



THE MOKI MESSENGER

November 2022

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

Next SJBAS Meeting: November 9th at the Center of Southwest Studies and on Zoom

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Kelley Hays-Gilpin will present: “Ann Axtell Morris and the amazing story of early 20th century women archaeologists in the Southwest.”

Please join us in-person or via Zoom. **Note** that the Zoom login changed recently so visit our Web site at sjbas.org for the new one.

SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch, December 3rd at FLC

Once again, we are planning our in-person Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch! The event will take place on Saturday, December 3rd., 2022 at 10:00 am in the Vallecito Room at

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the Fort Lewis College Student Union. Fully vaccinated members and invited guests are welcome as we get together for this wonderful annual event.

The festivities will feature a catered brunch, a review of our 2022 field trips, introduction of new members, door prizes and special silent auction, and our annual meeting with election of officers.

The per person cost for the event is \$26.00. 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 ([Holiday Brunch Reservation Reply Form](#)), print and complete the form, and mail the form and check (Payable to SJBAS) to: SJBAS, Attn: Mary Moorehead, PO Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302. Please return your reservation form and check by November 21, 2022.

Our silent auction this year is again featuring almost 50 items donated by the estate of long time SJBAS members Rich and Linda Robinson. These are the final items of this generous donation. The Robinson's spent a lifetime collecting items related to their love of the Southwest. It was their wish that the funds raised would assist with the needs of the Indigenous Peoples of the Southwest. The Board will be holding a discussion at the January Board meeting to discuss this concept. Please bring **checks** to pay for any items from the silent auction and to pay for your 2023 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 2023!

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. 219-921-6791

President's Message

Dear SJBAS Members:

I would like to extend my personal thank you to the SJBAS Board and especially to our two Social Co-chairs, Michelle and Mark McKibben, for organizing our holiday brunch, silent auction, and annual meeting, to be held on Saturday, December 3rd. Sign-up information is included in this Moki. Please plan to attend this special program.

Please join me in welcoming Paul Landrum to the SJBAS Board. He has volunteered to fill the Vice President position. Thank you, Paul!

The slate of proposed officers for 2023 will be provided in the December Moki, and nominations from the floor can also be made at the annual meeting.

Are you skilled at organizing and communicating? Then you would be perfect for the Field Trip Coordinator position that we need to fill. You do not need to be an archaeologist, just willingness to coordinate Field Trip Leaders. Training will be provided. Please consider

volunteering for this position. Contact me at sc53hicks@gmail.com

Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board held a regular meeting on October 13, 2022.

Lorraine McCleary proposed updating the Field Trip Difficulty ratings. Her updated ratings were adopted and will be included in future Field Trip and Activity schedules.

Paul Landrum has volunteered to fill the 2023 Vice President position. We will accept additional nominations up until December 3rd at which time we will vote on the 2023 officers.

Plans for the 12/3/2022 Annual Meeting and brunch were made.

We will begin the 2023 budget process and will finalize the budget at the next Board Meeting.

The next SJBAS Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, 1:00-3:00pm, Program Room 3 in the Durango Public Library. 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.

Update to SJBAS Field Trip Difficulty Ratings

The SJBAS Board recently approved changes to the Trip Difficulty Guidance that were recommended by Field Trip coordinator, Lorraine McCleary. Key changes include:

- 1) Reduction of the *Easy Active* elevation change to 250 feet.
- 2) Reduction of the *Moderate* hiking distance limit to 5 miles and elevation change up to 800 feet.
- 3) Change in the *Hard* distance rating to greater than five miles and elevation change to greater than 800 feet.

You can read the complete document on our Web site [here](#).

Calendar of Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2022

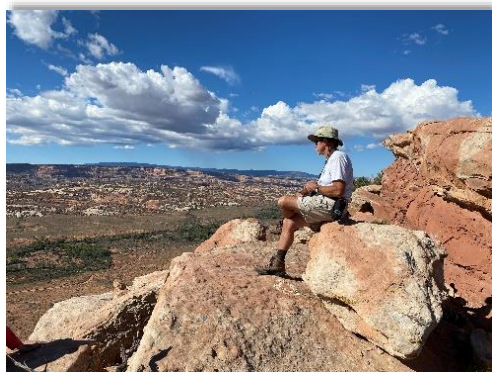
See SJBAS.org for details on each of these field trips or events. You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

Tentative Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2022

November 9	SJBAS meeting - Ann Axtell Morris and the amazing story of early 20th century women archaeologists in the Southwest presented by Kelley Hays-Gilpin.
December 3	SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

Trip Report: Comb Ridge, Oct. 5-7

The trip could have been called “Secrets of Comb Ridge.” Professor Andy Gulliford (below) of Ft Lewis College led a three-day camping and exploration trip to Comb Ridge, just outside of Bluff, Utah. The seven SJBAS members hiked into some named sites you can see in Bears Ears guidebooks but we also saw



structures and rock art of varying vintage that aren't even named and have only faint paths leading to them.

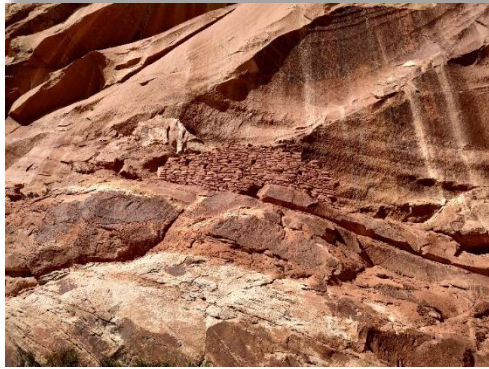
First up was a hike to a site Andy called “Pinnacle Wall Ruin.” On the way we passed a

historic Navajo sweat lodge (right) that was at least decades old.



As we approached Pinnacle Wall ruin, Andy challenged us to find it among the red slick rock (below, left). It was fascinating to stand in the midst of this ancient site and wonder about its defensive nature as there were partial walls all around.

The second day we hiked to Cold Spring Cave. This site is notable for being on the list of alcoves visited by the star-crossed *Illustrated American Exploring Expedition* of 1892. This team visited 100 archaeological sites, Andy said, but the explorers were dehydrated, underfed and underfunded much of the time. You can read more about Andy's account of their expedition [here](#).



Among the highlights we saw were

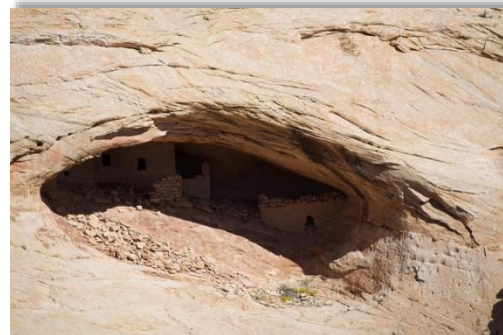
handprints of green, red, yellow and white. In addition to the usual features there was a “well-defended” spring set way back into the alcove (see left) and a solstice petroglyph (see beginning of story).



Next, we hiked up the Comb for a cross-canyon view of “Eagle’s



Nest” (see picture to right). This alcove dwelling is so inaccessible that we couldn't even get a good picture of it. As we gazed across the canyon at it, we all wondered not only how they got to it but how they lugged all their building materials up there. Suffice it to say these folks slept well at night.





The last stop of this day was a fairly rare petroglyph called “Kiva Ladder.” Andy said he knows of only two others. It is remarkable to see this ladder drawn to perspective.



On the third day we visited wolverine-esque Long Fingers Petroglyph (right) and Boomerang Cave (below). There were also amazing shield petroglyphs.



We recapped the trip Friday afternoon at Andy’s house in Bluff.

Members on the trip were Andy Gulliford, Paula Lutz, Phil and Betsy Moore, Lisa Coash, and Lorraine and Hunter McCleary.



Everyone contributed pictures for this story. Thanks!

Joseph Gonzalez, 2022 Recipient of the John W Sanders Internship Award



Joseph Gonzalez is recipient of a 2022 John W Sanders Internship at the Center of Southwest Studies. Joseph is a senior majoring in Anthropology and Native American and Indigenous Studies. He submitted the following biography.

The transition from Los Angeles to Durango as a student at Fort Lewis College created a large opportunity for me academically and I have centered my studies around Anthropology and Native American Studies because of the similarities and contrast between the two fields. My work at the Center of Southwest Studies this semester has focused on processing archival collections from previous Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field Schools allowing me to practice archival methods. The preservation and processing of these archival materials help students and researchers to access the data that was collected by students during excavation.

The collection I worked on was for the Darkmold Site excavation files and include a collection of written materials by students, photographs, and various reports. The site was situated on private land, and until the inadvertent discovery of human remains in 1998, an anthropological survey of the area would have not been undertaken. The Darkmold site is one of five major Basketmaker II sites in the Durango Animas River Valley. It has a significant impact on our understanding of early Durango Communities. The outlook for the Mona Charles Field School Collections showcases a collaborative effort to record and preserve cultural knowledge of early to late Basketmaker communities inhabiting the Northern Animas Valley. Landowner Mark Dold's contribution allowed for an educational platform for many students - an annual field school took place from 1999 to 2008 during the summer season and even after Mr. Dold's passing in Fall 2007.

Briefs

NAGPRA Re-Write May Speed up Repatriation of Remains. Last month the Department of the Interior published draft rule changes that should eliminate a loophole that has held up the repatriation of roughly 108,000 human remains. Among the changes: Requiring museums to initiate consultation with tribes not the tribes starting the conversation; eliminate the vague designation “culturally unidentifiable;” and require repatriation of funerary objects. Given how contentious passage of the original bill was in 1990 one wonders if the ground has shifted enough for institutions to embrace these changes. You can read the article in *Native News Online* [here](#).

Where have we heard this before? A story in *USA Today* talks about how tourists to Hawaii are “depleting the state of its natural resources, damaging the delicate environment, and affecting traditional practices and rituals.” The article acknowledges the need for balance between protecting the local environment and culture and the inevitable tide and economic benefit of

tourism. Advice includes learning about the local area before you visit; not taking *souvenirs*; avoiding peak seasons; not disturb wildlife; and not geotagging. And remember that you are visiting someone's *home*. You can read the story [here](#).

Museum Roundup

Maxwell Museum opens an exhibition on November 11 that features more than 120 baskets from their extensive collection of Native North American baskets. Developed in consultation with Native artists and knowledge holders from across North America, the exhibition explores the basket-making practices and traditions in times of climate change and myriad other factors affecting availability and access to basket making materials and the transmission of knowledge. You can find more information [here](#).

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
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Membership chair	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
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Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain	chambrke@aol.com

Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben	michellemckibben56@gmail.com
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock	lylehancock99@gmail.com

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st 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.