



THE MOKI MESSENGER

MARCH 2021

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.sjbas.org

Next meeting – March 10th by Zoom

On Wednesday, March 10th, at **6:30** p.m., we will use Zoom for a brief business meeting and Kelley Berliner will present: "The Archaeological Conservancy's Preservation Efforts in the East: from the Paleolithic through 19th-Century Industrial Sites."

Kelley Berliner served as the Eastern field representative for six years before taking on the role of Eastern Regional Director of the Archaeological Conservancy. She holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of Toronto and an MA in Historical Archaeology from the College of William and Mary. Prior to joining the Conservancy, she spent time working as a cultural resource management

archaeologist and was involved with the Port Tobacco and Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Projects. Her interests include public archaeology, community engagement, preservation, and archaeology of the northeastern United States and Canada.

Date: **March 10th**

Time: **6:30 p.m. MST**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCs0WWTN1T0lmUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701

Passcode: 578820

Zoom Presentations Video Recordings

Most of our Zoom presentations are available on YouTube a day or two after the presentation. Links to these videos are on the SJBAS home page: www.sjbas.org.

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President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members,

Our February Zoom speaker, Dr. Steve Nash of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, gave an interesting talk that included a discussion of Mogollon archaeology near Reserve, NM. You may watch a recording of his talk - you can find the link on the www.sjbas.org website home page. His talk made me dream about the possibilities for future field trips. There are so many places we can explore! I have what my Aunt Barbara called "the Hardly Waits" – it is hard to have the patience that is required of us during Covid. In the meantime, here are some photos from past field trips:



From left to right: Three Rivers Petroglyph Site; Hueco Tanks State Park; SJBAS member reflecting on archaeology, history, and culture.

Our next Board meeting will be held using Zoom on April 8th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If you would like to find out what is happening and attend this meeting, please send an email to Hunter McCleary at info@bike-durango.org for registration information. We will work on fine tuning our goals for the year and continue to plan for the time when we are able to do activities in person.

One of our goals is to find volunteers to fill Lyle Hancock's positions. He is stepping down after many, many years of editing and distributing the newsletter, keeping our website up to date and full of information, and organizing our field trips. Lyle will train and mentor the members that volunteer for these duties. This could be an opportunity to learn new skills or share your expertise and be creative.

We would also like to find assistants for several of the leadership positions - people that can share the work. If you are interested, please email me at sc53hicks@gmail.com. Thank you to all of the current and past volunteers. You make SJBAS work!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks

Board positions available

After many years of keeping SJBAS members informed and organizing field trips, Lyle Hancock has decided to step down from his various positions on the SJBAS Board: Field Trip Coordinator, *Moki Messenger* editor,

Communications Chair, and Webmaster. These are appointed positions that can be filled at any time, and the Board is searching for volunteers.

Lyle will assist volunteers with the transition and provide documentation, mentoring and training. This is a perfect opportunity for those who would like to advance their computer skills (Communications Chair or Webmaster), those who enjoy writing articles and editing (*Moki Messenger* Editor), or those who would like to contribute their organizational skills (Field Trip Coordinator). Volunteering is a great way to get to know our members and be more involved in the archaeological community.

To view the position descriptions, follow these links: [Communications](#), [Field Trip Coordinator](#), [Moki Messenger editor](#), [Webmaster](#). For more information about these positions, contact Lyle at lylehancock54@gmail.com.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Hicks at sc53hicks@gmail.com or 970-759-7152 no later than March 31. If qualified applicants step up earlier, we may fill the positions sooner. The Board will make the final decision on which volunteers are appointed.

PAAC Classes coming this spring

Here is a link to the PAAC schedule for this spring from Becca Simon at History Colorado: <https://www.historycolorado.org/paac-event-schedule>. Registration information can also be found there.

Photo Contest

I entered a photo of our UM excavation of a hearth at the Daily Creek archaeological site in Yellowstone National Park for a photo contest at Beta Analytic radiocarbon dating lab. We could win a radiocarbon date for this photo by a UM student, Bradan Tobin. Here is the link to vote: <https://woobox.com/ovgko6/gallery/psv3duKNIDA>

Thanks,
Doug MacDonald (October SJBAS speaker)
Department of Anthropology
University of Montana

Dates	Field Trip and Activity Schedule – 2021 SJBAS plans the following meetings and presentations using Zoom. Field trips are not yet planned.
January 13	SJBAS meeting - Dianne Scialla will present: "Heavenly Splendor, the Baths of Caracalla."
February 10	SJBAS meeting - Steve Nash will present: "Mogollon Archaeology Near Reserve, New Mexico: A Journey from Chicago to Denver and Beyond."
March 10	SJBAS meeting – Kelley Berliner will present: "The Archaeological Conservancy's Preservation Efforts in the East: from the Paleolithic through 19th-

	Century Industrial Sites."
April 14	SJBAS meeting – Fred Blackburn will present: “Methodology and Documentation of Historic Names at Aztec Ruins.”
May 12	SJBAS meeting – Carla Sinopoli, Director, Maxwell Museum, will present: “Indi”
June 9	SJBAS meeting - Shelby Tisdale will present her new book: “Federico – One Man’s Remarkable Journey from Tututepec to L.A.”
July 14	SJBAS meeting - Davina Two Bears, visiting FLC professor, will present: “Boarding school site in Arizona.”
August 11	SJBAS annual picnic (Tentative) - at Edgemont Ranch
September 8	SJBAS meeting - Wirt Wills, UNM Professor will present: “Irrigation at Chaco.”
October 13	SJBAS meeting - Douglas MacDonald will present about ancient cultures at Yellowstone National Park.
November 10	SJBAS meeting – Dr. Stephen Lekson will do presentation about Paquime.
December 4	SJBAS annual holiday brunch – Fort Lewis College

Friends of Cedar Mesa receive \$300,000 from World Monuments Fund

Friends of Cedar Mesa has been awarded \$300,000 from the World Monuments Fund to help protect the most at-risk archaeology sites in the Bears Ears area of southeast Utah. The contribution is part of a \$1 million fundraising campaign for needed preservation measures, said Josh Ewing, executive director of Friends of Cedar Mesa, based in Bluff, Utah.

“We are very grateful for the contribution and the help it will provide protecting these important historical sites. Regardless of where anyone stands on the controversy surrounding Bears Ears National Monument, there is no doubt that public-private partnerships are needed to address the very real issues here on the ground,” he said. “We know threatened cultural sites of Bears Ears cannot wait for a government bailout or a final resolution in years of legal proceedings.” ([Read article](#))

Keeping the ancients warm: Ancestral Puebloans created turkey feather blankets

Research shows that not only did Ancestral Puebloans domesticate wild turkeys, but Native American women painstakingly crafted turkey feather blankets for the same reason we sleep under puffy quilts in winter and wear lightweight puffy jackets. New Mexican cultural anthropologist Mary Weahkee, who is Santa Clara Pueblo/Comanche, recently replicated one of the first turkey feather blankets crafted in the last 800 years. She spent hours making cord from narrow leaf yucca fibers and then skillfully wove soft, short, wet feathers

into the tight cordage. Her 3-by-4-foot cloak or mini-blanket took 300 feet of cordage and 17,000 turkey feathers. Gulliford's Travels – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

Remote Sensing versus Geophysics - Bill Di Paolo

After reading an archaeological technical paper where the author kept referring to "using remote sensing", I assumed that he was talking about aerial photography or satellite data. It was not until the end of the paper, after seeing his last figure showing a magnetic anomaly map, that I realized his "remote sensing" was actually geophysics, more specifically a magnetic survey. As a retired remote sensing geologist, I think it is time to address this improper and confusing use of the term "remote sensing" when actually referring to geophysics.

This incorrect use of the term "remote sensing" has been occurring in some of the U.S. archaeological literature (rarely in the British literature) over the past few years by some authors, not all. We have to be careful that this terminology misuse, if repeated enough, does not become considered correct by the next author or by those readers who are not familiar with either science.

The science of remote sensing is defined as the acquisition, processing, and interpretation of images and related data that are typically acquired from aircraft and satellites with sensor systems that digitally record the interaction between electromagnetic energy and matter. The term "remote sensing" refers to methods that employ electromagnetic energy such as light, heat, and radio waves as the means of detecting and measuring the target characteristics. The typical regions of the electromagnetic spectrum employed in remote sensing surveys are (from short to long wavelengths): photographic ultraviolet, visible (blue, green, red), reflected infrared, thermal infrared, and microwave. Underwater surveys that use pulses of sonic energy for imaging (sonar) are considered a remote sensing method.

The science of remote sensing excludes geophysical methods such as seismic, electrical, magnetic, and gravity surveys that measure force fields rather than electromagnetic radiation. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) is a geophysical method that uses radar pulses to image the subsurface. Since the GPR antenna is generally in contact with the ground, this would remove GPR from the remote sensing category.

Therefore, if a geophysical method is being used as a non-invasive technique on an archaeological site, it would be more proper to describe the methodology, at the very least, as geophysics or a geophysical survey. If only one type of geophysics is being used, it would add clarity to be specific as to the type, such as magnetics, gravity, electrical resistivity, GPR, etc.

In conclusion, to call geophysical techniques "remote sensing" is technically incorrect and confusing. This confusion does not reflect well on the author's knowledge of either science. The archaeological community has made great strides over the past few years in its embrace and use of remote sensing technology with the advances in Lidar (light detection and ranging), which operates in the visible and near-infrared portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, digital elevation model (DEM) and digital terrain model (DTM) creation, data integration into a geographic information system (GIS), the use of drones, improved sensor spatial and spectral resolution, etc. This should not be confused with geophysics. A more accurate description of the remote sensing or geophysical methods used during an archaeological investigation will enable the reader to understand the archaeological process being described more clearly.

President Biden orders review of Bears Ears boundaries

A rocky corner in southern Utah has been the focal point of protests and political battles for years. A recent move by the Biden administration is giving Native tribes hope that a broken promise could be mended. On his first day in office, President Biden ordered federal officials to review the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument -- a sprawling region rich in red rock canyons, cliff dwellings and numerous archeological sites that former President Donald Trump drastically shrunk in size (December 4, 2017) only 11 months after its official designation (December 28, 2016). – CNN ([Read article](#))

Aqueduct to Pompeii

Wayne Lorenz, Wright Paleohydrological Institute, who was the July SJBAS speaker on Fountains in Pompeii, just published an article in the February issue of “Water & Environmental Technology.” The water system that provided potable water to Pompeii was a major trans-basin diversion project, constructed about 2,000 years ago. The water was transported from large springs located in the Sabato River watershed through a tunnel to Pompeii and other Roman communities in the Naples Bay area of Italy. This great public works project provided water to a large geographical area, and, in doing so, crossed the boundaries of several natural watersheds in the Naples Bay area. The water supply project was one of the longest trans-basin diversion projects in the empire and was one of the most expensive.

Everything you have always wanted to know about the Dominguez – Escalante Expedition

The **Domínguez–Escalante expedition** was a Spanish journey of exploration conducted in 1776 by two Franciscan priests, Atanasio Domínguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante, to find an overland route from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to their Catholic mission in Monterey, on the coast of modern day central California. Domínguez, Vélez de Escalante, and Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco, acting as the expedition's cartographer, traveled with ten men from Santa Fe through many unexplored portions of the American West, including present-day western Colorado, Utah, and northern Arizona. Here is a link to the Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dom%C3%ADnguez%E2%80%93Escalante_expedition. You will likely recognize many places visited by the expedition.

Gathering of Nations Powwow Cancelled

The world’s largest powwow has been canceled for a second consecutive year because of the pandemic. The *Albuquerque Journal* reported Monday that the Gathering of Nations Powwow, typically held in Albuquerque, will be entirely online. Gathering of Nations founder Derek Mathews said they cannot hold the live event until the state opens up for large gatherings. He was told that the powwow will not likely be possible until April 2022. – Durango Herald ([Read article](#))

Online Archaeology Events

March 2 Webinar: Should We Stay, or Should We Go?

Karen Schollmeyer (Preservation Archaeologist and Field School Director) and Scott Ingram (Colorado College) will consider “Should We Stay, or Should We Go? Farming and Climate Change, 1000–1450 CE.” Karen and Scott will discuss ways farmers respond to climate changes, especially droughts, highlighting findings from their case studies in southwest New Mexico and central Arizona. *Archaeology Café (Archaeology Southwest)* | [More information and Zoom registration](#)

March 18 Webinar: Mimbres in Context

Archaeologist Steve Lekson presents “Mimbres in Context: Hohokam, Chaco, Casas Grandes” on March 18, 7:00 p.m. MST. Southwestern New Mexico’s ancient Mimbres people were interesting not only for their famous pottery but also as “players” in the ancient Southwest’s larger cultural context of Hohokam up to about 1000 CE; Chaco from 1000–1150; and the run-up to Paquimé/Casas Grandes from 1150–1250. *Old Pueblo Archaeology Center* | [More Information and Zoom Registration](#)

Regional Archaeology News

Blog: The Phantom Forests That Built Mesa Verde

As an archaeologist and dendrochronologist (a scientist who studies tree rings), I am particularly fascinated by the wood used to build these cliff sites. To build and maintain structures in Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, and elsewhere across the greater Four Corners region, Ancestral Puebloan construction workers needed thousands of wooden beams. To get those beams, loggers harvested trees from the surrounding forests using a stone ax attached to a wooden handle. *Stephen E. Nash at SAPIENS* | [Read article](#)

Cliff Dwellers of the Sierra Madre – by Stephen Lekson

“Cliff Dwellers of the Sierra Madre,” The T-shaped door is a recurring design motif found in northern Mexico’s ancient mountain villages that reflects complex cultural ties between distant peoples. This is another wonderful article by Stephen H. Lekson, *Archaeology Magazine* March/April 2021. [Read article](#)

An Enlightening and Hopeful Conversation with Former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell

In the latest episode of CWP’s *The Landscape*, a conversation with former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell about President Biden’s executive order on climate change, the threat of anti-public lands extremists, and how to build coalitions and consensus through listening. *Host Aaron Weiss at the Center for Western Priorities* | [Read article](#)

Roads and Public Lands in Utah

On January 25, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear arguments related to *Kane County, Utah, v. the United States*, thereby upholding an earlier ruling by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. By confirming the right of environmental groups to intervene in counties’ lawsuits to claim title to roads crossing public lands, the decision dealt a major blow to the counties and their long-running fight for control over public lands in their midst. *Jonathan P. Thompson at The Land Desk* | [Read article](#)

Help Stop Crimes against History on Tribal Lands

Theft, vandalism, and grave robbing degrade Tribal sovereignty and senses of place, community, and security. Our mission is to end archaeological resource crime on Tribal lands and raise public awareness of the importance of heritage sites. Our focus is to protect archaeological sites and find, identify, and prosecute looters. With your support, we can end theft and vandalism of archaeological resources on Tribal lands and adjacent regions. We also have an anonymous tip line. savehistory.org | [Learn More](#)

Grand Canyon Protection Act Would Make Mining Ban Permanent

For the many voices who have spoken up for years, as Councilwoman Tilousi and other members of the Havasupai Tribe have, and for those who are just joining the effort to protect the sacred lands and waters of the Grand Canyon, there is a renewed sense of hope this week as the bill’s champion, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-AZ, reintroduced it on Monday. *Amber Reimondo at the Grand Canyon Trust* | [Read article](#)

Blog: All about Clovis Points

In this post, I’ll explain how people made Clovis points and what’s important to look at in order to recognize them. You’ll see that it is possible to read a Clovis point like a map. *Allen Denoyer at the Preservation Archaeology blog (Archaeology Southwest)* | [Read article](#)

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members - 2021

President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	info@bike-durango.org
Secretary	Rhonda Raffo	rhondaandjim@msn.com
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net

Communications chair	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Membership chair	Denise Galley	membership@sjbas.org
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain	chambrke@aol.com
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	michellemckibben56@gmail.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock54@gmail.com

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year; however, if you paid dues in 2020, these would carry over through 2021. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, 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.**