



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

July 2022

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

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

## Next SJBAS Meeting: July 13 at the FLC Lyceum & on Zoom

Our next meeting will be held in person on July 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Thomas C. Windes will present “Hard Times and Mobility in the Thirteenth-Century Bears Ears National Monument area, SE Utah: A Chronometric Study.”

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

## President’s Message

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Michelle and Mark McKibben, SJBAS Social Chairs, for organizing a splendid semi-annual meeting and picnic. Thanks to all the volunteers who set up, grilled the brats, and cleaned up. Finally, thanks to all the members for bringing such yummy food.

During the picnic, we held a Silent Auction that featured books donated by Bev Tomberlin,

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Barbara Lawson and Ray Turner, Eliane Viner, and Shaila Van Sickle. We raised \$205 for the John W. Sanders Internship and Education Fund. The remainder of the books were donated to the Ft. Lewis College Anthropology Department and they will be offered to its students. Thank you for the book donations, to all who helped set up the auction, and to all who purchased books.

The next Board meeting will be held in Program Room #3 in the Durango Public Library, on July 14th, 1:00-3:00pm. All SJBAS members are welcome to attend and share their input. Send an email to let me know you would like to attend, [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com), and I will send you the agenda. You may also email any ideas or suggestions you would like the Board to include on the agenda.

Thank you to all SJBAS volunteers and members! And, thank goodness for the rain!

Sincerely,  
Susan Hicks  
SJBAS President

## SJBAS Annual Picnic Wrap-up



SJBAS held its annual picnic, this year again at Junction Creek. There was a decent turnout of nearly 40 members and a silent book auction brought in about \$200 for the John W. Sanders



Internship and Education Fund. Among the highlights, a pickup game of horseshoes instigated by Art Rieke and some very creative efforts at charcoal lighting by Mark McKibben.

Our thanks to all of the volunteers and especially Michelle and Mark McKibben for another marvelous get-together.

## 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.

## Tentative Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2022

<b>July 13</b>	<b>SJBAS hybrid meeting – “Hard Times and Mobility in the Thirteenth-Century Bears Ears National Monument area, SE Utah: A Chronometric Study”</b> by Thomas C Windes. 7 PM at the Lyceum at the Center of SW Studies.
<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 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>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>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> by Anna Sofaer, Rob Weiner and Rich Friedman.
<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 23-25</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 7-9</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>October 12</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting – The Pre-Hispanic Parrot Trade: Scarlet Macaws in the US Southwest &amp; Mexican Northwest</b> presented by Christopher Schwartz.

<b>November 9</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting - Ann Axtell Morris and the amazing story of early 20th century women archaeologists in the Southwest</b> presented by Kelley Hays-Gilpin.
<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>

## Member Profile: Paul Landrum



Paul got an early start on his interest in archaeology. When he was four years old and visiting his grandparent’s farm in western Tennessee, he found an odd-shaped rock half-buried in the driveway. After extracting the rock, he was told it was a hand-held grinding stone. The reaction of the adults around him said, this is a nice find. As he grew older, he became aware that Indian mounds were also all around him as well as arrowheads, and the fascination grew.

As college loomed, he thought about majoring in anthropology but decided he could not make a living doing that. Paul took a few anthropology and archaeology classes but his career took him elsewhere. Still, the interest in those artifacts lingered.

Years later he turned that interest into trying to replicate Native American tools. Paul has spent years learning to make lithic tools the old-fashioned way. What he learned pretty quickly is that the term “primitive” vanishes from your vocabulary. These people were skilled artisans. He learned the physics of how to strike flint precisely; how they took raw materials and combined them into finished products.

Paul’s favorite experience was visiting Keet Seel some years back. He said, you walk among the village walls and rooms and it’s like the Ancestral Puebloans left yesterday. Sherds and pots are scattered around. There are even poles where they tied up their birds to harvest feathers.

Paul expressed optimism that attitudes about preserving Native American sites and artifacts are improving among the general public. We’ve gone from a society where pot hunting was acceptable to appreciating and wanting to see what’s out there and leaving it in place, he said.





## Archaeology at the PowerHouse Science Center



This summer the PowerHouse hosts three summer camps for kids called *Camp Discovery 2022*. Among the most popular sessions is “Adventures in Archaeology” for rising 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. These afternoon sessions are being taught by SJBAS’s Paul Landrum.



Paul first covered the basics of evolution and then engaged the kids with questions about how humans evolved from being prey to predators. Mostly, he said, by modifying their environment through the use of tools and later, agriculture. With the academics out of the way the kids then took turns throwing atlatl darts and then flint knapping. One enterprising young girl launched an atlatl dart completely out of the throwing area.



At the end of class Paul gave each student an arrow point he had napped himself from glass.

The two remaining Archaeology sessions are July 13 and August 3. Paul would welcome an apprentice or two if any members would like to attend.

## SJBAS Members Participate in Fort Lewis College Field Day

Last month SJBAS members were invited to tag along on a Ft Lewis College Archaeology Summer Field School visit to a site near Florida River and south of Durango just off Highway 550. The afternoon visit was led by Prof Jesse Tune and also included FLC students.

This year's program was in conjunction with the San Juan Mountains Association and took place at their nature center located in Bondad a bit north of the confluence of the Animas and Florida Rivers.

The Association had asked for assistance in doing a survey of the property for possible archeological sites.



Jesse (left) answers a student's questions about a find.



Obsidian point believed to be 4-6 thousand years old

There had been

some work done years ago that had identified an early Navajo site. This year's program revisited the site and found some additional artifacts including pottery and lithic artifacts. Dr. Tune advised that this site was unusual as it was very early and pretty far north.

The day prior to the visit the students had located a far older site and this was the area that the

SJBAS members had a chance to visit with Dr. Tune and the students after they had flagged their finds. While we were there the students began mapping and recording both the artifacts as well as the perimeter of the site with GPS. Among the interesting finds was a small obsidian point that Dr. Tune felt was possibly material from as far away as the Jemez Mountains in New Mexico.

All of the material and information that is collected will be further studied for more information and dating and then returned to the San Juan Mountains Association for use in their educational programs.



Grooved stone possible used as a straightener; not an ax as grooved only on one side.



This was an amazing opportunity to see the students from Fort Lewis in their field work and it certainly showed the importance of the continued support of SJBAS for this valuable educational opportunity. –Mark and Michelle McKibben

## FLC Anthropology Dept Orients SJBAS Members to Collections Curation



Five members spent an afternoon learning the ropes of curation at the FLC Anthropology Department. Dr Jesse Tune and the Field School students showed visitors the basics of museum curation. They had many boxes of pottery sherds and other finds from the 1960s that were stored in brown paper bags.

The students had to sort and count the artifacts and put the artifacts in plastic bags and see the artifacts and be able to artifacts had good provenience

label them. It was fun to handle them. Some and others had none. This was rated an informative, hands-on day for the students and SJBAS members. Most archaeology programs apparently don't have this much interactive curation. –Michelle McKibben. Participating SJBAS members included trip organizer Janice Sheftel, Susan and Donn Hicks, and Michelle and Mark McKibben. -- Michelle McKibben and Susan Hicks.



## Volunteer Opportunities

SJBAS is an all-volunteer organization and we are looking for volunteers to fill the following position. 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.

We look forward to working with you!

## Briefs

**What's the story with T-Doors, a-la Chaco Canyon?** An article in a recent issue of *Old Pueblo Archaeology* suggests an answer. Marc Callis, SW archaeologist, describes the *Eureka* moment when it clicked that the T-door likely originated in Mesoamerica. The usage is not practical, as in carrying stuff through the door, he said. He said the T-motif, while a bit abstract, can be seen in places such as Palenque hundreds of years before their appearance in the Southwest. SW cultures adapted the Central American motif to their own architectural designs and cultural beliefs, he added. You can read the article [here](#).

**Recent SJBAS Speaker Featured in PBS Documentary.** Ed Jolie, who spoke about shield imagery at our May meeting, was interviewed for a Nova segment about the ancient footprints discovered at White Sands National Park. If you don't have time for the full episode you can catch him at 38:06 into the piece. The full episode is [here](#).

**Lekson updates his Chaco Meridian Theory in New Video.** Steve Lekson, known for linking the cultural centers of Chaco, Aztec and Paquime along a north-south meridian, updates his ideas. You can watch the video [here](#).

**Hidden Petroglyph gems outed.** The Web site *Only in Your State* has an article about Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve northwest of Phoenix. It has 1,500 petroglyphs dating back several thousand years and is managed by Arizona State University. Among the cultures represented are Hohokam, Patayan and Archaic. There is also an indoor museum. You can read more [here](#) and contact our trip coordinator if you'd like to lead an outing down there. It's easier than you think.

**BLM and Tribes to co-manage Bears Ears.** The Zuni Pueblo, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Hopi Tribe and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray signed an agreement with the United States that allows them to work cooperatively with the BLM and the National Park Service on land use planning and implementation and the development of resource management goals for the recently restored monument. An essential piece of the agreement creates educational programs for tribal youth from the participating tribes to learn and practice their cultural traditions. The tribes will receive Federal funds to support the co-management effort.

## 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>
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Membership chair	Tish Varney	<a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a>
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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.