

# San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation



## Field Trip Report

Destination: Zuni Pueblo Exploration

Date: August 16 - 18, 2019

Leader(s): Randy Graham

Number of Participants: 16

On Friday, August 16, our group of 16 traveled from Durango and other locations to meet at the Zuni Pueblo Visitor Center.



Zuni Pueblo is the largest of the nineteen New Mexican Pueblos, covering more than 700 square miles and with a population of over 10,000. We are considered the most traditional of all the New Mexico Pueblos, with a unique language, culture, and history that resulted in part from our geographic isolation. With perhaps 80% of our workforce involved in making arts, we are indeed an "artist colony." Our main "industry" is the production of arts, including inlay silverwork, stone "fetish" carving, pottery, and others of which we are world famous.

Most of Zuni's residents live in the main village of Zuni and the nearby "suburb" community of Blackrock. Zuni is a sovereign, self-governed nation with our own constitutional government, courts, police force, school system, and economic base. Our year is marked by a cycle of traditional ceremonial activities; the most sacred and perhaps the most recognized is the annual Sha'lak'o event. (above photo and text from Zuni Visitor Center website -

<http://www.zunitourism.com/>)



### **A:Shiwi (Zuni) World View**

Our trip started at the Zuni Visitor Center where we met our tour guide, Kenny Bowekaty, a tribal member and shaman who studied archaeology and anthropology at Stanford. He explained the A:Shiwi (Zuni) world view and we learned about the history, culture and religion of the A:shiwi through the Migration Story, impacts of the Spanish, how the Zuni community is organized and what roll traditional religion plays in the daily life.

### **Halona: Idiwan'a (The Middle Village)**



After our orientation, Kenny took us on a walking tour of Zuni Pueblo's most historic and culturally significant neighborhoods. Paula Lutz, in picture on the left, at the main kiva in the pueblo. Middle picture, Rusty Chamberlain, Joan Kellogg, Karen Dundas, Jeff Karraker, Lyle Hancock, and Bob Dundas in middle picture, and Jim Mueller and Rhonda Raffo on the right.



View of the mesa to the southeast from the main plaza. Many Zuni took refuge on this mesa during the early conflicts with the Spaniards.

At the end of the day we enjoyed snacks in a patio at the Inn at Halona, where most of the group stayed, and then had dinner at a local restaurant called Chu Chu's.



Photo from Inn at Halona website. <https://www.halona.com/>





Picture on the left looking south shows trail along the site, middle picture shows samples of pottery that have been found on site, and picture on the right shows a view from the site looking southeast where Kenny's family still raise livestock.



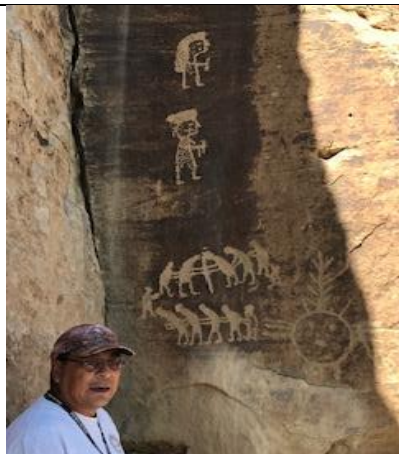
### Day 2 - Traditional Lunch at Eva's home

Participants enjoying our traditional Zuni lunch of bean soup, posole, and delicious bread baked in horno ovens. Pictured left to right around the table: Jeff Karraker, Mary Morehead, Rhonda Raffo, Jim Mueller, Donna Brazell, Byron Kellogg, Ruth Guarino, Eva our hostess, Lyle Hancock, Karen Dundas, Bob Dundas, Nancy Karraker (Jeff's Daughter, an awesome environmental biologist), Rusty Chamberlain, Kathy Chamberlain, Not Pictured because their heads are hidden, Joan Kellogg, Paula Lutz, and Randy Graham.

We stopped by the Visitor Center after lunch to view traditional Zuni bread being made in a horno oven before we took off on the next tour. About halfway through the baking process every loaf is turned to ensure even baking.

### Day 2 - Village of the Great Kivas Tour

After lunch, Kenny took us to the “Village of the Great Kivas” located several miles northeast of the Pueblo. This area is a Chaco outlier village site with two “great kivas” as well as numerous petroglyphs and pictographs. The pictographs are from the 1930’s. This site was excavated by Frank Roberts in the 1930’s.



### Day 3 – Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

We started Day 3 of our journey with Kenny taking us to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church located in the Middle Village. He provided wonderful insight and history of the Church as well as explanations of the different kachinas and their purposes that were painted in mural fashion high on the walls inside the church.

Catholicism was introduced to the Zuni’s in the 1540’s. The church had been abandoned in the 1820’s, and excavation and renovations were begun in 1966. In the 1970’s, the painting of the kachinas took place based on stories that ancient kachina paintings had once adorned the walls of the church.



**Sorry, photography was not allowed inside the church, so you had to be there to enjoy them** (information on the church and kachinas from publication “Native Peoples – The Arts and Lifeways Winter 1992).

After the visit to the church some of our group left to visit El Morro National Monument and the rest carried on with a late morning tour of the Badger Springs rock art site.



### Day 3 - Badger Springs Tour

After the Church visit the group visited the Badger Springs rock art site to explore a variety of ancestral Puebloan images. Kenny did a wonderful job explaining the context and meaning of many of the hundreds of petroglyphs etched on the cliff walls.



List of Participants: Donna Brazell, Kathy Chamberlain, Rusty Chamberlain, Karen Dundas, Robert Dundas, Randy Graham, Ruth Guarino, Lyle Hancock, Jeff Karraker, Nancy Karraker, Byron Kellogg, Joan Kellogg, Paula Lutz, Mary Morehead, Jim Mueller, and Rhonda Raffo. -- By Randy Graham