

Sand Canyon field trip report 3

SJBAS Field Trip Report - Sand Canyon, Goodman Point, and Lowry Pueblos - June 2026.

Leader: Rusty Chamberlain

Six SJBAS members and one archaeologist visiting from California met at Santa Rita Park and drove out to the Great Sage Plain. The crew was Lisa Coash, Judy Fisher, Pattie Phillips, Ken Hilfiker, Mario Borrero, Rusty Chamberlain plus a colleague of Mario's, Peter Phan. Our first site was Goodman Point Pueblo. We stopped at a bend where the trail goes through the pueblo to look at map of the Pueblo and discussed the idea of dual moiety. That term applies to the idea of a community divided into two or three groups with different responsibilities and perhaps different ethnicities or social class. Goodman and Sand Canyon show this by separate, what I call, "neighborhoods". At Goodman main neighborhood is on left of canyon with a wall separating it from the other two neighborhoods. Walking along the outer wall of the main neighborhood, we found many sherds and even some lithics. The neighborhood on the right canyon rim has a great kiva.

Our next stop was Sand Canyon Pueblo and lunch. It is another pueblo with what appears like neighborhoods on the opposite side of the canyon. And like Goodman Point, Sand Canyon has D-shaped bi-wall with several internal kivas and a great kiva. Sand Canyon Pueblo is very accessible with a trail leading through it and excellent informative signage. For lunch and conversation, we used Sand Canyon's large, shaded picnic table.

After our lunch break, we headed north to Lowry Pueblo National Historical Landmark. At last year's visit, we encountered a indigenous crew tuck pointing the east of the building. Today we viewed their work, it looks good. The signage here and at the nearby great kiva is informative and in good shape. Lowry is a good example of kivas built within room. In fact, a cool feature of the site is a passage into the building where one can see such a kiva. The great kiva is just east of and visible from the house. It has all the features of a great kiva such as stone pediments for posts to carry a roof, archaeologist believe it was never covered. One of the signs noted that a pueblo woman pointed that the pediments, "foot drum", and other stones show a representation of 2 human figures. She says that Summer people and Winter people, perhaps a dual moiety as we discussed at Goodman Point.

We all had a fun and informative trip. Thank you to Mario and Peter who were great and enthusiastic experts to have along.

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Discussing dual moiety

at Goodman Point



We found sherds and lithics at Goodman Point. Leave them where you see them.

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Exploring the head of Goodman Point side canyon.



The crew.

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Looks like Bears Ears as seen from Lowry Pueblo



the Lowry walls and the protective roof.

Ken admiring

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Lisa pointing out last season's wall repair



The kiva inside Lowry. Notice the remains of ancient mural.