



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

August 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

[sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org)

## SJBAS Monthly Meeting: August 14

Robert Weiner will present “Great Houses for Whom? Chacoan Monumental Architecture in Cognitive and Cross-Cultural Perspective.” A reception will start things off at 6:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Center of Southwest Studies with the zoom presentation starting at 7 PM. Details are on [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org).

## President’s Message

"Good news, we have received another permit for Lyle’s fall Bears Ears trip. Hopefully this process will become routine. See the trip calendar at [SJBAS.ORG](http://SJBAS.ORG) for sign up information.

Dr. Andy Gulliford gave an interesting presentation in July on “National Conservation Areas” as a means of preserving significant historical and archaeological sites. A primary difference is NCAs are solely established by an act of congress, not Presidential proclamation as with National Monuments. National Monuments can either be established by the US Congress through legislation or by the president through the use of the Antiquities Act. Modification of NCA boundaries requires an act of congress which must pass through the legislative process rather than simple proclamation.



In related news, Project 2025 has proposals that could impact preservation of archaeological sites throughout the West. These include proposals to review national monument designations with an

eye to reducing their size (p. 532). Another significant proposal is to seek repeal of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (p. 532) and restoration of mining claims and oil and gas leases in the 10-mile buffer around Chaco Cultural Historic National Park. More information can be found [here](#).

Hunter and I gave a presentation at the Pine River Library about archaeology. Participants received an overview of SJBAS and the science of archaeology. This included stratigraphy, archaeological context, and dating methods. Handouts included site visit etiquette and a general guideline to artifact collection regulations and what to do if significant artifacts or human remains are discovered. Hunter presented a PowerPoint on La Plata County area archaeology. This was followed by hands-on activity that included atlatl throws, knapping, fire drill, yucca twine and glue manufacturing. One participant indicated they would join and we received a donation from the library which will be applied to the Sanders fund." – *Paul Landrum*



### Explore the Mysteries of Hovenweep NM in an SJBAS Daytrip

Andy Dennison leads a trip to several of the Hovenweep National Monument outliers on August 28. This area has been occupied off and on for 10,000 years with peak construction occurring about 800 years ago. For those of you who haven't hiked to outliers such as Cutthroat Castle and Hackberry this is a special treat. You will marvel at how these hearty people built multi-story structures on the edge of precipices and on giant boulders. Contact Andy at [andrewdennison86@gmail.com](mailto:andrewdennison86@gmail.com).

### Guided Canyons of the Ancients Day-Hike Capped off with a Tour of Sutcliffe Winery

SJBAS members will be led by CANM authority Diane McBride who will take us to Ismay and Mud Springs Pueblos. The hike includes amazing rock art and mesa-top views. The hike will be about 3-4 miles and is rated moderate. The winery tour is rated easy and relaxing. To register or for more information contact [lorrynmcclary@gmail.com](mailto:lorrynmcclary@gmail.com).

### Upcoming SJBAS Events for 2024

**[Contact trip organizers for details.  
See [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]**

<b>August 14</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “Great Houses for Whom? Chacoan Monumental Architecture in Cognitive and Cross-Cultural Perspective” by Robert Weiner, Ph.D. See <a href="http://SJBAS.org">SJBAS.org</a> for details.
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<b>August 28</b>	<b>Hovenweep National Monument Outlier Towers</b> – One-day trip to Cutthroat Castle and Holly/Hackberry. A chance to speculate together on their function and cultural significance. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Andy Dennison at <a href="mailto:andrewdennison86@gmail.com">andrewdennison86@gmail.com</a> .
<b>September 6-7</b>	<b>Crown Point Rug Auction and More</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:postler.bill@gmail.com">postler.bill@gmail.com</a> .
<b>September 11</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting</b> – “The Survival of Diné textile traditions” by Venancio Aragon, Diné textile artist and former NPS interpreter. 7 PM preceded by a reception in the lobby at 6:30.
<b>September 16-28</b>	<b>Chaco Culture National Historical Park – 3-day camping or day trip</b> – Tour of Chaco led by legendary Ranger GB Cornucopia. Camp or come for the day on Saturday. Camping reservations can only be made 90 days before. Based on interest, we will reserve a group camp site. Moderate. Contact Rusty Chamberlain <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a>
<b>October 4</b>	<b>Canyons of the Ancients – Day trip – Hike to Ismay and Mud Springs Pueblo guided by Diane McBride. End the day at Sutcliffe Winery.</b> Trip limit 14. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Lorraine McCleary at <a href="mailto:lorrainemccleary@gmail.com">lorrainemccleary@gmail.com</a> .
<b>October 8-10</b>	<b>Cedar Mesa Backcountry sites</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:lylehancock99@gmail.com">lylehancock99@gmail.com</a> .

### 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](http://sjbas.org) for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

<b>May 1</b>	<b>Cedar Mesa Backcountry sites, Oct 8-10</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:lylehancock99@gmail.com">lylehancock99@gmail.com</a> .
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Crown Point Rug Auction and More, Sept 6-7</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:postler.bill@gmail.com">postler.bill@gmail.com</a> .
<b>June 1</b>	<b>Hovenweep National Monument Outlier Towers, late August</b> – 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 <a href="mailto:andrewdennison86@gmail.com">andrewdennison86@gmail.com</a> .
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Chaco Culture National Historic Park Guided Tour and Car-Camping Trip</b> , led by retired NPS Ranger GB Cornucopia. Sept 26-28. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> for more info.
<b>August 1</b>	<b>Canyons of the Ancients – Day trip</b> – Hike to Ismay and Mud Springs Pueblo guided by Diane McBride. End the day at Sutcliffe Winery. Trip limit

	14. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Lorraine McCleary at <a href="mailto:lorrainemccleary@gmail.com">lorrainemccleary@gmail.com</a> .
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### Upcoming non-SJBAS Events

<b>August 1-4</b>	<b>Pecos Conference</b> , Chino Valley, Arizona.
<b>August 6</b>	“The Archaeology of Coal Bed and Monument Village in Montezuma Canyon,” by Jim Allison, Cortez. 7 PM. See the <a href="#">Hisatsinom Chapter</a> web site for more info and zoom details.
<b>August 8</b>	“Autonomy: Core Element of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt,” Crow Canyon zoom webinar. For more information and to register go <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>August 31</b>	“Santa Clara Pueblo Pottery Demonstration,” Mesa Verde NP, Visitors Center, 10 AM. More info <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>September 5</b>	“Two Years of Zooarchaeological Research from the Northern Chaco Outliers Project,” a Crow Canyon zoom webinar. Go <a href="#">here</a> for more info or to register.
<b>September 18</b>	“150 Years of La Plata County History from 1874 to the Present,” Andy Gulliford, Center of Southwest Studies, 6:30 PM. Not zoomed. See <a href="#">CSWS web site</a>
<b>September 19</b>	“Abandonment Issues? The Indigenous People of the Casas Grandes Valley and the Legacy of Paquimé,” a Crow Canyon zoom webinar. For more info or to register go <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>September 21</b>	“Edge of the Cedars Visible Storage Pottery Collection,” 2 PM. See the <a href="#">Museum web</a> site for more info. This talk is not zoomed but the museum is well worth a two-hour drive.
<b>September 27-29</b>	<b>Southwest Kiln Conference</b> , Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about making pottery the way the <i>Ancient Ones</i> did. Registration is free and it’s an easy day-trip. You may register and learn more <a href="#">here</a> .

### Briefs

**BLM and Forest Service to host Bears Ears Advisory Committee meeting.** The meeting on August 8 will be in Monticello but also offered virtually. It follows a field tour of the monument the previous day by the advisory committee. The field tour is open to the public but attendees must provide their own transportation. You can learn more [here](#).

### Support Overwhelming for Indigenous Co-Management of Bears Ears

With the BLM public comment period ending in mid-June, results show strong support for “the use of Traditional Indigenous Knowledge in the management of the monument.” Comments came from over 20,000 people. You may read more at [Native News Online](#).

**Astronomer transforms ideas about dating archaeological sites-- and climate.** AE Douglass pioneered the use of tree rings a century ago to date archaeological sites. An *article in Arizona Highways* revisits his groundbreaking work and how it was ignored when creating the Colorado River Compact.

**Joining SJBAS might Save Democracy?** Far-fetched? Maybe. But a new documentary called “Join or Die” makes the case that American’s decreasing engagement in various civic organizations parallels the weakening of democracy in recent decades. You may read [a review of the film in the New York Times](#) [may require a NYT subscription to view].

**GOP Project 2025 Seeks Repeal of Antiquities Act.** This roadmap for a new Republican administration aims to shrink government in many ways. One is to eliminate the power of the president to create national monuments without congressional approval. It’s easy to surmise that the driving force for this scheme is prevent any more Bears Ears. Oddly enough, one opponent of this effort is Utah Governor Spencer Cox who says it goes too far. You may read the [full story in RawStory](#).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.sjbas.org). Please contact Lyle for more information, [lylehancock99@gmail.com](mailto:lylehancock99@gmail.com). Training and support will be provided for all positions.

**Social Chair:** Plan the summer picnic and holiday brunch. The current social chair members, Michelle and Mark McKibben, have offered to assist whomever decides to step forward. Without them there might be no summer and winter get-togethers.

We look forward to working with you! We need 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 only to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.