

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **April 28 - 30, 2011** Destination: **Gathering of Nations – Albuquerque, NM**

Leaders: **Richard Robinson** Number of Participants: **12**

Twelve members of the SJBAS set out on the morning of April 28 for our 3-day trip to the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque NM. Along the way we stopped in Cuba to have a satisfying lunch at El Bruno's. Along the way to the big city we took a side road and passed through the ghost town of Guadalupe. We admired the remaining building in this ghost town from the road since it now located on private property. After the short stop, we continued through the overgrazed Rio Puerco Valley surrounded by more than 50 volcanic plugs, which offered interesting views igniting our imagination. We had no trouble driving through several steep drainages and arrived at the Guadalupe ruin, the furthest east Chacoan outlier. There were two periods of occupation and two site evaluations available, one of 15 rooms and 8 kivas and the other of 25 rooms and 3 kivas. Two kivas have been restored with both a Mesa Verde style and a Chaco style kiva present. The differences are due to the size of the pilasters, the direction they face and the way the air strikes the deflectors (ventilation shaft). Some of the people leaving Mesa Verde around 1300 may have stayed here for a while as evidenced by their kiva. After a detailed study of our road maps, several cars pursued a short cut to Albuquerque that turned out not to be a short cut at all. We all had a good laugh and arrived at our destination.

The next morning, we met at the UNM arena for the Grand Entrance to the Gathering of Nations. An emotional event that has an incredible number of dancers enter the floor from four directions until every inch of the floor has been filled with all the colors imaginable with jingle bells, fancy dancers and feathers adorning the participants, who have come from many locations of the Western hemisphere in an un-rehearsed example of cooperation and beauty. One will not forget the sound of the many, many drums that penetrate every inch of your soul. After the grand entrance we watched several equally beautiful but smaller dances, ate our lunches and then met Arnold at his Casa Chamita Bed and Breakfast where 5 of our members spent the nights. Arnold told the intriguing story of the site located on his property and the work of recording this unique dig lead by his wife who is an archaeologist. The site which is quite extensive represents early sites in the Albuquerque basin.

On our last day prior to driving home we went to the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology on the UNM campus. We were greeted by our docent and continued to learn about the archaeology of New Mexico and the four corners region. Although much was not new to our group the information presented was in well thought out displays filled with pictures and artifacts that were a de-light to see. We also viewed several other displays such as Mayan Weaving and came away with new perspectives and insight. There is much to see and many friends to visit in Albuquerque but there was not enough time. We left Albuquerque with one member's comment "that this was the most colorful field trip that the SJBAS has been on."

- Prepared by Rich Robinson

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Participants: Linda and Richard Robinson, Bev and Bob Danielson, Beverly and John Moore, Brigette Stehlik, Gail and Marlo Schulz, Kathleen and Jim Shadell, Jeff Davis