



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2018

SAN JUAN BASIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sibas.org

Next meeting – November 14th

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies, FLC. After a brief business meeting, Kristin Bowen will speak about her various experiences working as a professional archaeologist for the federal government across the western United States and give updates on her office's current projects. There will be a social at 6:30 p.m. in the CSWS foyer.

Kristin Bowen works in Durango as the Lead Archaeologist for the Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Area Office. Kristin started her career in Montana doing historic archaeology specializing in mining related sites and documenting ghost towns. Kristin received her master's degree in Anthropology, with an emphasis on Archaeology, from the University of Montana. Her thesis was on the Overseas Chinese in the late 1800s in Virginia City, Montana. Moving around the west she has previously worked as an Archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, in Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, and several locations in Colorado. Kristin enjoys doing public education and interpretation and is a Project Archaeology Master Teacher. She is also author of *'Images of America'* a pictorial history book on Meeker, CO.

Kristin and her office are currently managing the cultural resource compliance work for the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project, the Department of Interior's highest priority infrastructure project, and the largest federal archaeological project in the United States.

Kristin lives in Bayfield with her son and daughter and enjoys spending her free time visiting archaeological sites, museums, breweries, and National Parks.

Meeting Host Volunteer Opportunity

If you would like to help with a pre-meeting social, please contact Susan Hicks at hicks@animas.net or call 970-759-7152.

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President's Letter

Dear SJBAS members:

The SJBAS annual meeting and holiday brunch will be held on Saturday, December 15th, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The cost is \$20 per person. Note: seating is limited so get your reservations in early.

If you have any items you would like to contribute to a silent auction to benefit the John W. Sanders Education and Internship Fund, come a little early to the brunch and bring the items and a pen or pencil to fill out a silent auction sheet with item description, value and opening bid.

The slate of proposed SJBAS officers for 2019 includes: President, Janice Sheftel; Vice-Presidents Foxie Mason and Susan Hicks; Secretary, Paula Lutz; Treasurer, Randy Graham; PAAC Coordinator, Tish Varney and Publicity Chair, Jill Tripp. Additional nominations can be made at the annual meeting from the floor.

Please email 2018 field trip photos to Lyle Hancock, lylehancock@bresnan.net, for the annual slide show.

Janice C. Sheftel
President

Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch – Saturday, December 15th

It's time to mark your calendars and make reservations... Our annual meeting and holiday brunch will take place on Saturday, December 15th, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 910 East 3rd Avenue.

To make your reservation, follow this link to the [Holiday Brunch Reservation Reply Form](#), print the form, and mail your completed form and check made out to SJBAS to Mark Gebhardt, Treasurer, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Reservation deadline is December 8th, and the cost is \$20 per person. Get your checks in early to be sure you reserve a seat.

The brunch will be buffet style: fruit, egg dish, potatoes, breakfast meats, two breads, juice, coffee, tea, water, butter and jelly. There will be a small silent auction, too. Come early so you can check out and bid on the items! You may also bring donations to be included in the auction.

Activities will feature a review of 2018 SJBAS field trips; introduction of new members; door prizes; election of chapter officers for 2019, a silent auction, and good holiday cheer. Join your friends for this fun party; we hope to see you there!

Members may invite non-members to attend. For additional information, contact Susan Hicks: hicks@animas.net, 970-759-7152 or Foxie Mason: fmason@frontier.net, 970-247-0252.

Meet Your SJBAS Neighbor – Mark Gebhardt

My name is Mark Gebhardt and I have served as Treasurer of SJBAS for over 20 years and figured it was time to step down at the end of this year. Fortunately, I'm turning the reins over to SJBAS member Randy Graham who graciously offered to take over. Good news! You will FINALLY be in very capable hands.

I was born in Germany many eons ago and when I was less than a year old, my family emigrated to the St. Louis area. I grew up in the small farming community of Columbia, IL attended a small private high school in St. Louis, and graduated with a huge senior class of 4 other boys. I earned my pilot's license that summer before beginning undergraduate school at Prescott College, Prescott, AZ where I was a member of the charter class. I met my wife Marlene there and coaxed her into hanging around with me. After graduating with a BA in anthropology, this time in an immense class of 67, I had planned to go on to graduate school at the University of Massachusetts where I had a scholarship. But things changed, I got married to my college sweetheart in St. Louis and I wanted to work vs. going to school. My first job there was running an ice cream truck followed by working in a delicatessen, but I yearned to return to the Southwest. We packed up our meager belongings and moved to Phoenix.

I first got a job in Phoenix as a carpet layer followed by training to become certified as a journeyman carpenter. I worked on new hotels and hospitals but knew my body was not cut out for that rugged work. I switched gears and was accepted at Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, AZ where I earned my international MBA. I then worked for insurance companies in LA, Scottsdale, and Chicago before joining my brother's risk management firm in Plano, TX as well as his insurance management firm in Grand Cayman, BWI. I worked with him as his right-hand guy for 27 years, 10 of which were here in Durango out of my home office. But when an opportunity came up as the first risk manager of the Southern Ute Tribe Growth Fund, the business arm of the Tribe, I jumped at it and got it. I ended my 39-year risk management career working almost 10 years and reporting to the Executive Director of the Growth Fund until I retired in 2016.

Though no longer working, I do serve on several local boards and committees as I think volunteering and contributing to our community are important. I am the Chairman of the N. Dalton Ranch Design Review Committee, the Vice President of the Purgatory Master Association (DMMA), a member of the Purgatory Design Review Committee, and a director on the Purgatory Metro District Board. I also recently became the treasurer of North Animas Village, a new non-profit my neighbors and I are creating to assist local residents who want to age in place. My wife and I love Durango and enjoy tennis, golf, hiking, RV camping, dog walking, and socializing with our friends and neighbors. We are proud members of SJBAS and look forward to engaging in more SJBAS activities in the future. – by Mark Gebhardt

'Introduction to Archaeological Artifacts' Class – November 3rd

We still have room for a few more participants in this class. Teri Hauser, an archaeologist from the Chipeta (Montrose) Chapter, will teach a three-hour *"Introduction to Archaeological Artifacts"* class on Saturday, November 3rd, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at Sitter Hall at Fort Lewis College. Cost will be \$15. For more information or to sign-up, please contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net.

Field Trip Report - Natural Bridges Field Trip--September 21-23, 2018

- by trip leader Andrew Gulliford

In mid-September when it was still warm, a dozen intrepid SJBAS members joined member Andrew Gulliford for a delightful Bears Ears, Cedar Mesa, and Natural Bridges exploration on Utah state, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service land. The sun, moon, and stars cooperated with clear, cool starry nights. The planets aligned for the Autumnal equinox, and we all enjoyed camping, camaraderie, and hiking to Pueblo II and Pueblo III sites. In the best spirit of our departed member John Sanders, we joined together each night for happy hour, but then cooked our own meals and prepared our own lunches.

Members slept in tents, one trailer, and two Volkswagen Westphalia campers. We met at noon on Friday September 21 for a picnic lunch at the shade shelter at Edge of the Cedars State Park. We were unable to find campsites at Natural Bridges, so we camped on Utah state land. That afternoon we studied the Cave Towers sites on SITLA or State of Utah land including towers on both sides of the drainage and one unmarked but fenced grave. The Cave Towers site is now well-interpreted and is one of several late PIII tower sites surrounding springs and seeps at the head of canyons. This site is at the head of Mule Canyon on the south side of highway 95.

On Saturday September 22 we carpooled to Natural Bridges National Monument, set aside in 1908 by my hero Teddy Roosevelt. We dropped off the top to hike into White Canyon at Sipapu Bridge for an approximately two-mile loop. We found rare Basketmaker white pictographs which the Park Service has tried to protect by adding latex driplines to move water from falling on to the glyphs. We saw a few small room blocks and a barrier to entry on a cliff ledge as described by Bill and Beth Sagstetter in *The Cliff Dwellings Speak*.

We then drove above the canyon to cross into the Manti La Sal National Forest. We drove between the Bears Ears at about 8,700 feet in



elevation to the meadow where most of the recent Native American ceremonies have taken place in defense of the 1.35-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument designated by President Barrack Obama. President Trump has shrunk those boundaries by 85%. Four lawsuits are pending against Trump's actions. The Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition of Ute Mountain Utes, Northern Utes, Navajos, Hopis, and Zunis maintain that the original Obama boundaries, including seven wilderness study areas, should be enforced. The area is unique for Native American sites, which may number 100,000 in San Juan County, Utah, as well as for current medicinal plant gathering. The Bears Ears jut out above the top of Cedar Mesa and can be seen in many directions for almost 100 miles.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act in June 1906. The Bears Ears National Monument is the first time in over a century that Native American tribes have sought protections for their own ancestral



sites using that federal law. Trump's deletions include almost all of Cedar Mesa except for Moon House. He also excluded all of Grand Gulch as well as other mesas and canyons with numerous archaeological sites and rock art panels.

Returning from Bears Ears we visited Salvation Knoll, an important site in Mormon history. Scouts for the Hole-in-the-Rock Expedition had become lost on the top of Cedar Mesa. One of the scouts had been to Montezuma Creek and had returned home via the Abajo Mountains so he knew those landmarks but could not see them. Climbing Salvation Knoll in late December of 1880 he found the long sweep of Comb Ridge to the southeast and the Abajos to the northeast, so he knew where he was. The scouts then guided the Hole-in-the-Rock Expedition off Cedar Mesa down Road Canyon to where Comb Wash meets the San Juan River. The Mormon families with their wagons and tired mules and horses struggled up San Juan Hill. When they got to Cottonwood Wash they chose to go no further, and, in the spring of 1881, just as Durango was being founded, they established the town of Bluff.

We climbed Salvation Knoll for the view and could see out across most of Cedar Mesa as well as all the way down the Comb.

On Sunday morning we visited the Mule Canyon Ruins stabilized on the north side of the highway. We discussed the excellent kiva and tower there along with the PII room block and the classic Prudden "unit pueblo," which T. Mitchell Prudden had first described in *The American Anthropologist* in 1903. His article "The Prehistoric Ruins of the San Juan Watershed in Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico" was one of the first scholarly reports of Ancestral Puebloan sites in the Four Corners with a careful synthesis of above ground pueblos and cliff dwellings from what is now Aztec National Monument all the way west to Chinle Wash.



We drove south to the Kane Gulch Ranger Station to purchase books, maps, and the new bandana that has drawings of local area potsherds for identification. It's a nice, handy addition to your hiking wardrobe. Get it wet and tie it around your neck to cool off, then remove it to study and identify any potsherds you might find.

From the Ranger Station we drove to Muley Point then out on the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to a view way above the top of Johns Canyon. We visited a rock art site there after much crawling and climbing to get on the proper ledge. One of our group, a hunter, identified two bighorn petroglyphs as being pregnant sheep because of small

protuberances out their rear ends.

By late afternoon we drove to the top of the Moki Dugway. I discussed the history of the road, built in 1957 by Texas Zinc, and the company's plans to move uranium ore from the Happy Jack Mine at White Canyon, south across Cedar Mesa, then down the Dugway to Mexican Hat where there was a uranium mill. From where we looked out across to the south we could also see a wrecked haul truck trailer that had fallen off the route. I also explained the apocryphal story of the red Mustang convertible rented by a German tourist who had stripped to his leopard skin underwear and then driven at high speed over the edge. His remains were so crushed that the Search and Rescue team was not sure of his sex.

We drove down the Dugway and re-convened for drinks and a wrap-up at the Gulliford-Moran house, "Casa del Tio Oso," in the Copper Cliffs subdivision below Tank Mesa and across from the Desert Rose Motel. To use a 19th century phrase, "and a good time was had by all."

Field Trip Report - Hispano Cemeteries and Catholic Churches Along the San Juan River – September 29, 2018 – by trip leader Joan Kellogg

Participants: Rege and Nancy Leach, Michael Mohr, Rosalie Phillips, Tish and Pete Varney, Byron and Joan Kellogg

We were fortunate to have Ruth Lambert as our very knowledgeable guide. She is currently studying and recording the cemeteries through a grant to the San Juan Mountain Association. She has recorded over 30 rural cemeteries and is creating a detailed on-line reference of all the documented cemeteries. Ruth has also studied the historic settlements and churches associated with the cemeteries. Participants appreciated Ruth taking time out of her busy schedule to share her extensive knowledge of the early historic settlements of Pagosa Junction/Gato, Juanita, and Trujillo.



St. John's Church

We headed east on Highway 160 to the Cat Creek Junction turn-off and then south to Pagosa Junction. Only St. John's Catholic Church, a few abandoned structures and remnants from the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad remain in the settlement. Ruth had arranged for us to meet Chris Chavez at the Church. We were

thrilled to tour the well-preserved 100+ year old church. Even though there has been some vandalism, the church is beautifully preserved, especially the stained-glass windows. The church is still used for special religious celebrations.



Byron, Ruth, and Chris Chavez



Double Truss Bridge

We then drove a short distance to the Pagosa Junction/Gato Cemetery. Ruth explained the process for documenting and identifying the burial sites. She also explained how the land was set aside around 1890 to 1900 for the cemeteries with infrequent burials continuing today. From Pagosa Junction we drove to Juanita. Just before



Juanita cemetery gravesite

arriving at Juanita we stopped at an overlook to see the double railroad trestles over the San Juan River. The bridge is intact, but the rails have been removed. Before touring the townsite and the cemetery, we enjoyed a picnic lunch under cottonwoods near the confluence of Navajo and San Juan Rivers on the Navajo River Ranch. Ruth was given permission for us to enjoy this lovely picnic area on this privately-owned ranch which pretty much encompasses the settlement of Juanita. Ruth shared the history of the few remaining buildings including a school/mercantile, and the remnants of another Catholic Church. We visited the cemetery and again we found ourselves pondering the lives lived in this community.



St. James Mission

After traveling along a portion of the Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway, we made our last stop at the Trujillo Cemetery. This was a larger cemetery and located near St. James Mission, another 100+ year old Catholic Church. It was evident that this church was well loved and preserved with many similarities to St. John’s in Pagosa Junction. Ruth mentioned that the remote location of the cemeteries and townsites has a wonderful timeless quality that would appeal to historians and archaeologists. She certainly was right about that.

	<p>Upcoming Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2018</p> <p>Updates are in red.</p> <p>To update this schedule, email lylehancock@bresnan.net.</p> <p>Please contact trip leaders by phone or email for more information or to sign up.</p>
November 14	<p>SJBAS meeting –Kristin Bowen, Lead Archaeologist for the Bureau of Reclamation Western Colorado Area Office, will speak about her various experiences working as a professional archaeologist for the federal government across the western United States and give updates on her office’s current projects.</p>
December 15	<p>SJBAS annual meeting and holiday brunch - St. Mark’s Episcopal Church – 11:00 a.m.</p>

Life-Long Learning Lecture Series – [2018 Fall Schedule](#)

Four Corners Lecture Series – [2018 Schedule](#)

Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) 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/>

CAS Chapter News

Pikes Peak Chapter – [October newsletter](#); [Newsletter from 1983](#)

Regional Archaeological News

You Can Help Defend Bears Ears

Earlier this year, the BLM and Forest Service announced they were initiating an extremely expedited planning process for creating a Management Plan for the two small units of Bears Ears that remain under National Monument status after President Trump attempted to cut Bears Ears by 85% last December. While Friends of Cedar Mesa (FCM) continues to challenge the legality of Mr. Trump’s proclamation removing protections for places like Cedar Mesa, Grand Gulch, Sand Island, and Cottonwood Wash, we strongly believe the areas inside the reduced monument are in desperate need of active management and a workable plan, especially for dealing with the skyrocketing numbers visiting front-country archaeological sites in the area. As such, we actively participated in the “scoping phase” of planning, providing the BLM positive and constructive ideas for what is needed in a Monument Management Plan. The agencies have now released draft plans, which include a “preferred alternative,” which is open for public comment until November 15, 2018. — Friends of Cedar Mesa ([Read article](#))

SJBAS Officers and Other Positions - 2018

President	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxye) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Susan Hicks	hicks@animas.net
Secretary	Paula Lutz	paula@durango.net
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	mark@virtbiz.com
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net

Other Positions

CAS representative	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Moki Messenger editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster and email coordinator	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.**