



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

April 2022

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

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

## Next SJBAS Meeting: April 13th

On Wednesday, April 13 at 7 PM MST Dr Alexis O’Donnell, a biological anthropologist at the University of Mississippi, will speak on “Our Teeth Tell Tales: Living and Moving during the AD 1000-1200s in New Mexico.”

Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 857 8070 6701  
Passcode: 578820

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85780706701?pwd=NIJxbUx3L09BU1Y0NCs0WTN1T0lmUT09>

Or you can find the link and more information at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org)

## President’s Message

Dear SJBAS Members:

Save the date - Our annual picnic and semi-annual meeting will be held at the Junction Creek Campground picnic area on June 8th.

We are looking for a Program Co-Chair who will work together with our current Program Chair,

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Janice Sheftel. The Program Chair secures speakers for regular membership meetings and works with other SJBAS members to organize other lectures, such as the John W. Sanders Lecture. This is a great opportunity to meet local archaeologists and archaeologists from around the country. Please contact Janice at [janicesheftel@gmail.com](mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you to all of the SJBAS volunteers and members!

Sincerely,  
Susan Hicks  
SJBAS President

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board had a special meeting on February 24, 2022.

The SJBAS Operating Budget was approved for 2022. We will finalize the John W. Sanders Educational and Internship Fund budget at the next meeting after more data is collected. If you would like to see a copy of the budget, please email Susan Hicks, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com).

The SJBAS Advocacy Policy was approved. Copies are available at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) in Club business under the **About Us** tab.

We also discussed whether to organize a John W. Sanders lecture in 2022 and it was decided to postpone until 2023 due to the unpredictability of Covid.

The next SJBAS Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022. All SJBAS members are invited to attend. If you would like more information and/or a copy of the agenda, please contact Susan Hicks, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com).

## Calendar of Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2022

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.

### Trip Date Changes

Please note that the Pecos Conference dates have changed to later in the month. See details in the calendar below.

## Tentative Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2022

<b>April 9 – 10</b>	<b>Montezuma Canyon</b> – Two-day camping trip to visit Puebloan sites and petroglyphs in Montezuma Canyon, Utah. Trip participation limit is 15. Difficulty Rating: Easy Active. For more information or to sign up, contact Erica Tucker at <a href="mailto:etucker72@yahoo.com">etucker72@yahoo.com</a> .
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<b>April 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Dr Alexis O’Donnell, a biological anthropologist at the University of Mississippi, will speak on <b>“Our Teeth Tell Tales: Living and Moving during the AD 1000-1200s in New Mexico.”</b>
<b>April 13 – 15</b>	<b>Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites</b> – Three-day camping trip. Camp in a dispersed campsite and hike to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. 4WD/HC vehicles are required, and participants must be fit and ready to hike all day. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle Hancock at <a href="mailto:llhancock1@outlook.com">llhancock1@outlook.com</a> .
<b>May 11</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – <b>“Ancient Basketry Shields of the Northern Southwest”</b> by Dr. Edward Jolie, Arizona State Museum.
<b>Early June</b>	<b>Keet Seel Backpack</b> (Depends on monument opening) – Three or four-day camping trip to Navajo National Monument that includes an overnight backpacking trip (8.5 miles each way) to Keet Seel, one of the best-preserved Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings in the Southwest. For those who want to stay for a fourth day there is a guided five-mile round trip hike to Betatakin. Limit of 10 backpackers, but others are welcome to camp. Difficulty Rating: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Hunter McCleary at <a href="mailto:hunter.mccleary@gmail.com">hunter.mccleary@gmail.com</a> .
<b>June 8</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Picnic</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Fort Lewis College Field School</b> - Day trip to visit archaeology dig with Jessie Tune. Difficulty Rating: Easy Active. For more information or to sign up, contact Janice Sheftel at <a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a> .
<b>June 23 - 26</b>	<b>Ohkay Owingeh Feast Day</b> - Four-day motel/camping trip to Santa Fe. Combine colorful feast day dances at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo with other sites such as El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Bandelier National Monument, Pecos National Historic Park, etc. Trip participation limit is 15. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> . <b>Trip is Full</b> . Contact Rusty about a wait list.
<b>July 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – <b>“Hard Times and Mobility in the Thirteenth-Century Bears Ears National Monument area, SE Utah: A Chronometric Study”</b> by Thomas C Windes.
<b>July 19 – 20</b>	<b>Arborglyphs 2</b> – Two-day camping trip at San Juan National Forest Burro Bridge Campground. We will look at glyphs along Groundhog Stock Driveway and around Lone Cone. Trip participation limit is 14. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a> .
<b>August 11-14</b>	<b>Pecos Conference – 2022</b> – One to three-day trip at Rowe Mesa near Pecos National Historic Park just east of Santa Fe. Archaeologists gather under open skies to discuss recent research, problems of the field, and the challenges of the profession. Most participants camp at the conference site. No trip limit. Difficulty Rating: Easy. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .
<b>August 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Robert Weiner is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder. He will present on <b>Chacoan Roads: How Were They Used, and Why Does It Matter?</b>

<b>September 11</b>	<b>Sand Canyon in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument</b> – Visit Sand Canyon Pueblo at the head of Sand Canyon then hike down into the canyon to view other sites. Trip participation limit is 12. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .
<b>September 14</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting – Update on the Chaco Solstice Project</b>
<b>September 16 – 18</b>	<b>Tsiping Ruins near Abiquiu, NM</b> – Two-day camping trip or motel stay. Archaeologist-led tour of Tsiping Ruins, a Tewa Puebloan Ruin of 1250 AD. Second day visit Ruth Hall Paleontology Museum at Ghost Ranch. Trip participation limit is 15. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Tish Varney at <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a> . <b>Trip is Full</b> . Contact Tish about a wait list.
<b>September 24 – 25</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting – Update on the Chaco Solstice Project</b>
<b>October 7 – 9</b>	<b>Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park</b> – Two-day, one-night camping trip at the Tribal Park Campground. On the first day, volunteers maintain trails and facilities; on the second day a Ute guide will lead a tour of several cliff dwellings. Participants must be fit and ready to work all day. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Thomas Polich at <a href="mailto:thomas.polich@gmail.com">thomas.polich@gmail.com</a> .
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Bear’s Ears National Monument Backcountry Sites</b> – Three-day camping at BLM’s Comb Wash Campground. We will explore various Ancestral Puebloan sites and conclude the trip at Andy’s house in Bluff with a gathering at dusk. Trip participation limit is 10. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a>
<b>November 9</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting - “The Pre-Hispanic Parrot Trade: Scarlet Macaws in the US Southwest &amp; Mexican Northwest”</b> Christopher Schwartz will present.
<b>December</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting - “Ann Axtell Morris and the Amazing Story of Early 20th Century Women Archaeologists in the Southwest”</b> by Kelley Hays-Gilpin is Professor of Anthropology at Northern Arizona University and Curator of Anthropology at the Museum of Northern Arizona.
<b>December</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch</b>

## Volunteer Opportunities

SJBAS is an all-volunteer organization and we are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions. Getting involved is a great way to meet people and contribute to SJBAS.

**Program Co-Chair:** We are looking for a volunteer to work with our Program Chair, Janice Sheftel. The Program Chair secures speakers for regular membership meetings and works with other SJBAS members to organize other lectures, such as the John W. Sanders Lecture. This is a Board position. Please contact Janice at [janicesheftel@gmail.com](mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com) for more information.

**Membership Co-Chair:** The co-chair will work with Tish Varney and, eventually, move into the chair position. The Membership Chair is responsible for organizing recruitment of new SJBAS members and supporting Board members in encouraging active participation by members. This is a Board position. Please contact Tish Varney ([tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net)) for more information.

We look forward to working with you!

## Member Profile: Al McKown



Al is one of our newest members. She spent most of her life in Durango, attended Animas High School and is just finishing her senior year at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif. She is majoring in math and minoring in history. Al is doing her senior thesis on late 19th, early 20th century Southwest archaeology as conducted by the Bureau of American Ethnology. She is interested in the biases in the work of Jesse Walter Fewkes, Frank Cushing, and John Wesley Powell and how those are continued today.

Al says she became enthralled by early Southwest cultures when taking camping trips with her family and seeing Ancestral Puebloan sites such as the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde and those in Comb Ridge. Upon graduating she hopes to attend graduate school in archaeology and mathematics at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC. Her plan is to study the intersection between the history of math/science and archaeology. These approaches could go hand in hand to create a lot of new insights about the ancient southwest. She wants to explore what types of mathematical cognitions the Ancestral Puebloans were using. Mathematics were necessary for the Puebloans to construct structures that aligned perfectly with lunar and solar cycles and other types of mathematical thinking are evident in architectural geometry pottery designs and trade with Mesoamerica.

Al's favorite Archaeology read is Stephen Lekson's *A History of the Ancient Southwest*. She loves that "he thinks about big history and narrative." Also on her short-list is *The Smithsonian and the American Indian: Making a Moral Anthropology in Victorian America* by Curtis M Hinsley.

## Briefs

**Tree ring data becoming more accessible.** There's a nice article about tree rings in the [Washington Post](#) last month. The piece focuses on the work at the University of Arizona's *Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research* which has accumulated over 700,000 samples. The collection is described as "a big library of climate and human history." Later this year the lab intends to mount an online version that allows public access.

**Role of Native American tribes to increase at selected NPS sites?** The new NPS director, Chuck Sams, testified before a Congressional Committee last month that tribes at four sites, including Canyon de Chelly, will share management responsibilities. Sams is a member of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes. Sams believes that Tribal partners can help federal land managers understand the lands and waters holistically. The hearing also specifically mentioned the opportunity for co-management of Bears Ears. This discussion comes at a propitious time. An article in the online magazine *The Counter* reports that large swaths of BLM land fail its own “land-health standards.” Among those chunks of land is Sand Canyon East, home to thousands of Ancestral Puebloan sites. Might Native Americans do a better job of managing/restoring these lands?

**NAGPRA Symposium assembles experts.** The University of Nevada, Reno symposium had multiple tracks and speakers on the issue of repatriation and NAGPRA going forward. Many of the attendees were Native Americans. The event organizer, Prof Debra Harry of the Numu (Northern Paiute), Kooyoo Dukaddo, from Pyramid Lake, Nevada, told *Moki Messenger* that, as you can imagine, there are still “tensions between using the law for repatriation, and also having to deal with problems created by the law.”

**A local outdoor adventure company is looking to hire part-time interpreters.** Local outdoor adventure company is recruiting for part-time interpretive guides for Mesa Verde and Canyons of the Ancients. If you would like to get paid for sharing your passion and knowledge about the prehistory of the four corners by leading small private and group tours, please contact Denise at [dnsnglly@gmail.com](mailto:dnsnglly@gmail.com) for details about the position.

**Are we too late to save Chaco from drilling?** A recent study by the online magazine *Grist* reports that a 20-year moratorium imposed around Chaco Culture National Historic Park by the Biden administration will do little to stop development. The problem, *Grist* reports, is that companies with existing leases can continue with business as usual. They also report that BLM is considering a plan for up to 3,100 new wells outside the buffer, some of which could adversely impact nearby Navajo communities. You can read the story here in [Grist](#).

**Nine-Mile Canyon makeover.** The BLM is soliciting public comment on how to enhance visitor’s experience to the stretch of Utah road renowned for its rock imagery. You can read more about the plan and how to submit comments [here](#). In consultation with local tribes, BLM manager Dana Truman told *Moki Messenger* that the initial focus will be improving parking and eliminating social trails. She said studies show that when sites are better maintained there is less vandalism. Improved interpretation markers will follow.

**Ochre update.** For those tracking developments around this pigment an article in Smithsonian reports finding a 40,000-year-old ochre workshop. You can read the article [here](#).



## Forthcoming Webinars

**April 18.** Exploring the Many Interpretations of Chaco. For more information and to register go [here](#).

**April 21** The Mimbres Twins and the Rabbit in the Moon. For more information and to register go [here](#).

## 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	Mary Rieke	<a href="mailto:mbrrieke@hotmail.com">mbrrieke@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead	<a href="mailto:mmtax@cmconline.com">mmtax@cmconline.com</a>
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg	<a href="mailto:bwkellogg@charter.net">bwkellogg@charter.net</a>
Membership chair	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>
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore	<a href="mailto:bmoore5552@gmail.com">bmoore5552@gmail.com</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:llhancock1@outlook.com">llhancock1@outlook.com</a>

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check for \$15 (\$30 family, \$10 student) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.