



THE MOKI MESSENGER

November 2023

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

SJBAS Meeting, November 8th: “A Different Way to Understand Community: A Closer Look at the Velarde Valley of New Mexico,”

presented by Patrick Cruz, a PhD student in archaeology with the University of Colorado and the Assistant Collections Manager for Archaeological Research Collections at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe. He is also a member of Ohkay Owingeh, a Tewa speaking Pueblo community.

The meeting and speaker will be held in person and Zoomed 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.

There will be a pre-meeting social beginning at 6:30 in the Lyceum.

Contents

SJBAS Meeting, November 8th: “A Different Way to Understand Community: A Closer Look at the Velarde Valley of New Mexico,”	1
President’s Letter	2
Board Meeting Highlights	2
Annual Holiday Brunch set for December 2	3
Trip Report, Sept 22-24: Salinas Missions, Coronado State Park, Jemez Pueblo Historic Site	3
Field Trips, Speakers and Events for Remainder of 2023	4
Trip Report, October 6: Jackson Castle and Cannonball Mesa Pueblos	5
September SJBAS Talk Follow-up Questions Answered about “Nevada Ancestral Puebloans”	6
Briefs	7
Additional SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities	7
SJBAS Elected Officers and Board Members	7

President's Letter

Dear SJBAS Members:

This Fall weather has been unbelievable. Hope you have been able to get out and enjoy it!

I would like to extend my personal thank you to the SJBAS Board and especially to our two Social Co-chairs, Michelle and Mark McKibben, for organizing our holiday brunch, silent auction, and annual meeting, to be held on Saturday, December 2nd. Sign-up information is included in this Moki. Please plan to attend this special event.

The slate of proposed officers for 2024 is: President - Paul Landrum, Vice-President - Tom Polich, Treasurer - Mary Moorehead, and Secretary - Susan Hicks. Thank you to these volunteers! We will continue to accept nominations for these positions until our annual meeting on December 2nd. Nominations from the floor can also be made at the annual meeting.

Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Susan Hicks
SJBAS President

Board Meeting Highlights

A board meeting was held on October 12, 2023.

Nominations were approved for the 2024 Officer Slate: President-Paul Landrum, Vice-President-Tom Polich, Treasurer-Mary Moorehead, Secretary-Susan Hicks.

We are in the process of making the 2024 budget. This will be finalized at the next Board Meeting on January 18, 2024.

The format of the Moki Messenger newsletter will change beginning January, 2024 in the hopes of increasing readership and making it more relevant. Details will be in the December Moki.

The Field Trip Planning meeting was held on October 29th.

We are working on establishing relationships with other local organizations. This will be a 2024 goal.

If you would like to read the full minutes, please feel free contact Susan at sc53hicks@gmail.com.

Annual Holiday Brunch set for December 2

Once again, we are planning our in-person Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch! The event will take place on Saturday, December 2nd., 2023 at 10:00 am in the Vallecito Room at the Fort Lewis College Student Union.

The festivities will feature a catered brunch, a review of our 2023 field trips, introduction of new members, door prizes and silent auction, and our annual meeting with election of officers.

The per person cost for the event is \$26.00. The cost helps pay for the caterer, room rental, and use of the AV equipment with a technician. To make your reservations, follow this link: to the ([Holiday Brunch Reservation Reply Form](#)), print and complete the form, and mail the form and check (Payable to SJBAS) to: SJBAS, Attn: Mary Moorehead, PO Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302. Please return your reservation form and check by November 20, 2023.

Our silent auction this year is featuring items donated by SJBAS Members. Please consider a donation of an item for the Silent Auction. Funds raised in the silent auction will be deposited in the J.W. Sanders Scholarship Fund. There will also be books from the J.W. Sanders estate available for sale by donation. The minimum donation amount is \$5.00 by cash or check and will also benefit the Scholarship Fund. Please bring cash or checks to pay for any items from the silent auction and to pay for your 2024 dues.

If you have an item that you wish to donate as a door prize this year, please bring the item wrapped. Come prepared for some holiday fun and let's look forward to 2024!

Volunteers are welcomed to help with set-up, staff the check-in table, help with the silent auction, and clean-up. To volunteer or for additional information, contact Michelle McKibben at: michellemckibben56@gmail.com 219-921-6791

Trip Report, Sept 22-24: Salinas Missions, Coronado State Park, Jemez Pueblo Historic Site

Jemez Pueblo Historical Site

After driving past Jemez Pueblo and through Jemez Springs we arrived at the historic site. The site was a large village when the Spanish arrived in 1621. On a tour of the site, the first stop was a long mound with walls from the original village of *Giusewa*. Within the footprint of the old village, is a kiva that is a reconstruction. Beyond *Giusewa* are the ruins of the red sandstone mission church and the *convento*. Convento is the administrative “village” of a mission.



Coronado Historic Site

The next stop was Coronado Historic Site, about 30 minutes south of Jemez Pueblo. This was the pueblo of Kuaua (Ku-wa-wa) located above Rio Grande in Bernalillo. Nineteen-thirties archaeologist believed this was the place Coronado first encountered the people of the Rio Grande pueblos and “set up shop” for his futile effort to find the cities of gold. Archaeologist and students from the University of New Mexico spent some years excavating hoping to prove this was the place. They did not find much evidence.

But they did find a square Kiva with a mostly intact mural. They spent much time and painstaking work to remove the murals. Today they are exhibited in a room at the visitor center. The Site commissioned an indigenous artist to replicate the murals on the walls of the restored kiva.



Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument

After spending the night in Old Town Albuquerque, we headed to the three Salinas missions around Mountainair. The Monument includes the three mission churches of Abó, Quarai and Gran Quivira.

The partially excavated Gran Quivira pueblo was actually one of the first National Monuments when it was designated in 1909. The Abó Pueblo is noteworthy for being established over 1,000 years ago. Gran Quivira is the largest ruin of any Christian church in the United States.



Sunday morning was spent at the *Indian Pueblo Cultural Center* in Albuquerque. In addition to the museum exhibits the highlight were dances by indigenous performers.

The afternoon was capped off with a visit to Petroglyph National Monument on the way home.

Trekkers were Ken and Colleen Hoff, Mary Moorehead, Jeff Karrakar and Rusty Chamberlain.

– *Rusty Chamberlain*

Field Trips, Speakers and Events for Remainder of 2023

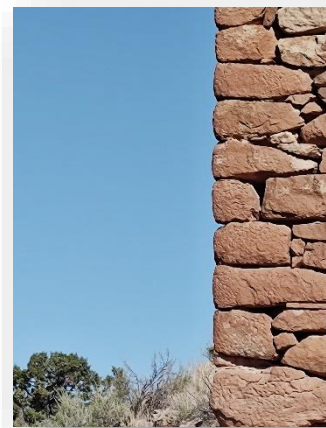
See SJBAS.org for details on each of these field trips or events. Check the Web periodically for the latest details. This year SJBAS is instituting a compressed sign-up process. The past year saw way too many last-minute participant cancellations. It is hoped that if the sign-up window is closer to the 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.

Field Trip and Meeting Schedule - 2023

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 15	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 began Sept. 1st.
December 2	SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch

Trip Report, October 6: Jackson Castle and Cannonball Mesa Pueblos

On Friday October 6, we ventured into the back country of Sand Canyon with leader, Diane McBride, co-founder of SW Colorado Canyon Alliance. In high-clearance vehicles, we drove up to Cannonball Mesa. This is a Pueblo 3 site perched at the edge of a canyon with a monumental landscape setting of Sleeping Ute Mountain behind us and facing west to Bears Ears and the Abajos. A few towers remain with some standing walls. A beautiful spiral was pecked into a sandstone block on one tower. Below the edge in a pour-off lay a quiet, shady pool. Diane discussed the site and showed us drawings and pictures of earlier archeological digs. It was recently filled in due to repeated looting.



On the way to our next site, we stopped at a hillside where a large quarry of sandstone and chert resided. We enjoyed handling flakes, cores and scrapers left behind by the Ancient Puebloan people.

Our last site, Jackson Castle, was reached by a rugged hike. After a steep walk up to an overlook above the site, we saw a cleared, sacred circle and a collapsed stone pile that has been determined to align

with the Jackson Castle site below at the equinox.

Next, we descended steep, rocky terrain to Jackson Castle overlooking Yellow Jacket River. On a semicircle of rock were remnants of dwellings with a ring of small kivas below the dwellings. We enjoyed discussing the site and viewing pictures and site drawings from earlier archeological digs before we scaled the cliff to return to our vehicles.

The following people explored these sites: Diane McBride, Lisa Coash, Chris Anderson, Bart Wolmack, Lori Hansen, Ruth Guarino, Lorraine and Hunter McCleary, Cindy Werland, and Cathy Cowles.

--Lorraine McCleary



September SJBAS Talk Follow-up Questions

Answered about “Nevada Ancestral Puebloans”

[Prof Karen Harry was kind enough to provide answers to posted and follow-up questions to her September talk about what some to believe are the Western-most settlements of Ancestral Puebloans in what is now Southern Nevada. Her responses were edited to accommodate Moki’s space format.]

Size and population estimates: The Virgin Lowland was approximately 40 square miles with perhaps 80% of the people concentrated in 15 square miles). The population was maybe a few hundred people. The entire Virgin heartland of about 8,000 square miles was populated by less than 10,000 people. The density was far less than the San Juan Basin.

Number of excavated sites: Most of about 75 sites were excavated before 1942. Since 1970 perhaps another 25 have been tested or excavated.

Prof Harry’s sabbatical work: Between 2006 and 2019 I conducted work on the Shivwits Plateau, the westernmost plateau of the Colorado Plateau. I’m completing a book manuscript on that work.

Are there plans to locate the Lowland Virgin canals? No immediate plans. It would be a worthwhile project but there are complicating factors is that the floodplain is so overgrown with invasive tamarisk.

Could a field trip be arranged? It would be great to get you guys out here! There are three main areas where the Virgin sites are found: the upland area (Shivwits and Uinkaret Plateaus), the St. George Basin, and the Moapa Valley/lowland area. The upland sites a five-hour drive on a dirt road from St. George. The lowland area in many ways would be best as it’s only an hour outside of Las Vegas.

Briefs

Sand Creek Massacre Exhibit at History Colorado Marks One Year

The [*New York Times*](#) covers the first anniversary of an exhibit that was heavily (and finally) built around the perspective of affected Indigenous tribes. An early iteration of the exhibition in 2012 was quickly shuttered after complaints from the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes. Among those interviewed for the story is Prof Majel Boxer of Ft. Lewis College.

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.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 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.