



THE MOKI MESSENGER

July 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Meeting, July 12: Sand, Stone, and Songs: Ancient lessons from a Living Landscape.

The talk will be presented by Vincent MacMillan, Supervisory Archaeologist at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. 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 meeting also will be available on Zoom. The login link is available at sjbas.org where you may learn more about Vince.

President's Letter

Our annual picnic and semi-annual meeting were held at the Junction Creek Campground. About forty-five SJBAS members attended and were treated to perfect weather on a beautiful summer evening. The grilled bratwursts and many potluck items were delicious!

Contents

SJBAS Meeting, July 12: Sand, Stone, and Songs: Ancient lessons from a Living Landscape.....	1
Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2023	2
SJBAS Co-sponsors Mesa Verde National Park Film Debut	4
Annual SJBAS Picnic Features Friendship Renewal and Atlatl Training	4
Semi-Annual Meeting Report.....	5
News splash!.....	6
Briefs.....	6
Volunteer Opportunities	7
SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members	7

The SJBAS Board offers sincere thanks to our Social Chairs, Mark and Michelle McKibben, for organizing this wonderful event. The Board also thanks the many volunteers who set up, grilled, and cleaned up.

Good news for SJBAS! Rusty Chamberlain has volunteered to become our Field Trip Coordinator. He will also continue as our Publicity Chair. Rusty has led many field trips and has been a long-time member of SJBAS. He will do a great job. Thank you, Rusty! He will hold a field trip planning meeting sometime in the Fall - please plan to join in and bring your ideas.

Want to get more involved? We have two Board positions opening on 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 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.

The next Board meeting will be held in the Center of Southwest Studies Conference Room, 2nd floor, on July 20th, 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, 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!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

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

July 12	SJBAS meeting 7:30 PM in the FLC Lyceum – “ <i>Sand, Stone, and Songs: Ancient Lessons from a Living Landscape</i> ” presented by Vince MacMillan, archaeologist at Canyons of the Ancients NM.
July 14	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 began 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 began 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 9	SJBAS meeting – “ <i>The Gallina Culture.</i> ” Jacques Kocer will talk about his dissertation.
September 22-24	Albuquerque/Salinas Missions – 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 chambrke@aol.com . Sign up begins 7 AM July 1st.
September 13	SJBAS meeting – Noted Indigenous ceramic expert Karen Harry from the University of Nevada will present a topic TBA.
October 6	Cannonball Mesa – 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 lorraine@bike-durango.org . Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1st.
October 11	SJBAS meeting – 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> ”
Oct TBD	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 (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 rd 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 hunter@bike-durango.org . Trip sign-up began 7 AM April 1st. Update: NNM backcountry still had not opened by late June; although the Betatakin ranger-led day hike is now open. If you have already signed up you will retain your place on the list.
October 27-29	Bear's Ears Exploration – Three-day tour of Bear's Ears sites near the Bluff area, camping at Comb Wash Camp, Blanding. The trip concludes at Andy's house in Bluff. Difficulty rating: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy at andy@agulliford.com Sign up begins 7 AM Aug. 1st.
November 8	SJBAS Meeting – “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.
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 2	SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

SJBAS Co-sponsors Mesa Verde National Park Film Debut

Earlier this month SJBAS sent a contingent of members to a preview of the revamped film that is shown in the Park Visitors Center. SJBAS was a co-sponsor of the event. Unlike the original, the revision included input and narration from descendants of the Ancestral Puebloan people who built and occupied Mesa Verde. The theme was changed from the old mysterious "why they left and where they went, no one knows" to the modern pueblo perspective of "we are still here and our ancestors are also." Many tribal representatives and leaders participated in making the film and attended the screening.

SJBAS event volunteers staffed the ticket table and sold limited edition prints to attendees. It was a nice evening that let attendees share food and drinks with tribal members and NPS staff.

You may view the updated VC film at the [Mesa Verde website](#).

Members attending the film's debut were Paul Landrum, Tish and Pete Varney and Michelle and Mark McKibben. — *Paul Landrum*



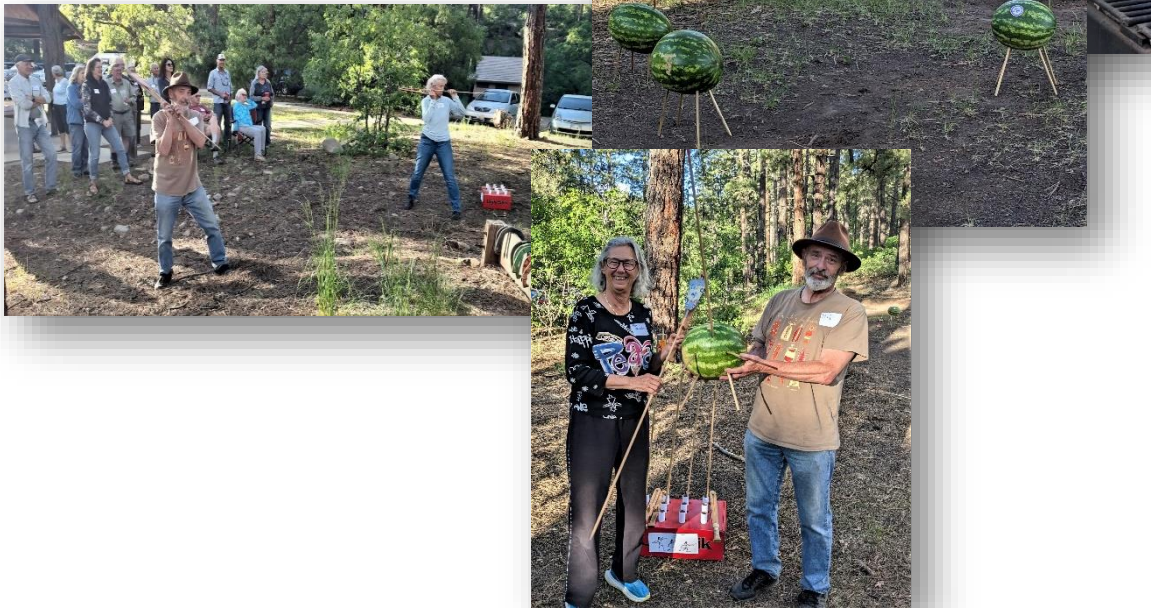
Annual SJBAS Picnic Features Friendship Renewal and Atlatl Training

Forty-some members gathered for our usual retreat to the Junction Creek Group Pavilion. SJBAS provided brats and drinks with members contributing the rest of the menu.



Entertainment consisted of horse shoes followed by atlatl orientation from SJBAS VP Paul Landrum. The watermelon targets mostly survived the party of newbie hunters despite patient training from Paul. Members did not go home hungry, however, as Rae Moeller nailed one of the pesky critters with a deft throw.

Social Chairs Michelle and Mark McKibben coordinated the entire event to perfection. Kudos to them especially but also to everyone who supported SJBAS by attending. [Photos by Michelle McKibben]



Semi-Annual Meeting Report

During our recent Semi-Annual Meeting (and picnic) we shared the latest news regarding a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for Bears Ears National Monument. The BLM is still not accepting applications. We have sent a letter requesting that the BLM issue us a Letter of Agreement (LOA) similar to one that SJBAS has with Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. If we are able to obtain a LOA, then SJBAS will be able to do field trips in Bears Ears. A big thank you goes out to Paul Landrum and Tom Polich for their work on this BLM Letter of Agreement application.

SJBAS has about 125 members currently. A reminder that \$10 of your annual dues is donated directly to the John W. Sanders Internship and Educational Fund. This is tax-deductible. A suggestion was made that we cultivate relationships with other local groups such as Seniors Outdoors. This will be included on our next Board meeting agenda. We are always looking for ideas and suggestions that will make SJBAS better than it already is. We will also try to figure out a way to make it easier for members to connect with other members who have similar interests. —Susan Hicks

News splash!

Our writers are currently shaking the sand from their clothes and toes. Watch for the whole scoop on the SJBAS San Juan River Arch. float trip in the August Moki! Learn about the adventure, the discovery, the zany summer solstice celebration and the great river guides from the Fort



Lewis College FLOW river program. In the meantime, here are a few pictures to pique your curiosity and admiration/envy!
--Tish Varney



Briefs

Ohio Museum Consortium Seeks Creation of Intertribal Cemetery. The Ohio History Connection's proposal, whose members hold the remains of over 7,000 Indigenous people, has the support of dozens of current and relocated Ohio Tribes. Creation of the burial ground would seem to resolve the problem of *non-affiliated remains* that has held up repatriation under NAGPRA. Ohio is one of only three states (also Wyoming and New Jersey) where indigenous remains found on private property have no protection beyond calling the coroner. You may read the full story in [Native News Online](#).

The History and Current Status of Indigenous Repatriation will be the subject of a talk by Hunter and Lorraine McCleary on July 12. It is part of the **Daybreak Rotary** meeting at 7:30 AM at the La Plata County Fairgrounds. All are welcome.

The Proposed BLM "Public Lands Rule" Summarized in Five Points. For those who have not kept up with the debate over how BLM will inject sustainability and tribal collaboration into its mission, the [National Parks Conservation Association](#) offers a nice summary. A recent [editorial by the Salt Lake Tribune](#) describes the proposed lands rule as "common sense."

Part of Navaho National Monument Reopens to Visitors. Since Covid's onset everything except the visitor center and a short overlook trail and the campground had been closed. The

ranger-led day-tour to the iconic Betatakin is now open. Keet Seel, requiring an over-night backpack, remains closed.

Ancient Peruvian Game Takes Atlatl Skills to the next Level. The University of Colorado Boulder produced an intriguing video that shows how ancient Peruvians might have perfected their atlatl skills playing a game called Moche Badminton. Check out the [five-minute video](#).

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 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.sjbass.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
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 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.