



THE MOKI MESSENGER

May 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Monthly Meeting: May 8

Our next monthly meeting will be held in person and on Zoom on Wednesday, May 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting, Jeff Pigati and Kathleen Springer, researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey, will present, “Dating of Footprints at White Sands National Park.” 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 speakers and a Zoom link on our Website at SJBAS.ORG plus information to connect by Zoom.

SJBAS Annual Picnic Set for June 12

You are invited to join your fellow SJBAS Members for the

Annual SJBAS Picnic on Wednesday at the Junction Creek Campground Group Shelter in San Juan National Forest. The semi pot-luck will be for members and guests on Wednesday from 5pm - 8pm. The location will once again be the USFS Junction Creek Campground Group Shelterhouse. You may find directions to the campground [here](#). Look for the SJBAS sign at the entrance to the campground; take the drive to the left.

The club will provide brats, (some vegetarian), buns, condiments, water, iced tea, and lemonade. This year we’re asking you to bring your favorite dish to share. We’re also asking those that are attending to bring your own place settings and utensils. Bring an alcoholic beverage of your

Mark Your Calendars

On June 7 Anna Sofaer previews her latest Chaco Solstice Project film—“Written on the Landscape.” Durango is privileged to see the premier of a film that airs on New Mexico Public Television later in June. The event will be held at the FLC Concert Hall at 7 PM.

choice if you wish.

Please RSVP to Michelle McKibben at: michellemckibben56@gmail.com by June 1, 2024 to allow us time for ordering brats, buns, drinks, etc. Family members, guests and prospective members are welcome. There will also be a sign-up sheet provided at the in-person SJBAS meeting at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis on May 8, 2024 at 7:00pm. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer to help with set-up, cooking, or clean-up at the picnic, please contact Michelle McKibben the above e-mail address.

Looking forward to seeing you on June 12.

SJBAS Board of Directors

President's Message

Hope those of you who traveled for the eclipse had a good view. Even when you understand the astronomy involved; it remains a magical experience. One can't help but wonder how the Ancient Ones viewed it.

Monthly Meetings - The April meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Piyawit Moonkham, FLC visiting Archaeology Professor, on spatial analysis of Buddhist temples and how changes in social and political structure were reflected in the architecture of public spaces. He used sophisticated technology and statistical techniques as well as historical records to document changes in the cultures of Northern Thailand over time. It was an interesting presentation with potential applications in our own region.

This month there will be a presentation on the 23,000 - 21,000 year old fossilized foot prints recently discovered at White Sands National Monument. These are the oldest human footprints in North America. Do not miss this one.

Permits - Progress has been made with SJBAS access to Bears Ears National Monument. The BLM granted a permit for a trip led by Dr. Andrew Gulliford during the first week of April. We are still awaiting a BLM decision on the Fall trip to Cedar Mesa proposed by Lyle Hancock. Hopefully we can establish a working relationship with the BLM to expedite future permit applications.

Hunter has finally obtained a permit for Keet Seel which has been open only sporadically since the pandemic. Those fortunate enough to accompany him will enjoy a spring hike, 8 miles up a lovely canyon with water falls to a ranger led tour of the most pristine publicly accessible ruins in the Southwest. We look forward to pictures!

Trips – As the seasons change, our free field trips are a major benefit of membership and provide a unique learning opportunity. Unpaid volunteers originating trips are often very knowledgeable or even experts in the subject area. They can often provide a wealth of background information beyond what might be available outside of a commercial guide service. Please remember that space is limited and the people coordinating these events expend

considerable effort in managing the logistics involved. If you sign up, please make every effort to attend the trip/event. If something prevents attending, please let the trip coordinator know as soon as possible so that people on the wait list can adjust their schedules to go in your place. Visit the [SJBAS Field Trips page](#) for offerings and status.

Salmon Ruins Daytrip: March 28

A handful of SJBAS members trekked to Salmon Ruins in Bloomfield for a guided tour of this important transitional Ancestral Puebloan site. The tour guide was archaeologist Larry Baker. Tour participants learned about the Salmon family ranch on which the pueblo resides and the archaeological work done in the 1970s.



The Salmon site grew from the earliest occupation in about 1090 AD to comprise hundreds of rooms and two dozen kivas before it was abandoned in the 1280s. Only about one-third of Salmon has been excavated. Larry also related how the architecture reflects the Ancients One’s understanding of the sun’s movement and the seasonal equinoxes.

You may learn more about the Salmon program on [their web site](#). Several years ago, they launched a program to digitize many of their archaeological research documents. You may access that site [here](#).

Upcoming SJBAS Events for 2024

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

May 8	SJBAS meeting – “Dating of White Sands Footprints” by Jeff Pigati and Kathleen Springer with the U.S. Geological Survey.
May 9	SJBAS Board Meeting , Center of Southwest Studies, 1:30 PM. Members are welcome to attend.
May 17-18	Keet Seel backpack and guided tour – Navajo National Monument. Two to four days of camping with one overnight backpack. Difficulty: Hard. Contact

	Hunter McCleary at hunter.mccleary@gmail.com . Trip is full but there may still be space for a day-hike to Betatakin on May 16 or 19. That said, the Monument still has not confirmed if this day-tour will even happen.
June 7	SJBAS special presentation – FLC Concert Hall – “Written on the Landscape” – the latest film from Anna Sofaer and the Solstice Project. 7 PM
June 8	Sand Canyon and Goodman Point Pueblos – Day-trip to two Pueblo III villages in Canyons of the Ancients. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com . Sign-up begins April 1 st .
June 12	SJBAS Annual Picnic

Upcoming Signups for SJBAS Outings

[SJBAS instituted a signup system to firm up member commitment to our trips. Contact trip organizers for details.
See sjbas.org for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

May 1	Cedar Mesa Backcountry sites, Oct 8-10 – Pending BLM approval, three-day car-camping trip with day-hikes to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. Difficulty: Hard. Limit of 12. Contact Lyle at lylehancock99@gmail.com .
May 1	Crown Point Rug Auction and More, Sept 6-7 – This weekend trip includes lectures, a trading post visit, and the rug auction. Lodging and food are extra. Difficulty: Easy-active. Contact Bill Postler at postler.bill@gmail.com .
June 1	Hovenweep National Monument Outlier Towers, late August – One-day trip to Painted Hand, Cutthroat Castle, Holly/Hackberry. A chance to speculate together on their function and cultural significance. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Andy Dennison at andrewdennison86@gmail.com .

Upcoming non-SJBAS Sponsored Events

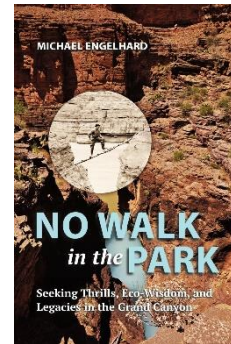
May - Nov	The Memories We Carry with Us is a new exhibit on the Ute Mountain Ute at the Center of Southwest Studies. Curated by an indigenous student, it uses photos, personal items and archival clippings to highlight Native American FLC students. Check it out.
May 7	"Why Build That Great House There? Great House Formation Dynamics at Mitchell Springs" Hisatsinom monthly meeting, Cortez. Also on Zoom. More information is here .
May 9	“Explaining the Pueblo in Kansas: Ethnogenesis of Apachean and Puebloan Communities on the High Plains” by Matthew Hill, Crow Canyon Zoom. More info and registration are here .
May 23	“The Haynie Site and the San Juan Basin Cotton Mystery” by Susie Smith, Crow Canyon Zoom. More info and registration are here .

May 30	“Listening Seriously for O’odham Heritage: The Value of Considering Native Perspectives on Heritage,” by Brett Hill, Crow Canyon Zoom. More info and registration are here .
June 6	“Impacts to Diné Activities with the San Juan River after the Gold King Mine Spill,” by Karletta Chief. Crow Canyon Zoom. More info and registration here .
May 16-20	American Rock Art Research Association 2024 Conference, Farmington, NM. For more information go to the ARARA website .

Briefs

New book offers different perspective on exploring the Grand Canyon.

Michael Engelhard, author, anthropologist, and river guide, offers his perspective on one of America’s great wonders. The author tells Moki that several of these essays are set in Southern Utah: Moab, Cataract Canyon, Rainbow Bridge, and the Paria River gorge, and while cultural anthropology sets the tone, there is much for archaeologists to find interesting.



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.