

Field Trip Report: Sinagua Sites around Sedona, Ariz plus Museum of Northern Arizona, October 15-17

Nine SJBAS members took to the road to explore some of the furthest reaches of the Ancestral Puebloan culture. We started with a guided tour of the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff where we learned that Sinagua is out as a description of this section of the Ancestral Puebloan world. Descendant communities simply prefer Ancestral Puebloan. Continuing our tour of this wonderful museum we sampled many other aspects of the Four Corners cultures. [Including that Ted Danson of *Cheers* was raised across the street from the museum and continues to support it. His father was the founding director.]



That evening all participants gathered for dinner at a restaurant that met everyone's culinary requirements.





The next day we headed down the Mogollon Rim to Sedona where we visited two heritage sites of the culture formerly known as Sinagua—Palatki and Honanki. The Palatki site included a guided tour that was especially informative about the rock art. For example, the diamonds seen above depict a rattlesnake.

Trivia question: Where might George Lucas have gotten the inspiration for Princess Leia's hair buns? Our guide said that this petroglyph (left) is one of the earliest depictions of the squash blossom hair style of the Hopi.

At noon we headed to nearby Honanki Heritage site for lunch and a self-guided hike of the village. Honanki offered some impressive standing ruins and rock art on the nearby cliffs. The best rock art, however, would come on the third day.

On Friday we visited the Crane Panel just southeast of Sedona. The site was ably staffed by more



volunteers. In fact, we were so impressed by all of the volunteers who stepped into the breach caused by the government shutdown.

Pictures of the Crane Panel (left) do little justice to an almost interactive calendar created more than 800 years ago that depicts the seasons and when to plant. There is even a sculpted rock that uses the sun to project the skyline of important area mountains.

With that we closed out our trip. Thanks to the following members who made the trip even more enjoyable. Tammie and Joel Barger, Rick and Lisa Stockwell, Dianne Pauls, Lorie Hansen, Chris Anderson and Lorraine and Hunter McCleary.

SJBAS Needs Trip Leaders!!

Perhaps the best reason to join SJBAS is to go on trips like those described in this issue. Trips nowadays are led by the same small group of members. If you want SJBAS to continue offering quality outings we need your help. Organizing most trips is surprisingly easy; maybe take a couple of hours. For example, a wonderful 2-3 day trip similar to the one to Flagstaff-Sedona is right in our backyard. Coronado State Monument just north of Albuquerque has astonishing preserved pictographs. Nearby is Petroglyph National Monument. And in Albuquerque is the State Museum. Or Bandelier National Monument. You may camp or motel it. Organizing this trip is easy but they won't happen without you. Contact Rusty at chambrke@aol.com. Tell him you want to be an active member of SJBAS and lead a trip. —*Hunter McCleary*

