

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: May 24, 2025 Destination: Sand Canyon and Lowry Pueblos

Leaders: Rusty No. of Participants _ 3 _

Three folks made the trip this year, Joel and Tammie Barger, and Rusty Chamberlain. We met at Santa Rita to car pool. Our first stop was for a quick look at Goodman Point Pueblo. As we walked past the outer wall, we discussed the concept of dual moiety. This concept in anthropology is that a people is divided two social or [ritual](#) groups. This same social division can be seen in other ancient and present-day pueblos.

From Goodman Point we motored a few minutes to the Sand Canyon trail head. From here 2 paths diverge. One path goes down the canyon to McElmo Creek. The other path leads to and through Sand Canyon Pueblo. Along the trail we found signs with information about structures discovered by past excavations and possible life ways of the residents. The village wraps around a side canyon. From both sides we had great views down the main canyon and of the territory beyond. After touring the site, we returned to the trail head for lunch.

Lunch completed; we drove north to Pleasant View then west to the Lowry Ruins National Historical Landmark. The pueblo was constructed around 1060 AD atop abandoned pithouses from previous periods of occupation. Whereas Goodman Point and Sand Canyon are located around the head of a canyon, an obvious water source, Lowry is located on high ground with a 360-degree view of the surrounding landscape. An interesting feature is the kiva built within the building. When excavated in the 30's, the archaeologists found a mural of a geometric design below the banquet. Part of the mural is on display at the Canyon of the Ancients Museum.

Speaking of kivas, Lowry has an associated great kiva just 30 yards east.

Suggestions if trip is repeated: If time allows the Canyon of the Ancients Museum and Escalante Pueblo on the ridge above.

Prepared by Rusty Chamberlain



Approaching Lowry Pueblo



The Bargers at Lowry



The Kiva within Lowry



The great kiva with Lowry Pueblo up the hill.