



THE MOKI MESSENGER

April 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Monthly Meeting: April 10

Our next monthly meeting will be held in person and on Zoom on Wednesday, April 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Dr. Piyawit Moonkham, visiting assistant professor in the Department of Archaeology at Fort Lewis College, will present “How Landscape Shaped the World of Indigenous Cultures.” A reception will start things off at 6:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Center of Southwest Studies. You will find much more information on the talk, the speaker and a Zoom link on our Website at SJBAS.ORG plus information to connect by Zoom.

President’s Message

Our March meeting, on the topic of “Archeoastronomy at Chaco Canyon,” was one of our best-attended ever. We had about 40 in attendance and another 42 on Zoom. The Chaco images taken by David and Chloe Valentine were stunning and remind us of just how perceptive the Chacoans were in understanding their world. The evening also included a wonderful talk by retired ranger GB Cornucopia on his decades working at Chaco. As a follow-up to the talk Ranger Cornucopia has offered to meet SJBAS members at Chaco for a day-tour later this year. Stay tuned for specifics.

Feedback on the SJBAS-co-sponsored “Symphony Chaco: A Journey of the Spirit” featuring R. Carlos Nakai was excellent from all reports.

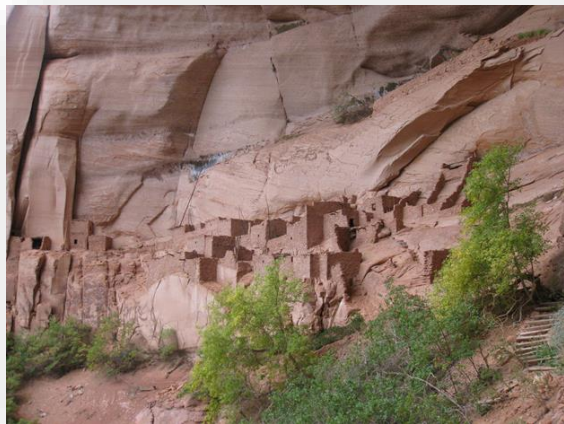
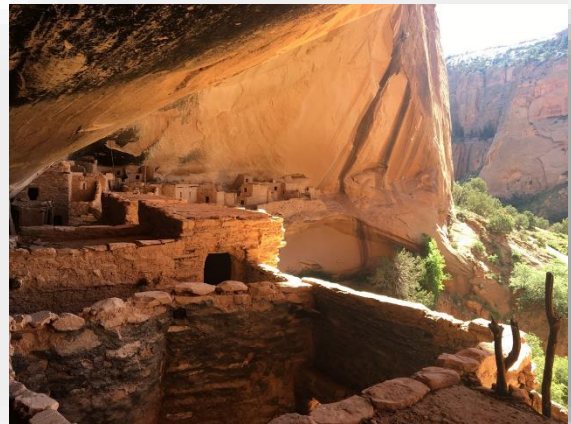
SJBAS board members canvassed non-renewing members to check on their 2024 status. A number said they will be renewing and one even made an extra \$100 donation.

Good news on our efforts to obtain permits to visit Bears Ears/Cedar Mesa. We have secured a permit from the BLM for the trip to Bluff scheduled for April 5-7! Participants should contact andy@agulliford.com concerning trip status updates.

The Fall Cedar Mesa Backcountry trip scheduled for October 8-10 remains pending BLM permit approval. Interested participants should contact Lyle at lylehancock99@gmail.com. Sign-up begins Aug 1st. *–Paul Landrum*

Keet Seel Trip set for May 16-17

After four years in the planning and hoping, eight SJBAS members head to Navaho National Monument for an overnight backpacking trip to Keet Seel. The pristine Ancestral Puebloan village (see right) was closed to the public in 2020 and just opened for limited visits last fall.



While there is a wait list to visit Keet Seel SJBAS members might want to join us for a guided day-hike to Betatakin (see left), the other jewel of Navaho National Monument. There is no wait list for this hike. We have a group campsite reserved for the weekend. At this date it's not clear if the Betatakin day-hike will be May 17 or May 19.

Upcoming SJBAS Events for 2024

[Contact trip organizers for details.
See sjbas.org for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

April 5-7	Bluff, Utah 3-day camping trip –Contact andy@agulliford.com
April 10	SJBAS Monthly Meeting at Center of SW Studies. 7 PM “How Landscape Shaped the World of Indigenous Cultures” by Dr. Piyawit Moonkham, visiting professor at Ft Lewis College.
May 8	SJBAS Monthly Meeting at Center of SW Studies. 7 PM – “Dating of White Sands Footprints” by Jeff Pigati and Kathleen Springer with the U.S. Geological Survey.

May 16-19	Keet Seel and Betatakin sites at Navaho National Monument. Keet Seel is wait-listed but the five-mile day-hike to Betatakin is open. Contact hunter.mccleary@gmail.com for more info.
June 7	SJBAS special presentation – FLC Concert Hall – “Written on the Landscape” – the latest film from Anna Sofaer and the Solstice Project.

Upcoming non-SJBAS Sponsored Events

April 2	“Visualizing Architecture and History in the Southwest Corner of Pueblo Bonito,” by Shanna Diederichs. Presented by the Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society. You can obtain Zoom details here .
April 4	“Leaving Traces: Fairy Houses, Kindness Stones, and Constructed Heritage,” by Michelle Turner and Derek Turner, zoom via Crow Canyon. See here for more information.
April 6	“Capturing Water in Chaco Canyon and the Legacy of R. Gwinn Vivian,” by Samanth Fladd. A zoom starting at 11 AM Arizona time. You may register here .
April 17	“Investigating Plant and Animal Resources at the Harris Site: An Exercise in Ecosystem Engineering.” The Harris Site (LA 1867) is a Late Pithouse-period (A.D. 550-1000) agricultural village located along the upper Mimbres River Valley. You may obtain the Zoom link from the Grant County Archaeological Society by emailing gcasnm.org@gmail.com .
May 16-20	American Rock Art Research Association 2024 Conference, Farmington, NM. For more information go to the ARARA website .

Briefs

Beyond Yucca and Animal Skins

The Four Corners may have had cotton centuries earlier than previously believed. Researchers at Crow Canyon announced they have dated cotton pollen grains from about 750-950 AD. This finding pushes back by at least a couple of hundred years the oldest known Southwest pollen grains. Researchers emphasize that the discovery doesn’t mean cotton was necessarily grown here; just that the grains hitched a ride on cotton garments. You may read more at the [Crow Canyon website](#).

Plans for managing Bears Ears

[The Salt Lake Tribune](#) offers a good overview of what’s ahead for the shape-shifting monument. The draft plan includes five alternate roadmaps for co-managing the Monument by Indigenous tribes, the BLM and the National Forest Service. The government’s preferred plan allows for some grazing but no recreational shooting. It would also limit off-highway vehicle use but not eliminate it. There would be no new mining permits issued.

Bears Ears Partnership Launches new online Magazine

The theme throughout is visiting with respect. You may read the inaugural issue [here](#).

The Center of Southwest Studies Unveils New Exhibit

“Coloradans and our Shared Environment in Times of Challenge and Change,” highlights the connections Coloradans have with the state's natural landscape and, through it, with each other. The artwork included in the exhibition was produced by teams of artists and scientists grappling with the various ways Coloradans are experiencing the interrelated challenges of fire, drought, water, and air quality in their communities. The doors open on April 11 at 4:30 PM.

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	Paul Landrum
Vice President	Thomas Polich
Secretary	Susan Hicks

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.