



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

August 2021

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

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

## SJBAS Picnic, Wednesday, August 11, 5 – 8 PM

Our semi-annual meeting and picnic will be held at US Forest Service group picnic shelter at Junction Creek Campground. Directions to the picnic are [here](#). Attendance is open to fully vaccinated SJBAS members, families, and their guests. SJBAS will provide the picnic main course (brats and drinks) with attendees bringing potluck contributions. The deadline for signing up has passed. For all those who are going please try to carpool as parking is limited.

## Board Position Opening-Secretary

Our Secretary, Rhonda Raffo, has asked that we find a replacement due to family emergencies. We are so sorry to hear about her situation and send our best wishes to Rhonda and her family.

The Secretary is responsible for preparing Board Meeting agendas and minutes and keeping our records organized. There are

## Contents

SJBAS Picnic, Wednesday, August 11, 5 – 8 PM .....	1
Board Position Opening-Secretary.....	1
President’s Message.....	2
Next Monthly Meeting .....	2
Upcoming Field Trip Focus: Walking Historical Tour of Durango .....	2
Field Trips, Speakers and Other Events for 2021.....	3
Modified Field Trip Covid Policy .....	4
SJBAS Goes Twitter.....	4
Trip Report: SJBAS Tour of Historic Aspen-Etched Graffiti.....	4
SJBAS Board meetings - open to all members.	5
Quick Bits .....	5
From the Stacks.....	6
SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members .....	6

usually about 5 meetings per year with a minimum of 3. Please contact Susan Hicks at [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com) for a more detailed job description and any questions you might have.

SJBAS relies on the work of its volunteers. We have a great group of people on the Board and we are fortunate to be supported by many other volunteers. Please consider joining the Board as our Secretary.

## President's Message

Dear SJBAS Members,

We held our first in-person monthly meeting and heard Dr. Davina Two Bears give an excellent talk about "Dine Survivance and the Old Leupp Boarding School". It was nice to be able to interact directly with Dr. Two Bears and SJBAS members. If you missed the meeting, you can find a link to her talk at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org).

We are always looking for new field trip ideas and field trip leaders. Do you have a site or area you would like to explore? If so, please contact our Field Trip Coordinator, Lorraine McCleary at [lorraine@bike-durango.org](mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org). If you have not led a field trip before, Lorraine will help you with the logistics. Please see [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org), Field Trips and Activities, General Field Trip Information, for more details.

I hope to see you at the SJBAS annual picnic on August 11th. Looking forward to a fun time!

Sincerely,  
Susan Hicks  
SJBAS President

## Next Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 8**, and may be back in the Center of SW Studies Lyceum but they have yet to announce whether they will be open to the public. Keep you posted! The speaker in September will be Wirt Wills, UNM Professor who will present: "Reconstructing the Pueblo Bonito Mounds: New Data and Models."

## Upcoming Field Trip Focus: Walking Historical Tour of Durango

The Andy Road show resumes. Back by popular demand will be a walking interpretative tour of downtown Durango history led by historian Andy Gulliford on **Friday afternoon September 3**. The group will learn about the railroad's origins and the history and architecture of the commercial district. He may also discuss ladies of the night and one of the oldest elevators in state. This trip is rated Easy Active and is limited to 20 people. Contact [Andy@agulliford.com](mailto:Andy@agulliford.com) for more information or to sign up. Andy is not only a Professor of History at Fort Lewis College, he is a columnist for the *Durango Herald*, is referenced as a source in books about SW Colorado, and often shares his years of accumulated wisdom in tours throughout the year.

## Field Trips, Speakers and Other Events for 2021

See [SJBAS.org](http://SJBAS.org) for details on each of these field trips or events.

You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

<b>Dates</b>	SJBAS plans the field trips. Meetings will be in-person meetings and offered through Zoom.
<b>August 7-8</b>	<b>2021 Pecos Conference</b> , Mancos, Colo. Contact Foxie Mason for further details. Her email is <a href="mailto:fmasondurango@gmail.com">fmasondurango@gmail.com</a> . There will be a SJBAS member get-together the evening of the 7 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>August 11</b>	<b>SJBAS Picnic</b> at Junction Creek Group Campground, 5-8 PM. See below for details. <b>Sign-up list is full.</b>
<b>August 16-20</b>	<b>Tavaputs Ranch and Range Creek Tour:</b> Pristine Repository of Fremont Archaeological sites. <b>This Trip is Full.</b> Optional visits to Price Prehistoric Museum, Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry at Jurassic NM and the Rochester Panel. Contact Lorraine at <a href="mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org">lorraine@bike-durango.org</a> for more information or to sign up. Registration deadline is July 1.
<b>September 3</b>	<b>Durango Walking Tour with Historian Andy Gulliford.</b> For more information or to sign up contact <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a> .
<b>September 8</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Wirt Wills, UNM Professor will present: "Reconstructing the Pueblo Bonito Mounds: New Data and Models."
<b>September 25-26</b>	<b>Ute Mountain Tribal Service Day &amp; Tour of Ancestral Puebloan Sites.</b> The Tribe arranges for us to do various projects that our members can do to their own physical limits. The second day a Ute guide will take us to back country Puebloan sites. There's an option to camp locally on the Mancos River. Carpooling in a 4W drive from the campsite may be needed. Contact Jim Shadell at <a href="mailto:shadelljim@gmail.com">shadelljim@gmail.com</a> for more information and to sign up.
<b>October 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> - Douglas MacDonald will present: "Before Yellowstone: 11,000 Years of Native Americans in the National Park."
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Bluff Rock Art Day.</b> <b>This Trip is Full.</b> After a day of rock art viewing there will be a wine and cheese reception at Andy Gulliford's house near Bluff. For more information or to sign up contact Andy at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a> . Limit of 10.

December 4	SJBAS Annual Holiday Brunch
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**Modified Field Trip Covid Policy**

The SJBAS field trip policy remains the same as published in the [June Moki](#)

**SJBAS Goes Twitter**

SJBAS now has a Twitter account. You can follow us at *Moki Messenger San Juan Basin Archaeology Society*. We expect to post new material several times a week but welcome relevant content from all members.

**Trip Report: SJBAS Tour of Historic Aspen-Etched Graffiti**



Author and historian Andy Gulliford treated SJBAS members to a behind-the-book tour of arborglyphs created over the past century-plus, mostly by Hispanic Sheep men. Day trippers went to Beaver Meadow to search for arborglyphs-- signatures, names and drawings carved into the aspen trees between late 1800's and the 1970's in the Pagosa Springs area. The oldest date found was 1903. After the meadow, we strolled up the old stock drive trail that runs along the ridge between Beaver Valley and the Piedra Valley amid a high alpine aspen forest. Here we saw more signatures/dates, including a cowboy "cussing his damn horse" for running away etched onto several trees. Additional information can be gleaned from Andy's recent book: *The Woolly West: Colorado's Hidden History of Sheepsapes*.



Participants were Andy Gulliford, Lorraine McCleary, Susan and Donn Hicks, Betsy Moore and Phil Bruckbauer, Tom and Linda West, Erica Tucker, Rege and Nancy Leach, Paula Lutz, Dorothy Bregar, Marlo and Gail Shulz, Tish Varney, Rusty Chamberlain and Susan Montgomery.

## SJBAS Board meetings - open to all members

SJBAS members are welcome to attend SJBAS Board meetings. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9th from 1:00-3:00, at the Durango Public Library.

## Quick Bits

**Long-time SJBAS Members Tish and Pete Varney** received a nice write-up in the Ft Lewis College magazine, *Voices*. Amazing all the ways they have had a positive impact on our community. You can read the story [here](#).

**It's alive! Well, sort of.** The long-standing debate of whether rock varnish is biological or inorganic in origin may have found some clarity from new research at Cal Tech. According to a recent paper in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) “the varnish is left behind by microbial communities that use manganese to defend against the punishing desert sun.”

[A WashPost story](#) details decades of grave robbing and pilfering by one Indiana man. When he was finally arrested the FBI found 42,000 artifacts and human bones. The Indiana Archaeological Society gave him a lifetime achievement award. Our own Andy Gulliford is referenced in the story about his efforts to help return stolen artifacts.

**Earl Morris papers digitized by Colorado University Museum of Natural History.** The repository includes at least one box full of images and field notes from various sites within the Durango area, including Falls Creek shelters and Talus village, as well as staged artifact photos from a studio setting. They cover the period 1938-40 and can be explored at this [CU site](#).

**Was that stone tower at Hovenweep defensive, a refuge or just a watch tower with a nice view?** Archaeologists have long debated the utility of many structures in the Southwest. Now, various sophisticated mapping technologies are letting archaeologists visualize past landscapes to see what early Native Americans might have seen. A new book on geospatial archaeology--[Maps for Time Travelers](#)—lets us travel back in time to see how landscapes might have informed early residents of our area.

**How might the Ancestral Puebloans have fired their pottery?** You can watch an eight-minute video [here](#) made by the Upper Gila Preservation Archaeology Field School and filmed by Andy Ward, master potter. It's fun!

**Arizona State Museum is offering three Master Classes** of possible interest to SW aficionados. They are *Clovis to Kino: Archaeology of the Southwest Borderlands* **and** *Many Voices, Many Truths: Records from the Pima Revolt of 1751-1752* **and** *Ancient Southwest Ceramics*. Both are offered via Zoom. Although class details are just coming together you can find more information [here](#).

**Call for papers from the Colorado Rock Art Association.** For more information contact Peter Faris at [archofaris@yahoo.com](mailto:archofaris@yahoo.com)

## From the Stacks

Although your editor is hardly an expert, a new book by RE Burrillo presents an excellent, jargon-free overview of Bears Ears. *Behind the Bears Ears: Exploring the Cultural and Natural Histories of a Sacred Landscape*. Burrillo's book is available at Durango Public Library and local book outlets. It is actually worth purchasing as it is a great resource. The only suggestion for the second printing would be to add an index.

## SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

President	Susan Hicks	<a href="mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com">sc53hicks@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	<a href="mailto:hunter@bike-durango.org">hunter@bike-durango.org</a>
Secretary	Rhonda Raffo	<a href="mailto:rhondaandjim@msn.com">rhondaandjim@msn.com</a>
Treasurer	Randy Graham	<a href="mailto:rg44@bresnan.net">rg44@bresnan.net</a>
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg	<a href="mailto:bwkellogg@charter.net">bwkellogg@charter.net</a>
Education/PAAC representative	Tish Varney	<a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>
Field Trip Program coordinator	Lorraine McCleary	<a href="mailto:Lorraine@bike-durango.org">Lorraine@bike-durango.org</a>
Membership chair	Denise Galley	<a href="mailto:membership@sjbas.org">membership@sjbas.org</a>
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary	<a href="mailto:Hunter@bike-durango.org">Hunter@bike-durango.org</a>
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	<a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a>
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain	<a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a>
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	<a href="mailto:michellemckibben56@gmail.com">michellemckibben56@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	<a href="mailto:lylehancock54@gmail.com">lylehancock54@gmail.com</a>

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> 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 for \$20 (\$30 family) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.