



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

March 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

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

## SJBAS Meeting, March 8: “Creating Color in the Chaco World”

Kelsey Hanson, anthropology PhD candidate at the University of Arizona will talk about “Creating Color in the Chaco World: Spatial Histories of Paint Production at Pueblo Bonito.” The presentation begins at 7 PM in the FLC Lyceum. There is a pre-meeting social beginning at 6:30. You may obtain the login credentials at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org).

## President’s Message

It’s March! I’m wondering if the crocuses and daffodils will actually be able to bloom this year - will there still be snow on the ground at the end of March?

Membership dues for 2023 were due on January 31st. During March we will begin working through our membership list and will need to delete those who have not renewed. We hope you will renew your membership if you haven’t already. To renew or join SJBAS, please go to [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) and click on Membership. We appreciate your support!

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Tish Varney, our Membership Chair, held a New Member Orientation before the February meeting. She involved several members who helped out. Jill Tripp reviewed the history of SJBAS, Paul Landrum discussed Site Etiquette and protection, Lorie Hansen explained Field Trips, and Janice Sheftel talked about programs. Thank you to all who participated! And welcome to our new members.

Please check out the list of monthly programs and field trips that is included in this Moki. We are very lucky to have access to these incredible opportunities. Thank you to our volunteers who make these events happen.

To remain vibrant and continue to offer such great opportunities, SJBAS needs more volunteers from its Membership. Several volunteer opportunities have been communicated in the past three months and no one has answered the call. The Board has no more capacity. Please look seriously at the volunteer opportunities cited in this issue of the Moki and contact a me ( sc53hicks@gmail.com ) or any Board Member with your willingness to help. A little of your time will go a long way. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
 Susan Hicks  
 SJBAS President

### Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023

See [SJBAS.org](http://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

<b>March 1-2</b>	<b>Santa Fe Museum Back Room Tour</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a> <b>Sign up began Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Trip is full and wait-listed.</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “ <i>Creating Color in the Chaco World</i> ” by Kelsey Hanson, University of Arizona.
<b>April 12</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “ <b>The Peopling of South America.</b> ” Emeritus Professor Bruce Bradley, University of Exeter, UK.
<b>April 24-26</b>	<b>Cedar Mesa Backcountry Sites</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:lylehancock99@gmail.com">lylehancock99@gmail.com</a> . <b>Sign up began Feb. 1st.</b>
<b>April 29</b>	<b>Sand Canyon Pueblo</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> . <b>Sign up began Feb. 1st.</b>
<b>May 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – The presentation will be “From This Earth: Ancestral Pueblo Pottery in the Animas Museum’s Collection.” The speakers are Mona Charles, Susan Jones, Briana Paxton and Patty Joy and it is co-sponsored with the Animas Museum.
<b>Late May TBD</b>	<b>Keet Seel Backpack</b> – 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:hunter@bike-durango.org">hunter@bike-durango.org</a> . <b>Trip sign-up begins 7 AM April 1st.</b>
<b>June 14</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Picnic</b>
<b>June 20-23</b>	<b>San Juan River Raft Trip</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:tishvarney@att.net">tishvarney@att.net</a> <b>Sign-up began Feb 1st. Note date change</b>
<b>July 13</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “ <i>Sand, Stone, and Songs: Ancient Lessons from a Living Landscape</i> ” presented by Vince MacMillan, archaeologist at Canyons of the Ancients NM.
<b>July TBD</b>	<b>Telluride Museum/Tomboy Mine</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a> <b>Sign up begins 7 AM May 1st.</b>
<b>August 5</b>	<b>Flint knapping with Paul Landrum</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a> <b>Sign up begins 7 AM June 1st. Time TBD.</b> Cost is \$5 for materials.
<b>August 11-13</b>	<b>Pecos Conference: 2023</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> .
<b>August 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “ <i>The Gallina Culture.</i> ” Jacque Kocer will talk about his dissertation.

<b>September TBA</b>	<b>Albuquerque/Salinas Missions</b> – Trip participation and difficulty rating TBD. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> <b>Sign up begins 7 AM July 1<sup>st</sup>.</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Noted indigenous ceramic expert Karen Harry from the University of Nevada will present a topic TBA.
<b>October 6</b>	<b>Cannonball Mesa</b> – One-day exploration of Cannonball Mesa in Canyon of the Ancients Nat'l Monument as lead by noted CANM expert Diane McBride. 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 <a href="mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org.com">lorraine@bike-durango.org.com</a> <b>Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – Dr. Shelby Tisdale, Former Director, FLC Center of SW Studies, will talk about her new book, <i>"No Place for a Lady: The Life Story of Archaeologist Marjorie F. Lambert."</i>
<b>October 27-29</b>	<b>Bear's Ears Exploration</b> – Three-day tour of Bear's Ears sites near the Bluff area, camping at Comb Wash CG OR motel in Blanding. The trip concludes at Andy's house in Bluff. Trip participation is 10. Difficulty rating: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a> <b>Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.</b>
<b>November 8</b>	<b>SJBAS Meeting</b> – "A Different Way to Understand Community: A Closer Look at the Velarde Valley of New Mexico" by Patrick Cruz, PhD candidate and curator of collections at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe.
<b>November TBA</b>	<b>Aztec Inscriptions</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com">janicesheftel@gmail.com</a> <b>Sign-ups begin 7 AM Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch</b>

## FLC Graduate Describes Work Supported by SJBAS Internship

*Mollie Lemasters recently graduated from Fort Lewis College with a degree in Anthropology. During her final summer she participated in the Archaeological Field School led by Dr. Jesse Tune. In her own words Mollie describes her experience.*

The primary focus of this field school was to not add to the ever-growing archaeological collections in the Southwest, but to properly care for and document the artifacts that have already been revealed. Roughly four weeks of this program were spent inventorying and appropriately storing cultural materials from a variety of sites within Colorado. This involved removing artifacts from paper bags and recording relevant information, like provenience and site number in a legible format, and placing them into durable storage bags. Our crew was able to inventory over 100,000 artifacts from collections at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Dolores. We were also able to appropriately store the archaeological contents of hundreds of boxes within the Center of Southwest Studies.

The majority of our fieldwork took place in the San Juan Mountains Association's nature preserve in Bondad, Colorado. Here we located and documented multiple archaeological sites by practicing ten-meter transect surveying, and familiarized ourselves with cultural materials

found on the ground's surface. Archaeological materials observed included a variety of lithic tools, a range ceramic types from the area and thermal features. Much of the documentation was done using a Trimble GPS system, and many students had the chance to operate a DJI Phantom 3 professional drone to establish archaeological site boundaries. This field experience included numerous supplemental field trips that allowed us to connect with local archeologists and museum specialists within the Four Corners region and relish in the diverse collections across the Southwest.

## Briefs

**Crow Canyon hosts the week-long workshop “Pueblo Belt Weaving”** from August 6-12 on their Cortez campus. Guided by textile experts you not only build on your knowledge of Southwest cultures but will create your own Pueblo-style textile. More information is [here](#).



**Hovenweep National Monument Celebrates its Centennial with special events.** Activities include a viewing of the Holly site Solstice Panel June 18-24; an astronomy festival September 15-17; and a solar eclipse on October 14. Plus, a special park stamp for you Passport aficionados. You may find more information [here](#).

**“It’s Rock Writing not Rock Art,” says Bloomfield Resident in a Recent Talk.** Sam Hunter gave a recent talk at the Bloomfield Multicultural Center in which he made the case that “Rock Art” is actually “indigenous writing.” He rejects the idea that ancestral communities had no written form of communication. He said a lot of petroglyphs can be translated into conventional parts of speech. Hunter is not an archaeologist but says he has spent decades studying etchings and paintings throughout the Southwest. You can read the story from the *Farmington Daily Times* [here](#).

**Film followed by Panel Discussion Looks at the Cedar Mesa Perishables Project.** The film is a documentary from Cloudy Ridge Productions. The panelists include perishables expert Laurie Webster, wildlife biologist Chuck LaRue and Zuni fiber artist Christopher Lewis. It will be held at 6 PM March 8 at the Mancos Public Library. You may preview the film [here](#). The event is a fund raiser for the Montezuma Land Conservancy. There is a suggested donation of \$10.

**Crow Canyon offers Guided Tours of Three Local UNESCO Sites.** The tour runs from April 23-29 and visit Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde and Aztec National Monument. The guides will be a member of the Zuni Pueblo and an archaeologist from Crow Canyon. You may obtain more information [here](#).

**Researchers Field Test Chaco Log Toting Theory.** New research suggests that Chaco builders were the beasts of burden used to haul 600-pound ponderosa pine timbers. Using straps woven from locally grown plants a single person could with regular stops carry 66 pounds. The researchers doubled the number test bearers and found they could carry a 132-pound log all day and cover 15 miles. They plan to expand the work core to test heavier logs. You may read the

research story from *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* [here](#) and a report of it in *Popular Science* [here](#).

**The American Indian Religious Freedom Act: Not Quite there Yet.** An op-ed in *Akron Legal News* nicely summarizes the shortcomings of an Act passed in 1983 that sought to protect Indigenous access to their sacred sites. Native American's religions are land-based; which means they are tied to specific geographic locations. Think Bears Ears. Recent court rulings protecting their rights have been a mixed bag. You can read the piece [here](#).

## Museum Roundup

**Archaeology Southwest** hosts a day-long, hands-on class on how indigenous Southwest people made and used atlatls. March 18 in Tucson. You may obtain details [here](#).

**Arizona State Museum Features Two Famous Caches in New Exhibit.** One cache, discovered in 1949, is from a pottery jar that contained 100,000 beads of stone and 30 copper bells. The cache is believed to be 900 years old. The other cache contained more than 1,200 turquoise and shell beads. It was discovered in 1956. You may read more [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](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.

**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](http://www.sjbas.org). Please contact



Lyle for more information, [lylehancock99@gmail.com](mailto: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
Vice President	Paul Landrum
Secretary	Mary Rieke
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg
Membership chair	Tish Varney
Field Trip Program coordinator	OPEN
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock

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 \$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.