



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

August 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

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

## SJBAS Meeting, August 9th:

### “Intricate Simplicity: The Enduring Beauty of Gallina Ceramic Designs”

The talk will be presented by Jacque Kocer, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of New Mexico. Jacque is CEO and Program Director for the Gallina Research Institute for Indigenous Technology (GRIIT). See [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) to read her fascinating bio. The meeting will be held in person at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. The speaker will present remotely via zoom. The login link is available at [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org).

## President’s Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

In August we have a Flint Knapping workshop with Paul Landrum and a trip to the Pecos Conference on the SJBAS Activity and Field Trip schedule (see [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) for more details). Do you have a special archaeological site that you would like to visit? Or a museum or other

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| SJBAS Meeting, August 9th: “Intricate Simplicity: The Enduring Beauty of Gallina Ceramic Designs” ..... | 1  |
| President’s Letter .....  | 1  |
| New Field Trip Co-Ordinator Seeks Member Engagement .....   | 2  |
| Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023 .....   | 2  |
| Upcoming Trip Expanded: Cannonball Mesa/Jackson Castle, Daytrip, October 6.....                         | 4  |
| SJBAS Co-Sponsors Screening of New Film about Ancestral Puebloans.....                                  | 4  |
| Trip Report: Tomboy Mine, July 14.....  | 5  |
| Trip Report: SJBAS Explores Archaeology on the Upper San Juan River, Utah June 20-23 ...                | 6  |
| Briefs .....  | 9  |
| Volunteer Opportunities .....   | 10 |
| SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members.....   | 10 |

historical place? Or an activity you would like to participate in and learn more about? There will be a 2024 Field Trip planning meeting in October and we would love to hear your ideas. We are always looking for Field Trip Organizers to make these fun events happen.

We need help! We still have two Board positions open beginning January 1, 2024. If you have word processing and organization skills, please consider becoming our next Secretary. Another way to help out is to become our next Vice President who assists the President and steps in when the President is absent. Please email me at [sc53hicks@gmail.com](mailto:sc53hicks@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more.

We continue to look for volunteers willing to help with technology and membership. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

I hope you are enjoying your summer!

Sincerely,  
Susan Hicks  
SJBAS President

## New Field Trip Co-Ordinator Seeks Member Engagement

SJBAS field trips are a wonderful perk/benefit of membership. What field trips would you like to take in 2024? Bring your ideas to the Trip Organizers meeting and BBQ in late October. If you need inspiration for a trip you'd like to take, go to the Field Trip archives page on our website. There you will find reports from trips going back to 2010. Here is the link: <https://www.sjbass.org/field-trips-activities/field-trip-archives/>. Organizing a field trip is easier than you think. Maybe a few hours of planning tops. Remember, field trip organizers are not on their own; we have resources and other members to ensure you have a successful trip. Questions? Contact Rusty Chamberlain at [chambrke@aol.com](mailto:chambrke@aol.com).

## Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023

See [SJBAS.org](https://www.sjbass.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>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 began June 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 9</b>        | <b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “ <i>The Gallina Culture</i> .” Jacque Kocer will discuss this culturally distinct group of indigenous people who were contemporaries of Ancestral Puebloans. 7 PM in the FLC Lyceum.   |
| <b>September 13</b>    | <b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “Alaskan ceramics” by Prof. Karen Harry, U of Nevada Las Vegas. FLC Lyceum at 7:00 PM.  |
| <b>September 22</b>    | <b>“Overshoot and Collapse of the Ancient Four Corners,”</b> a film by Cloudy Ridge Productions. Presented by SJBAS, FLC Anthropology Dept., Center of Southwest Studies. Showing at Ballroom, FLC Student Union, 7-9 PM. See <i>below for details</i> .   |
| <b>September 22-24</b> | <b>Albuquerque/Salinas Missions</b> – On this 3-day trip, we may visit Jemez Pueblo, Coronado State Monument, Petroglyph National Monument, the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center in Albuquerque and the Salinas Pueblos near Mountainair. The trip is rated as easy. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> . <b>Sign up began July 1<sup>st</sup>.</b>  |
| <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: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Lorraine at <a href="mailto:lorraine@bike-durango.org">lorraine@bike-durango.org</a> . <b>Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.</b> See paragraph following the calendar for more info.   |
| <b>October 11</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>Oct/Nov 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 (NNM) 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> night) 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 began 7 AM April 1<sup>st</sup>. Update: NNM backcountry still had not opened by late July; although the Betatakin ranger-led day hike is now open. If you have already signed up you will retain your place on the list.</b> |
| <b>October 27-29</b>   | <b>Bear's Ears Exploration</b> – Three-day trip to Bear's Ears sites near the Bluff area, camping at Comb Wash. The trip concludes at Andy's house in Bluff. Difficulty rating: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy at <a href="mailto:andy@agulliford.com">andy@agulliford.com</a> .   |

Canceled

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <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 2</b>   | <b>SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch</b>   |

## Upcoming Trip Expanded: Cannonball Mesa/Jackson Castle, Daytrip, October 6

This will be a one-day guided exploration of the Cannonball Mesa with a just-added hike to Jackson Castle in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Cannonball is five-miles round trip and Jackson Castle is a three-mile optional add-on for those who want to extend their hike. The guide will be Diane McBride, co-founder of Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance. The limit is 14 members. The difficulty rating is *moderate* for just the Cannonball leg but *hard* if you plan to do both legs of the hike. **Sign-up opens at 7 AM on August 1<sup>st</sup>.** Contact [lorrainemccleary@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainemccleary@gmail.com) to register or request more info.

## SJBAS Co-Sponsors Screening of New Film about Ancestral Puebloans

Premiered in 2023 at the Durango film festival: “Population Overshoot and Collapse in the Ancient Four Corners,” addresses issues of sedentism, aggregation, depopulation, and climatic concerns of the pre-contact indigenous peoples of the Four Corners region of the U. S. The film transports the viewer on a new and intimate journey from the beginnings of sedentism to human overshoot in the ancient landscape of the Four Corners Area. How did these ancient people live? What were their migrational patterns essentially about? How did they affect the environment and climate? And are we presently experiencing similar patterns of the hardship and violence that these ancient ones suffered? Friday Sept. 22 at 7 PM, FLC Student Union Ballroom. Contact Janice Sheftel at [janicesheftel@gmail.com](mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com) for more information.

## Trip Report: Tomboy Mine, July 14

Our tour began in Telluride where we met our guide, Rudy Davison and his able assistant, Tomas German-Palacios. Following an orientation, 11 of us piled into three four-wheel drive vehicles. And did we need them as our caravan played *Frogger* all the way up to 11,500 feet, dodging oncoming jeeps the entire way on a single-track (see picture to right).



The phrase “speaking from experience” understates Rudy’s vast knowledge. He’s worked for a number of mining companies and spent summers underground at Climax Molybdenum Company near Leadville. His resume also includes zookeeper, reporter for the *Telluride Times*, travel agency owner, and PBS Colorado commentator. And that’s not everything.



At the top we disembarked at Tomboy mine, or what was left of it. Maybe expecting a ghost town with lots of rickety shacks, most of what was left were foundations and rusted mining equipment.

Apparently, the state razed and burned many of the wooden structures for safety reasons.

Rudy gave another talk and then we hit the trail for a half-mile hike to the remnants of an aerial tram station (picture to left). Ore traveled down the tram to the Telluride Valley floor for transport by rail to Durango for smelting.

By now it was lunchtime so we ate among fields of wildflowers. Beside us was a concrete culvert that diverted a mountain stream around ore waste piles. Had the stream run through the piles it would have become highly acidic and polluted the downstream watershed.

Hiking another half-mile up Marshall Basin, we came to remnants of a stamp mill used for crushing ore. Rudy explained how the various mines in the Basin were discovered and progressed from single owner to corporate and the formation of the Smuggler-Union Mining Company. By the time the mines closed in 1978 tens of millions of dollars in gold, silver, and zinc had been extracted. With visions of mules, miners and millions, we turned around and headed back down.







Later day prospectors included Nancy & Jim Ottman, Chris Merlier, Bart Womack, Tom Polich, Dean Pedrotti, George Widmeyer and Lorraine and Hunter McCleary. Rudy Davison and Tomas German-Palacios, guided the trip.

*SJBAS is most grateful to Rudy and Tomas for an amazing afternoon of pioneer history.*

You may learn more about life in an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Colorado mining

community by reading *Tomboy Bride* by Harriet Fish Backus.

## Trip Report: SJBAS Explores Archaeology on the Upper San Juan River, Utah June 20-23

SJBAS broke its 20-year dry spell of raft trips with a four-day journey down the San Juan River. The trip was guided by Ft Lewis College's new river company FLOW (Ft Lewis on the Water). The program gives students multi-disciplinary field experience in river dynamics, botany, geology, and outdoor pursuits to name a few within the college. Teaching students to be river guides prepares them for a range of outdoor adventure settings.

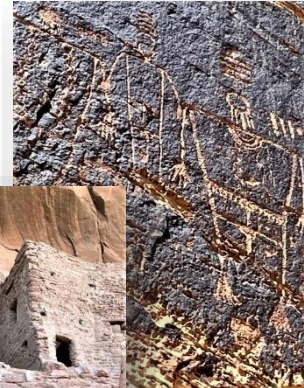
Our student guides were Molly, Jade, Will, Emilie and Natalie with SJBAS member and seasoned river boatman Mitch completing the support staff. As a special treat, Mitch took along his beautiful dory, *Mesa Verde*. The dory and Mitch have traveled the Grand Canyon many times.



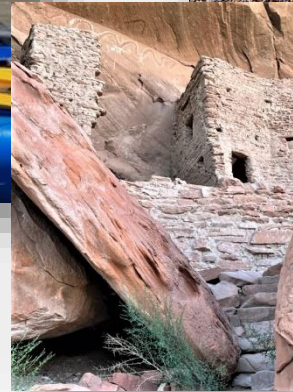
The adventure began at the FLC FLOW boathouse where we stuffed our dry bags, fixed lunch, and loaded into two vans. After the drive to Sand Island outside Bluff, Utah we lunched and then loaded our gear into four rafts, a dory and two kayaks.

SJBAS adventurers included Tish Varney, Rick and Rae Moeller, Lorraine McCleary, Dianne Pauls, Andrew Dennison, Paul Landrum, Thomas Polich, Andy Gulliford, Mona Charles, Chris Quinlan, Lorie Hansen, Libby Shafer, Jim and Nancy Ottman.

Heavy winter snows lifted the San Juan River to 5,000 cfs, pushing us quickly to our first stop--the Butler Wash petroglyph panels. These are a couple of miles downstream and are also referred to as the Kachina panels. Our river highway proved to be the most effective and fun way to see these magical images. A little further downriver sits the cliff dwelling River House or Snake House. Mitch referred to it as a BLM “sacrificial” site because the average visitor too often does not understand site etiquette and



damages sites. This cliff dwelling displayed a pictograph of a large snake above the dwelling.



Embedded in our core of adventurers were Andy Gulliford (historian) and Mona Charles (archaeologist) who gave wonderful discussions about rock art styles as well as the Mormon traverse into Bluff in 1880.



The summer solstice, June 21, dawned the next morning and the most flexible of us enjoyed yoga on the sandy beach with Jade. Our goal for the day was to reach a take-out point that would allow access on the Navajo side of the river and a good camping location. Some adventurers that day took turns paddling in FLC’s kayak or inflatable ducky. Everyone was encouraged to pick different river guide’s rafts for diverse conversation and perspectives.

Ashley shared her memories of growing up in the matrilineal society of the Dine’ and the duties and responsibilities of the oldest daughter. When a woman marries, her husband joins the wife’s family and must endure some scrutiny to prove himself worthy.

It was magic floating along and marveling at the Comb Ridge geology as the peeling red layers jugged up at a sharp angle. The incredibly blue sky, sandstone rocks and the vegetation formed an artist’s pallet.







We pulled into an intimate beach to unload and set up for lunch and the tents for the night. It was hot, but the “kitchen” sat under a grand old cottonwood tree that was home to a golden lizard and friends.

After lunch, we filled our water bottles, cooled off in the river and began our trek to ancient treasures along Chinle Wash. Wild burros greeted us as we passed by an abandoned Hogan. The land here is clogged with invasive plants and legs not covered with protection get scratched with the camel’s thorn. Russian olive and tamarisk line the shore while knapweed, Russian thistle and other invasive species out-compete an overgrazed landscape. Conservation expert, Chris Quinlan shared her perspective on these issues.



Once we reached the inner portion of the wash, the sandstone outcrop revealed cliff dwellings still exhibiting jacal walls and slanted rooflines. Along the sandstone wall, were pictographs of both positive and negative hand prints. The negative ones are created by blowing a pigment through a hollow reed leaving an outlined hand as in a stencil. These were visible through binoculars. Further along the trail was the incredible “baseball man,” a pictograph of colored pigment. According to Mona Charles, two different Basketmaker periods are represented in the pictograph; the round colored area came after the human form.

After the long hot hike, everyone jumped into the river for a “float” to cool off. That evening, the staff’s planned entertainment to celebrate the summer solstice turned out to be us! We had a “hippy dippy” theme. While details of events as special as this stay on the river, suffice it to say that the staff became the “judges” situated along a solar lit “runway” and a mobile device played selected music. The “participants” doubled as the audience. Hidden talents came forward to everyone’s delight. ‘Nuf said...







Day three took us into a narrowing canyon area with small rapids. We spotted a river otter floating down the river. America's pioneers moved through the area: Mormon settlers, gold rushers and oil boomers. Andy shared the history of a riverside road where there is a small oil deposit. In addition, we saw the fossils of Crinoids, long tubular plant-like animals, exposed on the rock surface, hundreds of millions of years old.

Camp that afternoon allowed us to play in the river, explore the spillway along the bluff and relax in the shade. One of the joys on a river trip is the ability to get to know others and share ideas. Dinnertime ended with a Dutch oven pineapple upside down cake expertly prepared by Will. Andy, Mona and Mitch shared perspectives on river resources, the Falls Creek archaeology project and notes from Martin Litton, an environmentalist and dory maker on the Grand Canyon, respectively. During the conversations, a duck came ashore and explored the kitchen.

On our final stretch day four the rafts linked together to make a "barge" while the river guides played like dolphins in the water. No sooner had we loaded up the rafts and sat down for our final lunch than the question came "when are we going to do this river trip again." The duck who had followed us waved us "goodbye". —Tish Varney and photos by many.



## Briefs

**Dept. of Justice dedicates more resources to Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women.** [Huff Post asks, is it enough?](#) DOJ created a new initiative with lawyers assigned to investigate the disappearances and murders. With the extent of the problem large but numbers unknown and a thicket of jurisdictional issues some wonder if adding five lawyers is adequate. One commentator asked why the media devotes wall-to-wall coverage of five wealthy people missing in a submersible and basically none to thousands of missing indigenous women.

**Interior Department Drags Feet on Tribal Sovereignty Rule.** A US District judge expressed impatience with Interior's refusal to reverse a 2017 rule that forbade "unrecognized tribes" from re-petitioning the government. According to [Wikipedia](#) the Federal government lists [574 recognized tribes](#). There are many dozens of smaller entities that are not recognized. Colorado has two; Utah and New Mexico, six; and Arizona, five. Recognition by the Federal government bestows a number of benefits. That said, the list of unrecognized tribes is claimed by some to contain fraudulent organizations.

**Diane Skinner, Long-time SJBAS Member, Dies.** Diane was one of those super-engaged behind-the-scenes members who went on many trips and helped immensely with production of the Moki.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**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.

**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.sjbас.org](http://www.sjbас.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 | Rusty Chamberlain          |
| 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. Individual dues drop to \$15 after June 30. 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.