a> to download a sign-up sheet.</p>
<p><b>October 17</b></p>	<p><b>International Archaeology Day</b></p>

## Regional Archaeology News

### News Roundup on Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante

In the midst of the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, our partners continue to make moves on the ground to safeguard our special wild places. Today, we bring you updates from two treasured places that have remained at the heart of the national monument's conversation: Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. So, what's new? And what can you do? - Monuments for All ([Read article](#))

### Publication Announcement: Tewa Worlds

*Tewa Worlds: An Archaeological History of Being and Becoming in the Pueblo Southwest*, by Samuel Duwe. University of Arizona Press. <https://uapress.arizona.edu/book/tewa-worlds>

### Feds Issue Preliminary Permits for Little Colorado Dam Proposals

Federal officials have issued preliminary permits for two hydro-storage proposals on the Little Colorado River. The projects would include four dams and four reservoirs east of Grand Canyon National Park. ... Groups like the Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity say it would destroy the Little Colorado's ecosystem and the habitat of the endangered humpback chub. The U.S. Interior Department has also objected. In addition, the proposal would flood the Hopi Tribe's place of emergence, which is one of their most sacred sites. - KNAU (NPR) ([Read article](#))

### **Feds Extend Deadline for Greater Chaco Comments to September 25**

After urging from New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, leadership of the All Pueblo Council of Governors and Navajo Nation and the entire New Mexico Congressional delegation due to the challenges facing tribal communities from the COVID-19 pandemic, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced a 120-day extension of the public comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's proposed plan to drill near Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Now, the public has more time to weigh in on a proposal that is widely opposed by Pueblo leaders and local communities for its lack of protections for Chaco Canyon and surrounding areas and communities. - Protect Greater Chaco coalition statement via BLMWild ([Read article](#))

### **Radiocarbon Recalibration**

Radiocarbon dating — a key tool used for determining the age of prehistoric samples — is about to get a major update. For the first time in seven years, the technique is due to be recalibrated using a slew of new data from around the world. – Nature ([Read article](#))

### **Online Resources, Events, and Opportunities to Help**

The **University of Colorado Museum of Natural History** is bringing the **Earl Morris Archives** online: "The museum is home to many of the personal papers of Earl H. Morris, an archaeologist who worked in the Southwest and in Mesoamerica between the 1910s and 1950s. Through funding made possible by the National Historic Preservation and Records Commission, we are working to organize and digitize the Morris collection." Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/earlmorrisarchival/>. Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/earlmorrisarchival/>

From **Southwest Seminars**: We will easily return to weekly Monday lectures when it is safe. Until then, we have a new project to share: the SWS Video Library, [southwestseminars.tv](https://southwestseminars.tv). The collection is drawn from our

20+ years of weekly archived lectures with noted scholars and relevant content in the fields of archaeology, Native culture, Southwestern history, and natural sciences. (There is an annual subscription fee, or you can rent presentations by the week.)

### **SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2020**

President	Rege Leach	<a href="mailto:rleach@frontier.net">rleach@frontier.net</a>
Vice President	Susan Hicks	<a href="mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com">sc53hicks@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Paula Lutz	<a href="mailto:paula@durango.net">paula@durango.net</a>
Treasurer	Randy Graham	<a href="mailto:rg44@bresnan.net">rg44@bresnan.net</a>

Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	<a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a>
Membership chair	(Open)	
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a>
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	<a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a>
Publicity chair	Jill Tripp	<a href="mailto:jtripp51@yahoo.com">jtripp51@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster and email coordinator	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a>

**SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year.** Please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: **SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.**