

# SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



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

## The Moki Messenger

October 2016

### Next SJBAS Monthly Meeting – October 13<sup>th</sup>

Our next meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, speaker Dan Simplicio will present: "Vanished! - Behind the Mystery of Mesa Verde." The discussion will focus on migration and core teaching that is still in practice today, but also how much Pueblo people have deviated from core principals, including the roles of women.

Mr. Simplicio was a former member of the Zuni Tribal Council and is currently the Cultural Specialist at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. In these positions he was known for his effective advocacy on behalf of the Pueblo of Zuni, its culture and lands. He led a successful opposition to a proposed strip coal mining operation near the Zuni Salt Lake, a sacred place to Zuni's and other Pueblo people. The struggle took nearly two decades.

He has also been an advocate for his people on numerous issues, including health and education, language continuation, environmental and cultural protection. Mr. Simplicio has addressed these concerns before national audiences, the media, legislative bodies, and at various conferences and symposiums throughout the country.

### SJBAS Meeting Report – September 8<sup>th</sup>

Submitted by Barb Hancock, Secretary  
Approximate attendance: 63

Janice Sheftel, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Guests and Members were welcomed to the session with a special welcome for FLC students. The floor was then opened for announcements.

- A brief review of upcoming field trips:

Mesa Verde trip led by Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller has been enhanced to include an afternoon guided trip to Mug House for an additional \$25. Not all who have signed up may be interested in the afternoon trip, so Jim and Rhonda are accepting names for a waiting list and should be able to confirm with interested Members next week.

The field trip to Yucca House led by Tish Varney and scheduled for Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> still has room for more participants.

Pueblitos field trip will be led by Bob Powell on October 15. The trip will require 4WD high clearance vehicles.

Janice referred the Membership to the club website, [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org), for more details on these and other upcoming field trips. She also reiterated that one of the benefits of Membership is that it allows you to participate in these field trips; guests are not allowed.

- The Colorado Archaeological Society (“CAS”) annual conference is coming up October 7 through 10 and will be held in Grand Junction this year. Janice is selling raffle tickets to benefit the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund tonight and the winner will receive a handmade pot. Tickets are \$3 each or 4 for \$10. There are a wide variety of field trips associated with the conference with all day speakers on Saturday. She referred the Membership to the CAS website for detailed information.
- Shelby Tisdale, Executive Director for the Center of Southwest Studies, announced that there will be a free program hosted on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Gwen Setalla, Hopi potter, will be doing a presentation and demonstration of her pottery methods in the Lyceum. There will be a 5:00 p.m. reception preceding the presentation.
- The next PAAC course will be held in Grand Junction on September 16-18 on the topic of Lithics and the cost is \$12.
- Dr. Doug Owsley from the Smithsonian is tentatively scheduled to be in Durango September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and will discuss his forensic anthropology work on Jamestown. Dr. Owsley was the keynote speaker for the 2015 CAS Conference hosted by SJBAS in Durango where he presented on the topic of The Kennewick Man. SJBAS has hard cover copies of a biography of Dr. Owsley for sale for \$10 for anyone interested.
- Peggy Morris announced that the book sale at the annual picnic yielded \$100 and presented a check to Janice in that amount to be contributed to the John W. Sanders Internship Fund.

Janice then closed the business portion of the meeting and introduced the evening’s speaker: Dr. Dawn Mulhern, Associated Professor of Anthropology, Fort Lewis College, presenting: “Mortuary Practices of the Durango Basketmakers”

### **September 16 – 18, 2016 - Rock Art near Bluff and Ancestral Puebloan Sites on Comb Ridge, Utah Trip coordinator - Andrew Gulliford**

On Friday morning our group of twelve met for a hearty breakfast at the Twin Rocks Café in Bluff, Utah, then we hiked to the Sand Dune rock art panel just northwest of town. Petroglyphs were mostly Basketmaker through PIII, including a rare kiva ladder and many cupules used for offerings of corn pollen. As an added bonus, Andy pointed out an exceptional life-size Barrier Canyon-style anthropomorphic pictograph that was quite unusual for this area. We enjoyed a fun tour of Andy’s new house, still a work in progress, and then a picnic lunch at the Sand Island River put in. After lunch, we explored the Sand Island rock art panels revealed a few years ago after mechanical tamarisk removal enabled easier access. Represented were a possible Paleo mammoth, Glen Canyon Linear, and Basketmaker to PIII to historic Navajo petroglyphs. Then we visited the Wolf Man Basketmaker Panel in Butler Wash. Petroglyphs included wolf tracks, a beautiful shield, a flayed face, a macaw, a wonderful corn plant, an exceptionally accurate man, a scepter, an atlatl,



carry bags, a great blue heron, etc. We also discussed the entrenchment of Butler Wash that probably occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the area was overgrazed by thousands of sheep and cattle and down cutting of the perennial stream most likely took place. During the Ancestral Pueblo occupation, the valley was likely verdant with surface water flowing through a lush riparian zone. The valley at the east base of Comb Ridge was surely a popular travel corridor. Our group then headed north along the Butler Wash road and viewed Sunset House from the road. This cliff dwelling is a

refuge site with a defensive wall and a clearly defensive location. Half of our group returned to developed campsites near Bluff, while the other half camped at a dispersed site along Butler Wash.

On Saturday morning we hiked into the Long Fingers site (aka Split Level, Green Shield) where we viewed a distinct example of a secure refuge site with defensive walls built on an inaccessible ledge above a multi-room habitation site. Unique pictographs included several green shields, and petroglyphs included two hands with very long fingers and a calendar glyph, a large spiral with long horizontal lines and pecked hash marks. We could not discern how it worked, but it sure looked like it could measure celestial events or the passage of time. After lunch Nik Kendziorski from the Center of Southwest Studies joined the group and we visited the spectacular Monarch Cave site. We returned to camp late in the afternoon and enjoyed our evening happy hour in the shade of cottonwoods. Later we spotted a NASA weather balloon clearly illuminated by the setting sun floating over northern New Mexico and were treated to a full moon rise.

On Sunday morning we broke camp and headed to a seldom traveled canyon. On the way into the canyon, we stopped to look at a historic sweat lodge with the stacked-stick door and roof covering still intact. This structure was most likely built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Navajo sheep herders. Then we bushwhacked up the bottom of the canyon to view a seldom seen site that Andy dubbed Beautiful Wall. The pristine dry stack wall is tucked high into a north facing alcove; it may have been used as a guard structure for an ancient trail over the Comb. Then we climbed to the top of the Comb to see a “herradura” (Spanish for horseshoe), an Ancestral Puebloan shrine. This ceremonial site consists of a circular structure about 7 meters in diameter surrounded by a 1-meter high rock wall with an entry opening facing east. Nearby were the shards of a broken pot that was likely smashed on purpose as a special offering. We paused for lunch on the ridgetop and enjoyed the spectacular view of the summit ridge and Comb Wash below. We viewed another remote site Andy named the Pinnacle Wall Ruin at the head of the next drainage over. It was a magnificent day, but time to head for home, so we hiked out the way we had come and came across a PII site on top of a low hill at the mouth of the canyon. Andy is always a wealth of information, and he did a wonderful job planning and leading this field trip.

- by Lyle Hancock

## **Mesa Verde Backcountry Trip Report - September 25-26, 2016 – Trip coordinators - Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller**

Participating in the outing were ten SJBAS members: John Edens, Sue Fischer and Andy Butler, Kristine Johnson, Jay Culver, Michael Mohr, Rusty Chamberlain, Lyle Hancock, and Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller. On Sunday afternoon, September 25<sup>th</sup>, part of the group hiked the Petroglyph Trail, which was enjoyed by all in spite of the “strenuous” hike rating. We saw some cliff dwellings along the trail and enjoyed the thought-provoking petroglyph panel. Most of the group stayed at the Far View Lodge that evening and rewarded themselves with a lovely dinner at the Metate Room.

On Monday, our first of two ranger-led Backcountry Hikes was to Oak Tree House. Our ranger, Jeff Brown, shared his wonderful knowledge about the site and its inhabitants. On our hike in, we passed Mummy House, where the mummy of a 12-year-old boy was found. The site was expanded over a period of years, and Jeff pointed out an architectural feature that helped the archeologists determine this. He said T-shaped doors, which typically opened to a plaza, would be closed off with stones and mortar, and the resulting secure space used for storage. Once he pointed out the outline of where the original door was, it was easy to see it had been closed. Oak Tree House has six kivas, one of which was originally built as a square, but was later modified to a round structure.

He also pointed out walls that had two colors of plaster; the upper color was a light tan representing Father Sky and the lower color was a darker brown representing Mother Earth. Some of the items found at the site included crystalized salt, turquoise, a hammer stone, sandals that were never worn, and various figurines, indicating wide ranging trade since there are no salt or turquoise mines in the area.

After lunch at the Far View Terrace Café, we drove to Wetherill Mesa to begin our Mug House tour. Along the trail we came across the unexcavated Painted Cave site. There was a horizontal red zig-zag line pictograph, which typically depicts a snake. A zig-zag line with a 45-degree or vertical orientation often depicts lightning. One participant thought zig-zag lines could also depict mountains, but Jeff said mountains are usually drawn as triangles. Mug House presents three styles of kivas: Mesa Verde, Chaco, and Zia. Some of the artifacts found at Mug House were a half dozen mugs hanging on a cord, sandals, and blade fragments which were likely from a knife used to butcher deer. Jeff said that the bow and arrow was probably an intellectual trade item, versus a physical trade item, that came into use by 600 - 800 A.D.



Other than the endless driving on the Wetherill Mesa Road, everyone enjoyed the tours and the day went by quickly!

- by Rhonda Raffo

## Field Trip Planning Meeting – November 16<sup>th</sup>

It is that time of year again when we begin planning field trips for the upcoming year. Lyle Hancock is our chapter field trip coordinator, but we encourage all members to help plan and execute our trips. This year's field trip planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 p.m. The location will be somewhere in Durango, but will not be determined until we get a sense of how many people will attend. If you are interested in coordinating a field trip or have ideas for trips, please join us and help plan our trips. Contact Lyle at [lylehancock@bresnan.net](mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net) for more information or to sign up to attend the meeting.

## Upcoming Field Trips and Activities

<b>October 1</b>	<b>Yucca House National Monument</b> This is a day trip to one of the largest Ancestral Puebloan sites in Southwest Colorado. The tour of this unexcavated <a href="#">puebloan community</a> near Cortez will be led by NPS guide Jill Blumenthal. To sign up, contact Tish Varney at <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a> .
<b>October 7 - 10</b>	<b>CAS annual meeting and conference in Grand Junction - <a href="#">Follow this link to register</a></b>
<b>October 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting- Dan Simplicio from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center - "What Happens When Migration Stops?"</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Pueblitos near Navajo Reservoir – New Mexico</b> This will be a day trip to visit three Navajo pueblitos. The longest walk is ¾ mile over relatively flat terrain. 4WD/HC vehicles are necessary, but we will arrange carpools. The trip limit is 16. To sign up, contact trip coordinator Bob Powell at <a href="mailto:robertlpowell@durango.net">robertlpowell@durango.net</a> or 970-385-8949.
<b>November 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting –</b> in collaboration with the Life Long Learning Lecture Series, our meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Noble Hall, Room 130 - Jim Judge, archaeologist and retired faculty of the FLC Anthropology Department, will present: "Confronting Climate Change, Then and Now – Lessons from Chaco."
<b>December 8</b>	<b>SJBAS Holiday Party – Fort Lewis College Ballroom</b>

## **Florence C. Lister in Memoriam – by Mark Varien and Bill Lipe**

Florence Cline Lister died Sunday afternoon, September 4<sup>th</sup>, at her home in Mancos, Colorado. She was 96. Florence's career in archaeology began with a chance encounter with an Ancestral Pueblo corrugated jar in the late 1930's, which in turn led her to move from California, transfer to the University of New Mexico, and change her major to anthropology in 1939. Florence went on to a distinguished career, publishing important technical studies of Spanish and Mexican Majolica and Ancestral Pueblo pottery and becoming widely known for her many popular books on Southwestern archaeology, some of which have remained in print for decades. She also led innumerable public tours and programs for the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and other organizations. Despite declining eyesight and mobility, Florence continued to be an active writer and lecturer until her passing. Many of her earlier publications were co-authored with her husband, prominent Southwestern archaeologist Robert H. Lister, who died in 1990. She is survived by two sons, Frank, in Mancos, and Gary, in Estes Park, Colorado, and by several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## **The distinguished career of Florence Lister**

The distinguished career in Southwestern archaeology of Florence Lister began at Chaco Canyon in the summer of 1940. As a young University of New Mexico anthropology student she yearned to be an archaeologist. "Just the word 'archaeologist' resonated with adventure, discovery, and mystery," she says. "I did not know then about the days of tedium sorting potsherds." [Read Durango Herald article by Andrew Gulliford.](#)

## **One Pot After Another: The University of Colorado Field School, 1953-56 – by Florence Lister**

Wise men have advised, "Be careful of what you wish for because you just might get it".

As a college student I dreamed of tramping off into the wilderness, meeting the challenges of the unknown, and, if luck held, of discovering my very own cliff dwelling. Thereafter I would be induced into the Wetherill Hall of Fame. It was a given that I wished to participate in an archaeological expedition. I got my wish but I neglected to specify not as a camp cook. But that is the way it turned out. [Read article](#)

## **PAAC Program**

The PAAC program is asking for requests for classes for the spring; the deadline for our list is October 21<sup>st</sup>. SJBAS members can view the list of available classes by following this link: [PAAC class descriptions](#). Please respond to Tish Varney at [tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net).

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

## **Hisatsinom Chapter News**

**Hisatsinom Newsletter October 2016** [Hisatsinom Newsletter](#)

The Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present Shanna Diederichs on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss "A Frontier in Bloom: Social Implications of Architectural Diversity and Conformity during the Colonization of the San Juan Region of the Northern Southwest." Shanna discusses the frontier colonization that occurred during the Basketmaker III period in the northern southwest using architectural data. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

## **Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) News**



## CAS Annual Meeting and Conference - October 7 - 10, 2016

Steve Lekson, Ph.D. will be the Saturday night keynote speaker. Dr. Lekson is Curator of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History and a Professor in the Department of Anthropology. Follow this link for a [conference overview](#) and [follow this link to register](#).

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.

## Current Events - Archaeology of the Southwest

### Bears Ears and the Issue of Ownership – Preservation Archaeology – September 23, 2016

This week I return to our “regularly scheduled programming” and discuss the issue of **ownership** in relation to archaeology and public lands. The question “who owns the past?” arises wherever there is contestation over cultural heritage between groups. Conversations about ownership have hinged on the ethical considerations surrounding portable artifacts, antiquities, and human remains.

The ownership of portable cultural patrimony is a huge, fraught issue that isn’t going away. Dozens of books discuss cultural patrimony and ownership. However, the debate is a bit different when we talk about cultural sites and landscapes that cannot be moved. The issue of ownership is no less applicable in the case of cultural landscapes, though it is the ability to make decisions about *management* of particular places that is at stake. [Read article](#)

### Piecing History Back Together: A Lesson from the Past about the Future of the Bear’s Ears – Preservation Archaeology – September 13, 2016

Cultural affiliation studies are particularly important tools that Native peoples, anthropologists, and archaeologists use to demonstrate tangible links between people of the ancient past and contemporary societies. These studies are especially significant in the politically charged events presently surrounding the push to designate a national monument around the Bears Ears area in southeastern Utah. The story I share here shows that even a single artifact can play a significant role in piecing together the history of Ancestral Pueblo peoples—and that taking or moving even one artifact may have far deeper and lasting ramifications for the future of public lands across the Southwest. [Read article](#)

### Age, visitation threaten ancestral Puebloan links to the sky – Durango Herald – September 22, 2016

“We live in one of the very few places left that you can see almost as many stars as the ancient people living here and elsewhere,” said Charlie Hakes, a professor in the Physics and Engineering Department at Fort Lewis College. For the ancestral Puebloans, a connection to the sky was a fundamental element of their culture. At locations across the Southwest, they built architectural features to track the movement of the sun and moon across the sky for agrarian and ceremonial purposes. Today, the integrity of these sites is threatened by age, increased visitation and, in some cases, their restoration. [Read article](#)

### NASA launches “space archaeology” project in Greater Chaco area – Durango Herald – September 22, 2016

This past summer, NASA, in partnership with several other organizations, launched the Greater Chaco area “space archaeology” campaign, an increasingly popular method of research that uses aerial and satellite thermal imagery to

find buried prehistoric ruins. The hope, according to project managers, is to catalogue previously unknown structures, roads and other sacred relics beyond the Chaco Culture National Historical Park boundary in northwestern Mexico, before it's too late. "There's no doubt that a lot of the oil and gas development has destroyed remnants of the ancient Chacoan people," Kantner said. "If we can use remote sensing to detect below surface, we might be able to answer some of these questions before further degradation." [Read article](#)

**Recapture revisited: BLM releases draft plan for motorized access in controversial canyon – Salt Lake Tribune - September 9, 2016**

Blanding • The debate over motorized use in Recapture Canyon reached a critical milestone Friday, one that the Bureau of Land Management hopes will pave a resolution to one of Utah's most embittered road controversies.

The agency released a long-awaited draft [Environmental Assessment](#) (EA) for San Juan County's proposed right-of-way through and around the archaeologically rich area that has been a flashpoint in rural Utahns' disaffection with federal land oversight.

The document lays out six alternatives, ranging from granting the county's 12-mile network of motorized rights-of-way to leaving in place a controversial order barring motorized travel in the canyon. The BLM does not identify a preferred alternative, but whatever the agency decides, its call is sure to anger someone. [Read article](#)

**Utah Gov. Herbert hints he could pitch plan to protect Bears Ears – Salt Lake Tribune – September 8, 2016**

Gov. Gary Herbert will travel to Washington in the next few weeks to meet with Obama administration officials, and he hinted Wednesday that he may take with him a proposal for the protection of Bears Ears, an area in southeastern Utah where the White House is considering creating a national monument.

Herbert would not provide details of his potential recommendation, saying that, if he did have a proposal, he would want to present it to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell before making it public.

"I don't want to scoop myself," Herbert told reporters after his monthly KUED news conference. The governor said he would like to see the Obama administration "take the lead" on working out the best way to protect the region, but he believes there are ways to approach the issue "to ameliorate the confrontational aspects." [Read article](#)

**SJBAS Officers**

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**Other Positions**

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Webmaster and email coordinator	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net">lylehancock@bresnan.net</a>

**San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Membership Renewal**

**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 our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.**