



THE MOKI MESSENGER

February 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Meeting, February 8: "Bears Ears: Landscape of Refuge and Resistance"

Andy Gulliford, History Professor at Ft Lewis College, will talk about his latest book: Bears Ears: Landscape of Refuge and Resistance." The presentation begins at 7 PM in the FLC Lyceum. There is a pre-meeting social beginning at 6:30. The presentation will also be Zoomed. You may obtain the login credentials at sjbas.org.

President's Message

Dear SJBAS Members:

We hope you are doing well during this snowy winter and your backs are not too sore. The moisture is welcome, but I am glad to see blue sky and sun again!

Good news - One of our members, who wishes to remain anonymous, contributed \$500 to the John W. Sanders Education and Internship Fund. Thank you for your generous donation!

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The SJBAS Board is currently working on the 2023 Budget and will be determining this year's donation amounts to the Center of Southwest Studies (CSWS) for internships during the next Board meeting which will be held in the CSWS Conference Room on February 9th, 1:00-3:00 pm. All SJBAS members are welcome to attend the Board meeting. Please email me at sc53hicks@gmail.com if you would like to have an agenda emailed to you.

We will be holding an orientation for new members and others who would like to learn more about SJBAS before our February 8th monthly meeting. More details can be found in this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter are details about volunteer positions we need help with. SJBAS is an all volunteer organization - please consider helping out and volunteering for one of our openings.

I hope to see you at our next monthly meeting on February 8th at the CSWS Lyceum.

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

New Member Orientation

Special Invitation! Our membership committee is sponsoring an orientation on February 8 prior to the monthly program at the CSWS. Please join us to learn about SJBAS, its history, operations and goals. We will meet from 6:15-6:45pm in the conference room next to the entrance. All new, returning or prospective members are welcome!

Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023

See SJBAS.org for details on each of these field trips or events. Check the Web periodically for the latest details. This year SJBAS is instituting a compressed sign-up process. The past year saw way too many last-minute participant cancellations. It is hoped that if the sign-up window is closer to the trip dates there will be a firmer commitment once someone signs up. You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

Tentative Field Trip and Meeting Schedule - 2023

February 8	SJBAS meeting – “Bears Ears: Landscape of Refuge and Resistance,” a presentation on his new book, Andy Gulliford.
February 8	New SJBAS Member Orientation - Membership coordinator Tish Varney will talk with new members and anyone needing a refresher about our various programs to support SW archaeology. We will meet at 6:15 in the conference room next to the CSWS entrance.
February TBD	Ohkay Ohwingeh Deer Dance Three-day motel/camping trip to the Santa Fe area. The primary focus of the trip is the Deer Dance at the Pueblo, but we will also enjoy other educational resources in the area. Trip participation is 15. Difficulty rating: moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact

	Rusty at chambrke@aol.com . [<i>Please note that as the newsletter went to press The Pueblo had yet to decide on whether to proceed with the event. Contact Rusty directly for the latest info.</i>] Trip CANCELED
March 1-2	Santa Fe Museum Back Room Tour Three-night motel stay in Santa Fe with a guided tour the School of Advanced Research (SAR) and afternoon tour of the Museum of Indian Art Culture (MIAC) with behind-the-scenes exploration. Cost is \$20 per person for SAR and \$8 dollars for MIAC. The second day we will have a free guided tour of <i>The Center for New Mexico Archaeology</i> , visiting both collections, testing and curation labs. Trip participation is 16. Difficulty rating: Easy. For more information or to sign up, contact Tish at tishvarney@att.net Sign up began Jan. 1st .
March 8	SJBAS meeting – “Colors in the Past,” by Kelsey Hanson, University of Arizona.
April 12	SJBAS meeting – “The Peopling of South America.” Emeritus Professor Bruce Bradley, University of Exeter, UK.
April 24-26	Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites – Three-day car camping trip. We will camp two nights in a dispersed campsite and do several hikes over three days to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. 4 WD/HC vehicles will be needed, but we can carpool. Participants must be fit and ready to hike all day. Difficulty rating: hard. Trip participation limit is 12. For more information or to sign up, contact Lyle Hancock at lylehancock99@gmail.com . Sign up begins 7 AM Feb. 1st .
April 29	Sand Canyon Pueblo Visit Sand Canyon Pueblo at the head of Sand Canyon then walk down into the canyon to view other sites. Trip participation limit is 12. Difficulty rating is moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty at chambrke@aol.com . Sign up begins 7 AM Feb. 1st .
May 10	SJBAS meeting -- The presenter will be local archaeologist Mona Charles in a meeting co-sponsored with the Animas Museum.
May 30/31-TBD	San Juan River Raft Trip Four-day Ft Lewis College Outfitter river trip (Ft Lewis on the River, FLOW) on the San Juan River from Sand Island to Mexican Hat to view archeological sites along both side of the river. This all-inclusive trip includes transportation, food, camp gear, float gear and guides. Cost is \$600 plus/per person. A deposit of \$300 is due at sign up in Feb. with final payment 30 days in advance. Fees are non-refundable unless there is a person on the waiting list or you find a substitute. Trip participation is 16. Difficulty rating: Moderate. For information or to sign up, contact Tish at tishvarney@att.net Sign-up begins 7 AM Feb 1st and not prior.
Early June	Keet Seel Backpack We are trying for the third year hoping the monument will open to guided tours. 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 (3 rd nite) 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 hunter@bike-durango.org . Trip sign-up begins 7 AM April 1st .
June 14	SJBAS Annual Picnic
July 13	SJBAS meeting – Speaker TBA
July TBD	Telluride Museum/Tomboy Mine One-day trip to Telluride with guided tours by Rudy Davison. Trip participation is TBD. Difficulty rating: Hard (hike

	starts at 11,500 feet). For more information or to sign up, contact Janice janicesheftel@gmail.com Sign up begins 7 AM May 1st.
August 5	Flint knapping with Paul Landrum A flint knapping workshop will be held at Janice Sheftel's home. Participation set at ten. For more information or to sign up, contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com Sign up begins 7 AM June 1st. Time TBD. Cost is \$5 for materials.
August 11-13	Pecos Conference – 2023 – One to three-day trip near Flagstaff. 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 chambrke@aol.com .
August 10	SJBAS meeting – Speaker TBA
September TBA	Albuquerque/Salinas Missions. Trip participation and difficulty rating TBD. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty at chambrke@aol.com Sign up begins 7 AM July 1st.
September 14	SJBAS meeting - TBA
October TBA	Bear's Ears Exploration – Three-day tour of Bear's Ears sites near the Bluff area, camping at Comb Wash CG. Meet at Edge of the Cedars Museum with brief tour of museum and Cave Towers hike. Second day tour of Ballroom cave, Bullseye Ruin, Cottonwood Wash Great House. Final day we will hike to Salvation Knoll, Arch Canyon, Birth Panel at Moki Dugway with dusk gathering at Andy's house in Bluff. Trip participation is 10. Difficulty rating: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy at andy@agulliford.com Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1st.
October 12	SJBAS meeting - TBA
October 20	Cannonball Mesa One-day exploration of Cannon ball mesa in Canyon of the Ancients NM. This is a 5-6 mile round trip hike to the site. Trip participation is 14. Difficulty rating is moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Lorraine at lorrainemccleary@gmail.com Sign up begins 7 AM Sept. 1st.
November TBA	Aztec Inscriptions A one-day guided tour of the inscriptions at Aztec West with Fred Blackburn. Trip participation and Difficulty rating TBD. To sign up or for more information, contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com Sign-ups begin 7 AM Sept. 1st.
December	SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

Site Survey Program Fosters Preservation by Private Property Owners

You know the old joke about the City of Cortez: The area was so extensively occupied by Ancestral Puebloans 800 years ago that most City residents have a kiva in their backyard. True or not it highlights the need to educate citizens that Chaco or Bears Ears are not the only cultural resources needing protection.

Some years ago, the Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society launched a program to conduct a free site survey for owners of private land in Montezuma who wanted a better idea of what's on their land. Since its inception in 2008 it has created surveys for dozens of property owners with hundreds of archaeological sites identified. The Hisatsinom Archaeological Survey Program was created by Diane and Bob McBride as a way to engage landowners in conservation.

The program has some disclosure requirements. Descriptions of surveyed sites go into a Colorado State database of archaeological sites. The database, she emphasized, is confidential and access is restricted to certain archaeologists.



The way a survey works is that a team of trained volunteers comes to the site and performs basically a series of search and rescue grid walks. The volunteers walk ten meters apart anchored by GPS coordinates. They look for pottery sherds or lithics. If 11 are found within a 30-meter circle its GPS coordinates are marked on a map. Any walls are noted in detail along with many written characteristics such as slope, drainage, proximity to roads, vegetation, and soil type. Diane said we can do about 20 acres a day. The survey is entirely

observational with no digging or use of high-tech imaging.

Once the field work is done the paperwork begins. Diane prepares a five-page management form and a *prehistoric* form that might be 12 pages. A USGS map with the site plotted is also included. The property owner gets a copy of the report. And other than the restricted database entry all information is confidential.

When asked what she remembers most about the sites she said it is how “hammered” some of them are. By that she means how scoured they are for artifacts. She added that the current owner requesting the survey is often a newer owner; someone who is interested in preserving and understanding what they have. She added the great majority of survey requestors are new to the area. “They might want to build a barn or something,” she said, and don’t want to disturb cultural resources.

Diane said their survey project works closely with Crow Canyon. She said they have been very helpful in identifying unknown artifacts. They’ve also helped with identifying rock art, particularly Basketmaker II images that you don’t normally see in the Cortez Area.

Diane said there is a lot of reluctance among long-time Montezuma County residents to use our services. Some just say “no” when they learn that site information goes into a state database even if access to that information is severely restricted.

When asked what persuades some people into deciding to do the survey she said, “property values.” When someone goes to sell their property, it can increase the value when a prospective buyer learns there are cultural resources on it.

Diane said the Hisatsinom Archaeological Survey Program may be conducting a training session for volunteer site surveyors this coming spring. A date has not been set, yet. Archaeological experience is nice but not required. Volunteers must also join the Hisatsinom Chapter of the CAS. You can learn more by contacting Diane at diane.scca@gmail.com.

Briefs

New Federal law imposes stiffer penalties for trading in human remains or cultural items obtained illegally. Prison terms are now felonies not misdemeanors with 1-10 years for anyone convicted of transporting for sale, using for profit or selling remains or certain objects. Many folks in the “collector” community are, of course, opposed to the law. They say it could criminalize some of their activities and hinder tourism. You may read the *Washington Post* account [here](#). The new law may have a modest ripple effect in recovering cultural items already overseas.

Early Migration to America more Fluid than Previously thought? New research reported in *Current Biology* makes the case that some early human populations “back-migrated” to northeastern Asia. Researchers studied ancient genomes of 10 individuals in Siberia. They found that gene flow went both ways to North America and back over the past 5,000 years. You can read a summary of the research [here](#).

GIS offers Hi-Tech Solution to Identifying Land Parcels for Indigenous Stewardship. The “landback” concept supports the transfer of land stewardship of public or protected land [*not private land*] to indigenous groups. The idea is that tribes have more of a vested interest in protecting certain chunks of land that have sacred or traditional significance to them. You can read more in [here](#) in *DailyYonder*.

ProPublica Launches Series on the Failures of NAGPRA. The independent investigative Web site ProPublica wonders why 30 years after they were to at least start the process of repatriation the remains of more than 110,000 Indigenous Americans languish in Federal and Federally supported institutions. Some of these institutions blame tribes for not stepping forward. Tribes say these institutions designate most of their holdings as “culturally unidentifiable,” which skirts responsibility. The Smithsonian is, perhaps, the biggest foot dragger. Some museums say this is an underfunded mandate from Congress. You can follow the series [here](#).

Nine Mile Road, Utah—Renowned for Petroglyphs and... Oil Tankers? The BLM is considering a petition to improve a 5-mile stretch of a road that would allow it to carry heavy oil

tankers. The Duchesne County service district wants it; nearby Carbon County does not, saying it would harm tourism. The upgraded road would carry up to 1,000 vehicles a day, half of them tankers. You can read the full article in the Salt Lake Tribune [here](#).

Mesa Verde Hosts Webinar on Feral Horses and Cattle on February 14th at 4 PM. For more information or to register use this link [here](#).

Museum Roundup

New Digital Repository at ASM Offers a Picture Time Capsule. Arizona State Museum's new online exploration tool lets you thumb through, among many albums, the Wetherill Family Photographic Collection. Check it out [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Field Trip Coordinator: If you are organized then you might be perfect for this position. The coordinator coordinates the effort to produce, communicate, and monitor the SJBAS annual field trip program. The coordinator shall conduct at least one annual field trip organizational meeting. This person does not need an in-depth knowledge of archaeology. This is a Board position.

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 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) for more information.

Technology Assistants: We are looking for people to assist in running our monthly programs - this includes running Zoom and helping our speakers set up their Power Point presentation.

Webmaster Assistant: If you know your way around a computer, please consider volunteering to assist our Webmaster, Lyle Hancock, when he is unable to access a computer. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining and updating the SJBAS website, www.sjbas.org. Please contact Lyle for more information, lylehancock99@gmail.com. Training and support will be provided for all positions.

We look forward to working with you!

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

President	Susan Hicks	sc53hicks@gmail.com
Vice President	Paul Landrum	p_landrum@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mary Rieke	mbrrieke@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead	mmtax@cmconline.com
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg	bwkellogg@charter.net
Membership chair	Tish Varney	tishvarney@att.net
Field Trip Program coordinator	OPEN	
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore	bmoore5552@gmail.com
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary	Hunter@bike-durango.org
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel	janicesheftel@gmail.com
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 \$25 (\$50 family, \$10 student) payable to ‘SJBAS’ and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.