



THE MOKI MESSENGER

June 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

SJBAS Special Monthly Meeting: June 7

The Colorado premiere of the third Solstice Project film, “Written on the Landscape: Mysteries Beyond Chaco Canyon,” will be held on Friday, June 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fort Lewis College Community Concert Hall. The showing is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the San Juan Basin Archeological Society, the Durango Public Library, the Fort Lewis College Center of Southwest Studies, and the Community Concert Hall. Renowned Southwest writer Craig Childs will introduce the film. For 40 years, the Solstice Project has been telling the remarkable story of Chaco Canyon archaeology. Collaborations with educators of descendant communities and archaeologists have brought the extraordinary accomplishments of the Chaco culture to a wider audience. Details are on sjbas.org.

SJBAS Annual Picnic—It’s not too late to RSVP!

The picnic will be held on Wednesday June 12 at the Junction Creek Campground Group Shelter in San Juan National Forest. The semi pot-luck will be for members and guests on Wednesday from 5pm - 8pm. The location will once again be the USFS Junction Creek Campground Group Shelterhouse. You may find directions to the campground [here](#). Look for the SJBAS sign at the entrance to the campground; take the drive to the left.

The club will provide brats, (some vegetarian), buns, condiments, water, iced tea, and lemonade. This year we’re asking you to bring your favorite dish to share. We’re also asking those that are attending to bring your own place settings and utensils. Bring an alcoholic beverage of your choice if you wish.

Please RSVP to Michelle McKibben at michellemckibben56@gmail.com by June 1, 2024 to allow us time for ordering brats, buns, drinks, etc. Family members, guests and prospective

members are welcome. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer to help with set-up, cooking, or clean-up at the picnic, please contact Michelle McKibben the above e-mail address.

Looking forward to seeing you on June 12.

SJBAS Board of Directors

President's Message

Hopefully you all got to see our May presentation in person or on zoom. Janice found excellent speakers once again; two members of the international team investigating the 23,000-year-old foot prints found in the ancient shore lines located in White Sands National Park. Drs. Kathleen Springer and Jeff Pigati are both research geologists with the U.S. Geological Survey and were requested by the park service to study the phenomena. Careful analysis of the tracks gave insight to the behavior of the people, their interactions with mega fauna and the dates associated with them.

We are excited to be involved in the sponsoring the premiere of the film “Written on the Landscape” by Anna Sofaer and produced by the Solstice Project. The showing will be held in the Fort Lewis College (FLC) Concert Hall, at 7:00 PM, on June 7, 2024. It is free and open to the public. It explores the importance of astronomy and cosmology in the Chacoan world and possible relationships to Mesoamerican cultures. Join us in unlocking the secrets of Chaco Canyon with Anna Sofaer and the Solstice Project.

Mark and Michelle are once again organizing the SJBAS Annual Picnic. It will be held for members and guests on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 from 5pm - 8pm. The location will be the USFS Junction Creek Campground Group Shelterhouse, as last year. Directions to the picnic are [here](#).

In other news, board members are working on the membership list to make it easier to use and automate some of the reporting. Additionally, the new version may make management of trip participant list more manageable.

Paul Landrum

Keet Seel Trip Report, May 16-18

Six SJBAS members met at Navaho National Monument for an overnight backpack to Keet Seel, one of the best preserved Ancestral Puebloan sites.



Trekkers learned that *Keet Seel* is Navaho for “broken pottery.” The site, however, is ancestral home to the Hopi who call it *Kawestima*. And they will correct you if you use the popular name. *Kawestima* is the ancestral home to the Kookopwungwa (Fire or Burrowing Owl Clan), Tsivatowungwa (Big Horn Sheep Clan) and maybe the Iswungwa (Coyote Clan).

The eight-plus mile hike began with a steep descent of almost 1,000 feet to the canyon floor. We then followed a creek most of the rest of the way to Keet Seel—often hiking in the creek itself and spooking cattle and feral horses. This picture above right shows your trip leader being rescued from shin-deep quicksand, which was common throughout most of the eight-mile hike. Fortunately, tape worm season in the river, courtesy of the cattle, had not begun.



Once at the campground we dropped our packs and headed a half-mile further to Keet Seel. The 80-foot access ladder can be seen to the far left in the wide-angle picture of the village above.

Those making the journey were Lyle Hancock, Ruth Guarino, Lorie Hansen, Chris Anderson, and Lorraine and Hunter McCleary. Thanks to Chris and Lyle for the pictures.

SJBAS President Participates in Chimney Rock “Field School” for Kids

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) hosted four days of hands-on archaeology classes this past month for about 100 elementary school kids from Pagosa Springs and Bayfield. The kids rotated in groups through various stations, learning about the people that lived in the



Chimney Rock area 1,000 years ago. At the interactive stations they learned about pottery, rock art, atlatl throwing, weaving, basketry, plants and housing.

SJBAS president Paul Landrum worked the station that showed kids how indigenous people made tools and weapons. Kids were given the chance to make arrowheads and start a fire.

Paul said it was a great opportunity for kids to learn about what indigenous people had to know to survive; what materials were useful and what they could and couldn't eat. They also learned about leaving artifacts as they find them.

Your SJBAS Dues Making a Difference

In 2022 SJBAS sponsored FLC student Rachel Morris as an intern at the Center of Southwest Studies. She graduated in 2023 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies. She has since pursued additional studies in the Native American Fellowship Program at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Furthering her museum education, she went on to an internship at the Indian Arts Research Center at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe. In the fall she begins a master's degree in Museum and Field



Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. SJBAS members helped her through financially with our John W Sanders internship program.

Upcoming SJBAS Events for 2024

[Contact trip organizers for details.
See sjbas.org for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

June 7	SJBAS special presentation – FLC Concert Hall – “Written on the Landscape” – the latest film from Anna Sofaer and the Solstice Project. 7 PM
June 8	Sand Canyon and Goodman Point Pueblos – Day-trip to two Pueblo III villages in Canyons of the Ancients. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com . Sign-up begins April 1 st .
June 12	SJBAS Annual Picnic
July 10	SJBAS meeting – “The Cutting Edge of Conservation: Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology on the BLM’s National Conservation Lands” by Andy Gulliford, professor of History and Environmental Studies at Ft Lewis College. Lyceum, Center of SW Studies, 7 PM.

Upcoming Signups for SJBAS Outings

[SJBAS instituted a signup system to firm up member commitment to our trips. Contact trip organizers for details.
See sjbas.org for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

May 1	Cedar Mesa Backcountry sites, Oct 8-10 – Pending BLM approval, three-day car-camping trip with day-hikes to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. Difficulty: Hard. Limit of 12. Contact Lyle at lylehancock99@gmail.com .
May 1	Crown Point Rug Auction and More, Sept 6-7 – This weekend trip includes lectures, a trading post visit, and the rug auction. Lodging and food are extra. Difficulty: Easy-active. Contact Bill Postler at postler.bill@gmail.com .
June 1	Hovenweep National Monument Outlier Towers, late August – One-day trip to Painted Hand, Cutthroat Castle, Holly/Hackberry. A chance to speculate together on their function and cultural significance. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Andy Dennison at andrewdennison86@gmail.com .

Upcoming non-SJBAS Sponsored Events

June 4	“Puebloan Agriculture in the Northern San Juan Area,” by Fred Nials, Cortez First United Methodist Church, 7 PM. See here for more info.
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June 6	“Impacts to Diné Activities with the San Juan River after the Gold King Mine Spill,” by Karletta Chief. Crow Canyon Zoom. More info and registration here .
June 20	“Native American Flutes of North America,” by Marlon Magdalena, Crow Canyon Zoom, More info and registration here .

Briefs

Two Utah Museums address NAGPRA issues. In an article in *Salt Lake Tribune* the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and the Natural History Museum of Utah discuss what they are doing to address the revised NAGPA rules announced late last year. UMFA said they have not needed to repatriate anything in their holdings. They don't purchase historical items; just works by contemporary artists. The NHMU has its work cut out. According to a *ProPublica* study it has hundreds of artifacts needing repatriation. It says it has removed from exhibit cases any items that might meet NAGPRA classification and is working with Indigenous Tribes. You may read the article [here](#).



Re-opening the Cold Case of the “The Last Indian War.” In a story reported by radio station KSL, the Ute Mountain Utes seek to open an investigation into the death of William Posey, who died in what was called The Last Indian War in 1923. Much of the reporting surrounding the event and associated repression of Indigenous people came from the White perspective. There was never a full, unbiased accounting of what happened. You can read the KSL story [here](#) and an account in Andy Gulliford's recent book, *Bears Ears: Landscape of Refuge and Resistance*.

Chimney Rock NM Opens for 2024 Season. You may learn more about activities of the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association at [their web site](#).

Southern Ute Tribe Repatriates Sacred Objects from around the Country. The objects came from museums in Georgia, Rhode Island, New York and Massachusetts. The items were not described to protect their sacredness. You may read more at the [Aspen Public Radio site](#).

Co-Managing vs Co-stewardship of Public Lands by Indigenous Nations. What's the Diff? Turns out, a lot. [An article in Gist](#) lays out the difference, comparing Bears Ears and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California. The consortium of Tribes working on Bears Ears has decision-making authority while at Berryessa they can only advise and defer to the government authority.

Additional SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities

Program Co-Chair: We are looking for a volunteer to work with our Program Chair, Janice Sheftel. The Program Chair secures speakers for regular membership meetings and works with other SJBAS members to organize other lectures, such as the John W. Sanders Lecture. This is a Board position. Please contact Janice at janicesheftel@gmail.com for more information.

Membership Co-Chair: The co-chair will work with Tish Varney and, eventually, move into the chair position. The Membership Chair is responsible for organizing recruitment of new SJBAS members and supporting Board members in encouraging active participation by members. This is a Board position. Please contact Tish Varney (tishvarney@att.net) for more information.

Webmaster Assistant: If you know your way around a computer, please consider volunteering to assist our Webmaster, Lyle Hancock, when he is unable to access a computer. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining and updating the SJBAS website- www.sjbas.org. Please contact Lyle for more information, lylehancock99@gmail.com. Training and support will be provided for all positions.

We look forward to working with you! We need you!!

SJBAS Elected Officers and Board Members

President	Paul Landrum
Vice President	Thomas Polich
Secretary	Susan Hicks
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg
Membership chair	Tish Varney
Field Trip Program coordinator	Rusty Chamberlain
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel

Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. Individual dues drop to \$15 after June 30. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check for \$25 (\$50 family, \$10 student) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form ony to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.