

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

a Colorado Non-Profit Corporation



Field Trip Report

Trip Description: ___Ohkay Owingeh Feast Day___ Date: 6/23-25/2026___

Trip Leader(s): ___Rosty Chamberlain ___ Participation Limit: ___12___

Participants: Lisa Coash, Judy Fisher, Stephanie Anderson, Betsy Moore, Phil Bruknauer, Pamela Schulyer

Remarks:

All participants except Pamela met at Santa Rita Park at 8:00AM on Tuesday, June 23. Pamela lives in Santa Fe and would meet us later. From Durango we convoyed to our first site, Jemez Historic Site. This was the place of a large village, Giusewa, built by the Walatowa, today's Jemez. In 1621 the Spanish established a mission here. The site holds the ruins of Giusewa, the Spanish mission church and its accompanying buildings.

However, as the site is one the 8 New Mexico Historic Sites, It is closed Monday and Tuesday. We retreated to the park in Jemez Springs village for lunch and to make a plan for the rest of the day. Lisa and Rusty stayed at the park for lunch while the others had their meal in bar Los Ojos. After conferring via text, we decided drive on up Hwy 4 and through Valles Caldera. We made several stops along the way before we got up to Valles Caldera. At one stop over looking the "Valles", we found several signs explaining the forces that created it. There we discovered the Volcanic Discovery Center just 3 miles off Hwy 4. It is well worth the side trip. By the time we got down passed Bandelier and Los Alamos, the temp was approaching 100 F. We just headed to our accommodations to refresh. We enjoyed a nice meal on the patio of The Sage Hotel where most of stayed.

Wednesday. This was the big day for this trip, Ohkay Owingeh's feast day. It was slated to be hot and sunny. Not knowing how busy this would be, we decided to arrive early. It was busy. The street from the tribal police building up to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine was packed with craft and food vendor booths. Most of us bought something during our stay. Although it was sunny we found shade under trees. About 10 o'clock we could hear "Apache' yells. Then the dancers emerged through the roof of the assembly building and began the ceremony. They formed 4 lines, 2 of men and 2 of women. I say men and women but there were many children learning the routine, so cute. They danced in both main plazas. After that we shopped and ate. Because of the heat, we had decided to we would leave by 1 o'clock. We broke into 3 groups to explore

our interests before meeting at La Choza for supper. Judy, Stephanie and Rusty did some shopping then spent a couple of hours at the Plaza. Our meal at La Choza was another wonderful “wild and crazy” get together.

Thursday. Because of the heat in Bandelier, we passed on that visit. Lisa arranged to take a tour of the Georgie O’Keefe house and gardens. She highly recommends it although it is pricey. Rusty, Judy and Stephanie went early up to Museum Hill. It was a beautiful, cool morning. The plaza between the 3 museums has a surprising lot to explore. We enjoyed the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture for a couple of hours. Then had a lunch at the Museum Hill Café and headed home.

Suggestions if trip is repeated:

The trip leader should verify open dates for all venues and sites.

Photos:



Soda Dam above Jemez Springs



Dancers ay Ohkay Owingeh



Judy and Stephanie with

Apache Mountain Spirit Dancer

Prepared by Rusty Chamberlain