



THE MOKI MESSENGER

November 2021

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

Monthly Meeting, November 10

SJBAS meeting – Dr. Stephen Lekson will present: “Casas Grandes – Escaping Pueblo Space.” The talk at 7 PM MST focuses on new theories that Paquime was more than a just a Pueblo-like society. For more information on the speaker, the topic and joining the Zoom meeting go to sjbas.org

President’s Message

Dear SJBAS Members,

Please join me in welcoming Mary Rieke to the SJBAS Board. She has volunteered to fill the Secretary position. Thank you, Mary!

I would like to extend my personal thank you to the SJBAS Board and especially to Rhonda Raffo and our two Social Co-chairs, Michelle and Mark McKibben, for organizing our holiday brunch, silent auction, and annual meeting, to be held on December 4th. Sign-up information is included in this Moki. Please plan to attend this special program.

The slate of proposed officers for 2022 will be provided in the December *Moki*, and nominations from the floor can also be made at the annual meeting.

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Our next Board meeting will be held November 4th, 1:00-3:00, via Zoom. All SJBAS members are invited to attend. Please email Hunter McCleary, hunter@bike-durango.org, if you would like the Zoom link emailed to you.

Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

Holiday Brunch & Annual Meeting, Dec 4th

Our in-person **Holiday Brunch & Annual Meeting** will take place on **Saturday, December 4th**, beginning at 10 AM in the **Vallecito Room** at the Fort Lewis College (FLC) Student Union building. Fully vaccinated members and invited guests are welcome as we get together for this wonderful annual event.

Festivities will feature a catered brunch, a review of our 2021 field trips, introduction of new members and presentations by our two FLC student scholarship recipients. We will also have door prizes, SJBAS t-shirt sales, a special silent auction, and our annual meeting with election of officers.

The per-person cost for the event is \$25.00. The cost helps pay for the caterer, room rental, and use of the AV equipment with a technician. To make your reservations, follow this link to the [Brunch-reply-form-2021.pdf](#). Please print out and fill in the form, and then mail the completed form and a check (payable to SJBAS) to: SJBAS, Attn: Randy Graham, PO Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302. **Please return your reservation form and check by November 22, 2021.**

Our silent auction this year features 70 items donated by the estate of long-time SJBAS members Rich and Linda Robinson. This is just a small amount of their total donation. The Robinsons spent a lifetime collecting items related to their love of the Southwest. A small sample of some of the items are included with this announcement. It was their wish that the funds raised would assist with the needs of the Indigenous Peoples of the Southwest. The Board will be discussing this concept at its January meeting.

Please bring cash or checks to pay for any items from the silent auction and to pay your 2022 SJBAS dues. If you have an item that you wish to donate as a door prize this year, please bring the item wrapped. Come prepared for some holiday fun and let's look forward to 2022!

Volunteers are welcomed to help with set-up, staff the check-in table, help with the silent auction, and clean-up. To volunteer or for additional information, contact Michelle McKibben at: michellemckibben56@gmail.com, phone 219-921-6791.

Following is a small sampler of auction items.



Trip Report: Bluff Rock Art Day with Andy Gulliford, Oct 17th



Our rock art day began with a Mormon pig (left). At the top of a dugway that Mormons had created by moving rock and filling in cracks lay an incised pig outline created sometime in the early 20th century. The “road” wound down to the junction of Butler Wash and the San Juan River. This dugway is a remarkable feat of civil engineering even a century later.

Andy led us down the dugway and then up the San Juan River a short distance to a series of panels overlooking the river.

One of the more intriguing panels apparently tells the story of a horse heist by Native Americans (see right). Andy says it may depict a conflict between Spanish soldiers and possibly Ute or Navaho and takes place in the 18th or early 19th century. At least one of the Spaniards goes down hard, losing his hat and maybe his life. Andy said that what makes this panel so intriguing is that there is no historical record of such a conflict taking place in this area.

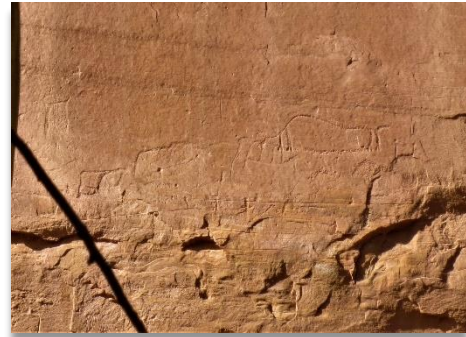
Andy led us



We were also treated to a series of panels at Sand Island Campground that until a few years ago were camouflaged by centuries of tree and shrub growth. The two most impressive petroglyphs



were a Glen Canyon Linear style head, shown here (left). Note the antennae. It's believed to be up to 5,000 years old. To top even this ancient work of art Andy also showed us



what is believed to be an 11,000-year-old petroglyph of a mastodon. Andy related how an archaeologist from France said that this mastodon looked like one he'd seen in their caves. Fossil evidence says that mastodons disappeared from North America about 10,000 years ago.

The group capped off the day at Andy's house in Bluff where he elaborated on the day's sights and we talked about the future of Bears Ears. [Which, incidentally, is literally over the fence of his back yard.] Andy said the best protection would be a lower court ruling affirming that the creation of a national monument is irrevocable; and that the US Supreme Court lets the decision stand.

In addition to Andy, the SJBAS group included Michelle and Mark McKibben, Harriet Stratton, Christine Quinlan, Susan and Donn Hicks and Lorraine and Hunter McCleary. Thanks, Andy! And thanks to the McKibbens for providing pictures.



Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2021

See [SJBAS.org](https://www.sjbass.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.

Dates	SJBAS plans the field trips. Meetings will be offered through Zoom.
November 10	SJBAS Zoom meeting, 7:00 PM – Dr. Stephen Lekson will talk about “Casas Grandes: Escaping Pueblo Space” See sjbas.org for details and Zoom info.
December 4	SJBAS Annual Holiday Brunch. SJBAS.org for details.

Modified Field Trip Covid Policy

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

Trip Report: Powwow at Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum

Several members of SJBAS attended events at the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum September 17 in conjunction with the History Live series of offerings open to the public. This program focused on an introduction to the cultural, social and historical aspects of powwow and included an overview of powwow etiquette.

Where did powwow originate? The public popularization of powwow began with the Buffalo Bill and other shows at expositions and fairs and displayed ceremonies and rituals. To the tribes, it was a social event, celebration or act of mourning together. When nomadic tribes came together, the powwow became a means of sharing their cultures and traditions as well as the goods for trade.

The modern-day powwow became more standardized and evolved from a curing ritual known to the Plains Indians as a Grass Dance. Clothing worn during these dances is referred to as regalia with ribbons representing the waving grass. Movement makes up an integral part of the different dances to express the nature of the meaning. Dances now are organized into different categories.

The demeanor of the dancers is important to show respect and “hold tall” to honor elders and those who are disabled.

Guests at a powwow should know and observe the following etiquette guide:

- Be respectful and maintain a positive attitude. Negative thoughts can permeate a gathering and lessen the spirit of the gathering.
- Don’t wander around the gathering without permission. Tribal individuals have a personal “bubble” to respect.
- No alcohol. Intoxication affects the spirit of the dance
- Dress modestly. Keep the skin showing to a minimum.

- Hats off during certain songs such as the grand entry with the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance and Veterans acknowledgement. Observing this patriotic gesture is expected from all US citizens.
- No Photos! These can cause tension and resentment among participants.
- Don't touch a person's hair or braid. The hair is considered a connection to all relatives as it originates through both the mother and father. The hair is an extension of the soul and it is only cut when a relative passes away. In the Lakota tribe, only females can touch the hair – the subject is very sensitive.
- Touching the regalia specific to the ceremony must be earned and therefore can transfer bad vibes for those not qualified. The regalia are passed down through the family and receive a great deal of respect. Feathers and swords (new and old) are like prayers.



This regalia (left) is made of buckskin, green velvet and decorated with Susan B Anthony silver dollars; and with cowry shell on the bodice. Majel Boxer, Associate Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies at Ft. Lewis College, says in looking at this garment it is difficult to assign specific tribal affiliation. It's closer to Cheyenne-style but contemporary regalia has become so inter-tribal.

If a powwow is an intertribal event, non-native guests may be invited to participate in certain dances using the familiar one-two or double step for each foot. As an outside observer, there are many dances that are only for the tribe. Individuals have regalia in specific colors that identify them. Traditional outfits may include a bustle, head roach, and arm bands showing the colors and patterns. Materials in these may be buckskin, porcupine or eagle feathers. Some bustles have a mirror sewn in to reflect away any negative energy.

The sound of the drum depicts the heartbeat of the Indian nation and the drum itself is called "grandfather." Only men can drum, but women have the ability to create the heartbeat inside their womb and therefore are not allowed to touch the drum.

With inter-tribal gatherings, there are now dance troupes that travel around the country performing and competing. Original new songs are written for each dance and may come through dreams, ceremony, family or medicine. Competition dancing is highly regarded as dancers are booed or cheered during the "trick" dances that abruptly stop and start. Those who know the dance well enough will respond successfully. Fancy dancing is also a very popular and colorful competition.

With 567 Federally recognized groups, the opportunities for observing or participating in a powwow are widespread. We thank our presenters Tallas Cantsee and Logan Gasia, staff with the Southern Ute Cultural Center for an informative and very interesting talk.

--Tish Varney, *SJBAS Member & Education Chair*

Briefs

The fraught use of DNA to study pre-historic cultures' remains may finally be gaining a framework that validates its use but only with Native culture engagement. An [article](#) in the *New York Times* describes the collaboration of 61 authors from 31 countries who devised five general guidelines for handling ancient DNA. Their work is detailed in an article in the journal *Nature*. Perhaps the key recommendation is that “researchers must engage with other stakeholders from the beginning of a study and ensure respect and sensitivity to stakeholder perspectives.” While these guidelines are to be considered for indigenous cultures worldwide, one impetus for devising them came from the adverse response to DNA studies of 1300-year-old remains from Chaco. What’s not clear is whether there was any indigenous input in developing these guidelines.

Does Bears Ears Restoration go far enough? A new study out of Yale published in the journal *Science* says Native Americans lost 99% of their land to colonization. Makes restoring Bears Ears look like chump change. The study has implications for climate change and long-term land dispossession.

Do you own handwoven rugs and blankets? Learn about investigating and caring for them in a Zoom hosted by experts at Arizona State Museum. It will be held January 11, 2022. You can learn more and register [here](#).

Gain insights into Native American perspectives on Archaeology. Jefford Francisco, cultural affairs specialist with the Tohono O’odham Nation, presents a Zoom talk on November 9. You can learn more and register [here](#).

Learn the latest on Gustav Nordenskiöld, the Baron of Mesa Verde, when his biographer presents recent findings and interpretations of the man who carted off train carloads of antiquities from Mesa Verde. The Zoom will be presented by the Animas Museum on November 13 at 1 PM. You can register [here](#).

Final call for T-shirt Orders!



Time is running out to order SJBAS long sleeved unisex and women’s V-necked cotton short sleeved T-shirts with our Kokopelli logo on the front and the original “hand” artwork on the back. Be the envy of all – but hurry – the deadline for ordering is Nov. 10 for delivery by the December annual meeting. Only pre-paid orders will be accepted. See below for example pictures

COLORS for this year: Unisex long (XXL \$2 extra) Women’s V-neck, M, L, XL. **Important note:** Please send check made to SJBAS Avenue, Durango, Co 81301.



with colors only. NEW sleeved – SAGE color - \$30 M, L, XL short sleeved – stone blue color - \$25 S, Minimum shirt order must total 10. C/O Tish Varney, 1615 Forest Questions? (303) 880-7202.



SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Vice President	Hunter McCleary	hunter@bike-durango.org
Secretary	Mary Rieke	mbrrieke@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Randy Graham	rg44@bresnan.net
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Field Trip Program coordinator	Lorraine McCleary	Lorraine@bike-durango.org
Membership chair	Denise Galley	
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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 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.