

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



www.sjbas.org

The Moki Messenger

September 2014

Next SJBAS General Meeting

The next SJBAS meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11th, at the Lyceum in the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Raymond Mueller will present:

Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction along the Río Verde, Oaxaca, Mexico or how Pre-Hispanic, Human Landscape Degradation Affected the Archaeology of Both the Upper and Lower Regions of a Drainage Basin.

Geoarchaeology is a subset of the field of paleoenvironmental reconstruction and is used to rebuild the environmental setting during some past archaeological site occupation. During the early stages of this project, close to the Pacific coast, it became difficult to explain the differences we were seeing in past environments and archaeology using local information. After a chance observation during a trip the following year we realized that a possible solution could be found in the highly populated (sites like Monte Alban, Mitla, Yagul, etc.) highlands of the upper drainage. Extensive investigation of arroyo exposures in the Oaxaca Highlands revealed the ubiquitous presence of buried paleosols. These paleosols represent stable landsurfaces separated by sediments from erosion of adjacent hill slopes. Radiocarbon dating of 36 samples indicated that most of the hill slope erosion and valley alluviation occurred prior to Spanish Conquest. Radiocarbon dates of paleosols show several periods of sedimentation. Mid-Holocene dates are probably associated with climate change; more recent periods of erosion are correlated with major changes in pre-Hispanic land use (primarily deforestation). Highland erosion led to profound geomorphic and archaeological changes along the lower Río Verde valley near the Pacific Ocean. A network of abandoned stream channels, with little surface expression, was revealed during extensive soil and sediment auguring. Radiocarbon dating of organic-rich channel sediments associated with archaeological sites provided the means to develop a model of changes in floodplain geomorphology. Channels changed both position and form as the sediment load increased due to changing land use in the highland portion of the drainage basin. Increased sediment load also formed bay barrier islands and enclosed previously open bays, creating new food-rich environments. These environmental changes then influenced demography and settlement patterns along the Lower Río Verde and adjacent coastal areas over the last few thousand years.

Dr. Raymond Mueller (aka, brother of Jim) began his graduate education studying the relationship between Geomorphology and Soil Genesis. His undergraduate education was at SUNY-Buffalo with graduate education at Montana State University and the University of Kansas. Shortly after getting a faculty position at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, a series of serendipitous events resulted in a change in interest to Geoarchaeology. Early research looking at environmental change and archaeology was concentrated in the Mid-Atlantic region. He has also conducted research in Israel and other locations in the US. Dr. Mueller's main area of research is in Oaxaca, Mexico where he has been doing research for the past 26 years.

August 14th SJBAS Meeting Report

1. The annual holiday party will be held on Friday, December 5th at Fort Lewis College.
2. Ruth Shields. For those who would like to send a condolence message to Ruth Shield's son Patrick, who was driving the car in which Ruth died, his address is 480 Rancho Florida Road, Durango, CO 81303. If members would like to contribute to the John W. Sanders Internship Fund in Ruth's name, please note that information on the submittal check and mail it to Mark Gebhardt.
3. Janice mentioned the Boston Coal Mine Trip planned for September 17. To sign up, please contact Kathleen and Jim Shadell at 970-247-5597 or shadelljim@gmail.com.
4. Marian Simon discussed the Salinas Pueblo trip planned for October 24 - 26. There will be ranger-guided tours. She would like participants to sign up early due to limited accommodations in Mountainair - please contact Andy or Marion at 970-749-2927 or mandyandarion@gmail.com.
5. Mark and Janice both talked about the CAS raffle tickets. They are \$4 each.

Late Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers in Utah Valley and the Promontory Caves

Our speaker on August 14th was Grant Smith, an archaeologist with the U.S.D.A. He described the Promontory phase people of Utah as those who came into the area after the departure of the Fremont people. These people were mobile hunter-gatherers, but “tethered” to the wetlands in Utah Valley and the Great Salt Lake. The Utah Valley site is on the edge of Utah Lake where there are multiple fish spawns. The habitation sites are poorly defined and were excavated in the 1990's by Joel Janetski, professor of anthropology at B.Y.U. The Promontory cave sites in contrast showed evidence of big game subsistence (bison, sheep, and antelope). No agriculture was found. Grant Smith had an epiphany when he looked at Promontory pottery - it looked a lot like Dineta gray! In fact Julian Steward, an anthropologist in the 1930's who is best known for the concept of cultural ecology, thought that the Promontory people were Athapascan. Numerous moccasins were found in the Promontory caves and are described as pucker-type design. These moccasins now match moccasins that Jack Ives of the University of Alberta is recovering in Canada as the ice melts.

Grant Smith was born at Mercy hospital in Durango and grew up in Bloomfield, NM. He is a graduate of B.Y.U. SJBAS was pleased to have his parents, brother, and two sons attend his talk.

-- by Diane Skinner

New Members

SJBAS welcomes new members Michael Todt and Tamara Hoier.

Center of Southwest Studies “Behind the Scenes” Tour – an Archival Journey! – by Tish Varney

The holiday 2013 silent auction donation to benefit the John W. Sanders Internship Fund from San Juan Basin Archaeology Society (SJBAS) members Peggy and Dennis Morris came to fruition with a “Behind the Scenes” tour of the Center of Southwest Studies led by none other than director Dr. Jay Harrison. On August 8, Tish and Pete Varney arrived with five friends, including SJBAS members Kathy and Rusty Chamberlain and greeted by Julie Tapley-Booth, Business and Public Relations Manager.

Dr. Harrison welcomed us with discussion about the original museum concept of permanent displays and the challenges of creating rotating exhibits within that space now. In addition, we learned about the incredible task of fitting the multitude of archives into the secure and climate controlled storage space. Jay requested a “wish list” of items we'd like to see in the archives of the museum. Ideas ran the gamut with Native American artifacts (oldest/most valuable) at the top of the list as well as railroad history, and ancient maps. How little did we know that these and many more things were in store for the group to appreciate.

The Center's library is a treasure trove of research books, maps, magazines and newspapers that are available for any Durango Public Library card holder, as well as a reference collection on archaeology and local history kept relevant and

culled through periodic book sales. In addition, volunteers are sorting and cataloguing tens of thousands of historic railroad and some mining photos for posterity.

The museum has at least five levels of security as well as climate control for the various areas. We traveled to rooms containing SW newspapers, Durango City records, historic and political archives and posters. Ft. Lewis College students work in the museum processing southwestern artifacts. Any item made with natural or organic material (feathers, fiber, wood) receives the “cold treatment” in the freezer for a few days to kill any insect larvae lurking inside.

Loaned items coming back from exhibitions follow strict packaging and security procedures. The staff sometimes bears a resemblance to “cloak and dagger” characters in a James Bond movie! Moving precious objects along dark, deserted roads requires special considerations we can only image. One of the very exceptional artifacts was a Remington western art statue depicting galloping horses and riders. The details on the sculpture are exquisite. Incredible!

All that “*Raiders of the Lost Ark*” sleuthing with Dr. Harrison in the archive caverns finished with a sumptuous wine and cheese soiree. Julie had the conference room table set with a lavish spread of six cheeses, crackers, bread, fruit, and dessert items to help us restore our strength. Jay graciously answered our many questions now coming from our expanded understanding of the diverse and critical nature of the museum collection.

I am pleased to hear from good sources (the Morris’), that this special silent auction item to benefit the John W. Sanders Internship Fund will again be offered at the 2014 holiday party. You don’t need to be present to win!!

Four Corners Lecture Series - “Big House on the Prairie” presented by Shanna Diederichs – by Rusty Chamberlain

Kathy and Rusty Chamberlain attended a fascinating talk by archeologist Shanna Diederichs at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. The lecture was part of the Four Corners Lecture Series. She titled her talk “Big House on the Prairie” because her subject was the excavation of a Basketmaker III great kiva and surrounding pit house village. The site is called the Dillard site because it is on the Dillard family property which is part in the Indian Camp Ranch subdivision.

The Dillard site excavation over 4 years revealed a 11+ meter diameter structure with a roof supported by 4 posts and with a bench along the inside wall. Shanna’s found the kiva had 2 major remodels over the 500 or so years of its use. They found 3 floors. The earliest was a smoothly plastered and contained a number of features. The second floor was a layer of sand. The sand appears to have been created by grinding up local sandstone. The last floor was just dirt fill but did have features. It also had evidence of decommissioning and an attempt at ritual burning. A unique feature of the building is a partial roofing of large flat stones, some weighing as much a 200 pounds.

The site also has a pit house village north of the kiva and another south. They each have about 12 houses. The area also has many village and home sites nearby.

As Lyle noted in his notice of the lecture, PBS will present an episode of the series [Time Team America](#) that features the Dillard site excavation. The title is “The Lost Pueblo Village” It will air Tuesday August 26 at 8 p.m. MDT. As a part of her lecture, Shanna showed several animations that take you inside the kiva and a pit house.

Upcoming Field Trips

Our 2014 Trip Schedule is available on our website at www.sjbas.org/Trips.htm. Please check the website schedule periodically to check for trip updates and date changes, and contact the trip leaders directly by phone or email for trip details and to sign up.

Sept. 7 - 10 or 11	<u>North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park</u> This is a four or five-day car-camping trip. This trip will be worth it even if only for the camping on the North Rim. High-clearance, 4-WD vehicles are required, and hiking
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	<p>capability is important, as one hike could be between 5 to 11 miles long. This is a challenging trip worth every view. We may also visit the Pipe Springs and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments. The trip participation limit is 11.</p> <p>Trip Leader: Richard Robinson – 970-764-7029 Robinson7150@gmail.com</p>
September 17	<p><u>Boston Coal and Fuel Company at Perins Town Site</u></p> <p>We will hike about a mile and a half from Lightner Creek into the Perins town site north of Twin Buttes to view the ruins of the Boston Coal and Fuel Company mine and the old railroad line.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Kathleen and Jim Shadell - 970-247-5597 shadelljim@gmail.com</p>
September 27 - 30	<p><u>Capitol Reef and Canyonlands National Parks</u></p> <p>During this four-day, car-camping trip we will visit some of the best Barrier Canyon-style rock art available in world-class settings. The most difficult hike is into Horseshoe Canyon; elevation loss and gain is 780 feet and the hike is 7 miles roundtrip. We will camp at the Fruita group campsite near the apple orchards in Capitol Reef N.P. and at a dispersed campsite with pit toilets at the trailhead into Horseshoe Canyon. There is a trip participation limit of 14. For those who may not want to camp, hotels are available in Hanksville and Torrey, Utah. The trip is full, but you can add your name to the waiting list.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Barb and Lyle Hancock – 970-764-4531 _lylehancock@bresnan.net</p>
October 20 - 22	<p><u>Cedar Mesa, Utah</u></p> <p>During this three-day, car-camping trip we will hike into a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. The hiking will be moderately difficult with some off-trail hiking required. Hikes may be up to five miles long. High-clearance, 4-WD vehicles will be necessary, but carpooling can be arranged. The trip participation limit is 12. The trip is full, but you can add your name to the waiting list.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Barb and Lyle Hancock - 970-764-4531 _lylehancock@bresnan.net</p>
October 24 - 26	<p><u>Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument in New Mexico</u></p> <p>During this three-day motel trip, we will visit the ruins of three mission churches at Quarai, Abó, and Gran Quivira and the partially excavated Gran Quivira pueblo. What remains today of the Salinas Pueblo Missions are austere yet beautiful reminders of the 17th century contact between Pueblo Indians and Spanish Colonials. We will also visit Petroglyph National Monument near Albuquerque. The trip participation limit is 20.</p> <p>Trip Leaders: Marion and Andy Simon - 970-749-2927 mandyandarion@gmail.com</p>

Overview of upcoming Field Trip to Salinas National Monument - October 24th - 26th - Trip Leaders: Andy and Marion Simon

Friday, October 24 Depart from Santa Rita Park at 8 A.M. with pit stops in Bloomfield and at Apache Nuggett Casino, arrive in Bernalillo around 12:30 P.M. Have lunch at *The Range* in Bernalillo. Drive to Mountainair and either tour Quarai ruins or check into hotel depending on arrival time. Hotels available are *The Shaffer Hotel* (historic hotel) or the *Rock Motel*. Dinner will be at *The Shaffer Hotel*.

Saturday, October 25 Leave Mountainair after breakfast (*Shaffer Hotel* or local coffee shop) and proceed to Grand Quivera and Abo. Lunch in Mountainair. If Quarai was skipped on Friday, we will visit it on Saturday. Drive back to Albuquerque and spend the night.

Sunday, October 26 Visit Petroglyph National Monument and drive back to Durango.

Trip is limited to 20 due to accommodation limitations in Mountainair as well as the paucity of eating places. Ranger guided tours will be available and scheduled at Quarai, Grand Quivera and Abo if enough members are interested. A Petroglyph National Monument tour can be arranged as well. For more information or to sign up, please contact Andy or Marion at mandyandarion@gmail.com or 970-749-2927.

Four Corners Lecture Series (Cortez, CO)

As part of the Four Corners Lecture Series, the Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeology Society is pleased to present Dr. Jeffrey Dean on Tuesday, September 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, CO to discuss "New Research on Old Dates: Dendroarchaeology of Pueblo III Kiva Construction on Mesa Verde." Dean's presentation will focus on four kivas on Mesa Verde (Kivas F and G at Square Tower House, Kiva I at Long House, and Kiva A at Badger House). These structures exhibit markedly different construction sequences and wood-use practices that illuminate past construction behavior. Contact Kari Schleher at 505-269-4475 with questions.

Time Team America

Reception and Screenin

On Thursday September 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies, please join the **Center of Southwest Studies** and the **Crow Canyon Archaeological Center** for light appetizers and local beer and wine followed by a screening of PBS's fascinating archaeo-reality show, *Time Team America*, featuring Crow Canyon's staff and the latest excavation at the Dillard site in southwestern Colorado.

Time Team America is a prime-time television series and a platform for the public to learn about archaeology and explore some of the most important research taking place at sites around the United States. *Time Team* was lured to Colorado by the Dillard site to explore a defining moment in Pueblo Indian culture: the transition from hunting and gathering to an agricultural way of life.

Time Team's "Lost Pueblo Village" episode focuses on this pivotal time in ancestral Pueblo history right in our own backyard. Using the latest technology, *Time Team's* crew joins forces with Crow Canyon staff to help unearth an ancient village at the Dillard site.

We hope to see you for what is sure to be a fun and educational evening! **RSVP:** Rysta Williford, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, 970-564-4341, rwilliford@crowcanyon.org

Paleocultural Research Group - archaeological survey along Niwot Ridge and the CU Mountain Research Station property – September 4 – 13, 2014

Chris Johnson, the Lab Manager for Paleocultural Research Group (PCRG) works under the direction of Research Director, Dr. Mark Mitchell. PCRG is a non-profit member-supported research group that works on the Great Plains and Southern Rocky Mountains, primarily in Colorado and North Dakota. They typically organize three to four research projects each year and provide opportunities to interested volunteers to join them on these projects. They typically have a great mix of volunteers, including professional archaeologists, students, CAS members, and other members of the public interested in archaeology; no experience is required! For more information on the organization and past projects, visit their website, www.paleocultural.org.

Chris would like to share information on their final project of this year with SJBAS chapter members, particularly those who have completed some of the PAAC training and are interested in putting those skills to the test. The project is an archaeological survey along Niwot Ridge and the CU Mountain Research Station property in western Boulder County. The project dates are from September 4 to September 13. He would like volunteers to stay the entire time, but full project

participation is not required. PCRG will provide all of the meals (including supper on the 4th and breakfast on the 13th), and volunteers will stay in a very nice lodge on the Mountain Research Station campus.

Please contact Chris Johnson with any questions or concerns and to sign up.

Chris Johnston
Lab Manager
Paleocultural Research Group (PCRG)
303-439-4098
www.paleocultural.org

PAAC Activities and Schedule

Next Durango Class

October 24-26 Historical Archaeology will be held in Durango at the Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College. Contact Tish Varney to sign up at tishvarney@att.net. Details on the class may be found at <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/paac-event-schedule>.

Site Form Workshops

Two free Site Form Workshops will be held in Denver. The first workshop is on August 6th, the second workshop is on September 6th, and both are conducted by Kevin Black. The site form workshops are scheduled to meet in the office library on the 3rd floor of the History Colorado Center at 1200 Broadway in Denver (<http://www.historycoloradocenter.org>), 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. +/- . There is no fee and no need to register through the Local PAAC Coordinator, but please indicate if you are planning to attend. Attendance is open to everyone, not just to PAAC

The two workshops will cover those tasks necessary to transform a partially filled-out field form into a report-ready final form including inking sketch maps, computing legal locations, topographic map plots, artifact illustrations, etc. Volunteers are asked to bring a pencil, eraser, clipboard or comparable writing surface, and any draft forms in preparation. The two workshops will tend to be a bit different based on the questions that come up, so attending both is a viable option.

CAS Annual Meeting – September 26th – 28th – Colorado Springs

http://coloradospringsarchaeology.org/annual_mtg/ann_mtg_registration.pdf

CAS Annual Meeting Event Description

[CAS-ANNUAL-MEETING-September26-28-2014 \(2\).pdf](#)

CAS Newsletter – the Surveyor

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

Center of Southwest Studies – Fort Lewis College - Upcoming Events

<http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/NewsEvents/ArtMID/19179/ArticleID/724447/Looking-Back-at-50-Years-of-the-Center-of-Southwest-Studies-.aspx>

Hisatsinom Chapter – August Newsletter

[Hisatsinom Newsletter - August](#)

Mesa Verde Association – August e-newsletter

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs142/1102074794733/archive/1118264767095.html>

SJBAS Elected Officers

President	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.com
Vice President	Florence (Foxy) Mason	fmason@frontier.net
Vice President	Peggy Morris	sipapu_72@q.com
Vice President Field Trip Program	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Secretary	Diane Skinner	skinnerkatz@durango.net
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt	mark@virtbiz.com
CAS Representative	Terri Hoff	tthoff@hotmail.com
PAAC Representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net

Other Positions

Moki Messenger contact	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net
Programming Chair	Janice Sheftel	jsheftel@mbsslip.com
Publicity Chair	Jill Tripp	jtripp51@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock@bresnan.net

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society – Annual Membership Renewal

Name(s) _____ and _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Preferred phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Membership Category (check one) "with SWL" means the CAS Southwestern Lore journal will be mailed to you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual (with SWL)	SJBAS \$15.00 & CAS \$16.00 =	\$31.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual (no SWL)	SJBAS \$15.00 & CAS \$ 8.00 =	\$23.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (with SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 & CAS \$20.00 =	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (no SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 & CAS \$10.00 =	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student (no SWL)	=	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to John W. Sanders Internship Fund	=	

Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Make your check payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with this application form to our chapter treasurer: **Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301.** Donations to the John W. Sanders Internship Fund may be included with your dues payment.

New members must complete the full SJBAS application, <http://www.sjbas.org/Application.pdf>, including Liability Waiver and Site Etiquette forms.