



THE MOKI MESSENGER

September 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Meeting, September 13th: Alaskan Ceramics.”

The talk will be presented by Professor Karen Harry at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Prof Harry specializes in the study of ceramic technology, production, and distribution and in the archaeology of the North American Southwest. Since 2006, she has conducted ongoing field research on the Grand Canyon National Monument of Northern Arizona and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area of both northern Arizona and southern Nevada. See sjbas.org for details about the talk.

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 login link is available at sjbas.org.

President’s Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

I find it hard to believe it is September and I am appreciating the rain and cooler weather. Check out the Field Trip and Activity Schedule and the Trip Archives at sjbas.org for ideas for getting

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out and enjoying the Fall.

Mark your calendars! As part of History Live! Durango, SJBAS, the FLC Anthropology Department and the Center of Southwest Studies will present “Overshoot and Collapse of the Ancient Four Corners” – a film by Cloudy Ridge Productions - on Friday, September 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00 in the FLC Student Union Ballroom.

Another special date to mark - the Holiday Brunch will be held on Saturday, December 2nd. The brunch is a fun time and a chance to get to know SJBAS members.

Thank you to all SJBAS volunteers and members!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

July 20, 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 from 1:30-3:30 in Conference Room 271 at FLC Center of Southwest Studies. All SJBAS members are welcome to attend.

The Holiday Brunch will be held on Saturday, December 2nd in the FLC Vallecito Room. A Silent Auction will be held to benefit the John W. Sanders Internship and Scholarship Fund.

SJBAS will co-sponsor a showing of Larry Ruiz’s film “Overshoot and Collapse of the Ancient Four Corners” on September 22 in the FLC Ballroom in conjunction with History Live.

The Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) may start up again - we are waiting to hear more information from History Colorado.

Cory Pillen, director of the Center of Southwest Studies, thanked SJBAS for its internship contribution. She also announced that the FLC Community Concert Hall will present Symphony Chaco: A Journey of the Spirit featuring R. Carlos Nakai on March 15 and asked if SJBAS might want to coordinate its programs and possibly be involved in other ways.

SJBAS Board Openings

Two Board positions are open for the calendar year 2024 - Secretary and Vice-President. Please consider pitching in to help SJBAS continue to be an enjoyable and active organization.

Training and assistance will be provided for those volunteering for the open positions. There are usually five, two-hour, Board meetings per year. The Board uses email to conduct business between Board meetings, when necessary.

Contact Susan Hicks, sc53hicks@gmail.com, for more information about the open positions, detailed job descriptions and a copy of the SJBAS bylaws.

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

September 13	SJBAS meeting – “Alaskan Ceramics.” Noted Indigenous ceramic expert Karen Harry from the University of Nevada will present.
September 22	“ Overshoot and Collapse of the Ancient Four Corners ,” 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> .
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 began July 1st .
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: Hard. For more information or to sign up, contact Lorraine at lorraine@bike-durango.org . Sign up began 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/Nov 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 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.
October 27-29	Bear’s Ears Exploration – Three-day exploration of Bear’s Ears sites near the Bluff area, camping at Comb Wash. The trip concludes at Blanding. The trip concludes

Canceled

	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 .
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 VP Teaches Flint Knapping Class

On August 5, Janice Sheftel hosted a flint knapping workshop taught by Paul Landrum, our vice president. Paul has perfected the art of knapping (no pun) and shared the opportunity for our members to learn the techniques and types of rock that make good projectile points (lithics). He demonstrated the how an atlatl adds distance and force to carry an arrow to its target. Twelve members donned safety glasses and gloves to work with materials such as obsidian (volcanic glass) and bottle glass. Shards of knapped material cluttered the patio. Knapping is the shaping of flint, chert, obsidian, or other conchoidal fracturing stone through the process of lithic reduction to manufacture stone tools, (Wikipedia) A hard quartzite is the shaping material used to strike the obsidian.

Paul has created projectile point display box with reproductions using varying colors and materials. You can view this collection in the new SJBAS display at the Durango Public Library! (See article on banners!)



Flint knapping newbies in attendance included Phil Bruckbauer; Mitch and Sydney Dion; Mary Gillam; Elsa and Lee Horowitz; Mark McKibben; Rick and Ray Moeller; Janice Sheftel; and Tish Varney. *By Tish Varney (caught knapping)!*

SJBAS Creates Cabinet of Curiosities at Durango Public Library

Paul Landrum, vice-president and Rusty Chamberlain, field trip/publicity, have created a SJBAS banner to headline the display case at the Durango Public Library. The glass-front case now holds information about SJBAS, field trip pictures, and reproduction artifacts. Paul recently conducted a flint knapping workshop for our members (see knapping – no pun) and he made the framed projectile points (lithics) as well as an authentic-looking arrow. Other items on display are made by Native American artists. The photo was taken at McConkie Ranch on a rock art field trip to Vernal in 2018. This field trip photo and others will be rotated in during the month. You may read about this and other field trip reports in the Moki archives.



San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

Field Trips - Educational Programs - Workshops

Membership Information - SJBAS.ORG

If you have an interest in going to a special location, consider using these archives as ideas for future trips. Members love returning to intriguing locations! --Tish Varney

Additional SJBAS 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.

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. 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.