



THE MOKI MESSENGER

September 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society
sjbas.org

SJBAS Monthly Meeting: September 11

Venancio Aragon, Diné textile artist and former NPS interpreter, talks about “The Survival of Diné textile traditions.” A reception will start things off at 6:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Center of Southwest Studies with the Zoom presentation starting at 7 p.m. Details are on sjbas.org.

President’s Message

Hello,

The August monthly presentation by Dr. Robert Weiner was an interesting examination of the structures in Chaco Canyon from the perspective of similar monumental examples found elsewhere in other cultures. The presentation was recorded on zoom and can be found [HERE](#).

At the last board meeting we learned that membership is up. The board also supported a motion to join the [Allied Societies of the Society of American Archaeology](#), an organization of avocational archaeology groups similar to our own, but nationwide in

scope. Benefits of membership include resources that would support our efforts in publications and promotion, speaker recruitment, and additional educational opportunities for members. In addition, the organization provides monitoring of news and political issues affecting archaeology in the US and abroad. These and other resources are available for a \$35/year membership fee.

Monitoring of current issues impacting our interests, including access to public archaeological sites, has become more important due to recent changes in management of sites and reduced public

access. To reduce public pressure on archaeological and historical resources, SJBAS has been involved in more public outreach and educational activities. These include placing site visitation etiquette guidelines in appropriate public places, conducting educational sessions promoting

the archaeology and history of the region, and promoting respectful visitation practices.

– *Paul Landrum*

Upcoming SJBAS Events for 2024

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

September 6-7	Crown Point Rug Auction and More – 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 .
September 11	SJBAS meeting – “The Survival of Diné textile traditions” by Venancio Aragon, Diné textile artist and former NPS interpreter. 7 PM preceded by a reception in the lobby at 6:30.
September 26-28	Chaco Culture National Historical Park – 3-day camping or day trip – Tour of Chaco led by legendary Ranger GB Cornucopia. Camp or come for the day on Saturday. Camping reservations can only be made 90 days before. Based on interest, we will reserve a group camp site. Moderate. Contact Rusty Chamberlain chambrke@aol.com
October 4	Canyons of the Ancients – Day trip – Hike to Ismay and Mud Springs Pueblo guided by Diane McBride. End the day at Sutcliffe Winery. Trip limit 14. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Lorraine McCleary at lorrynemccleary@gmail.com . Trip is FULL; there is a wait list.
October 8-10	Cedar Mesa Backcountry sites – 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 .
October 9	SJBAS meeting – “Salmon Ruins: History and Recent Research” by Larry Baker, director of Salmon Ruins
October 28	Chimney Rock National Monument – Guided hike to the most important lunar observatory in the Chacoan world. Difficulty: Hard. Contact Hunter McCleary at hunter.mccleary@gmail.com . Sign-up begins Aug 1 st .

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	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 15	Chaco Culture National Historic Park Guided Tour and Car-Camping Trip , led by retired NPS Ranger GB Cornucopia. Sept 26-28. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com for more info.

Upcoming non-SJBAS Events

September 5	“Two Years of Zooarchaeological Research from the Northern Chaco Outliers Project,” a Crow Canyon zoom webinar. Go here for more info or to register.
September 18	“150 Years of La Plata County History from 1874 to the Present,” Andy Gulliford, Center of Southwest Studies, 6:30 PM. Not zoomed. See CSWS web site
September 19	“Abandonment Issues? The Indigenous People of the Casas Grandes Valley and the Legacy of Paquimé,” a Crow Canyon zoom webinar. For more info or to register go here .
September 21	“Edge of the Cedars Visible Storage Pottery Collection,” 2 PM. See the Museum web site for more info. This talk is not zoomed but the museum is well worth a two-hour drive.
September 27-29	Southwest Kiln Conference , Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about making pottery the way the <i>Ancient Ones</i> did. Registration is free and it’s an easy day-trip. You may register and learn more here .

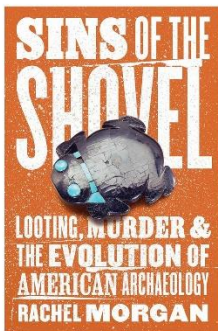
Briefs –

Recent Reads

Sins of the Shovel: Looting, Murder, and the Evolution of American Archaeology

Rachel Morgan

(available at the Durango Public Library)



“An incisive history of early American archaeology—from reckless looting to professional science—and the field’s unfinished efforts to make amends today, told “with passion, indignation, and a dash of suspense” (New York Times).”

Indeed, the early days of archaeology were similar to the wild west where much of it occurred. Some of the characters are well known (Weatherills, etc.), so if you have read much of their exploits, some material may be redundant. However, there are quotes from personal remembrances, family documents and perspectives from others that reflect the values of their times, giving some of the principal actors a more human face. They were not the worst artifact hunters by far. Skull hunters robbed graves, taking bones to sell to scientist for study. Egregious behavior by today’s standards and appalling to some even then.

The politics and financing also make for interesting reading. (Example: Robert

Weatherill offered to excavate for wages only, turning over all materials to the National Museum, but they refused.)

The exploits of others such as the Hyde Expedition were chronicled. The fate of collections are traced and some of the horrific outcomes described. Collections migrated, records were lost making carefully documented artifacts mere curios, and the heartbreaking confessions that "70 barrels of pot sherds were simply thrown away."

The long road to protective legislation is another interesting aspect of the book. Finally, getting the Antiquities Act passed after numerous tries and lobbying by many prominent supporters was a major effort. Recent revisions and expansions of protective regulations are also documented.

Womens’ Diaries of the Westward Journey, Lillian Schlissel
– 2004, 278 pages, ISBN 9780805211764

An edited summary of the diaries kept by women who traveled the Oregon Trail, 1840 -1870. Given the trials and tribulations they faced, it is a wonder many of them did not simply turn around and return "home". However, they persevered to help settle the west. In addition to the usual gender based divisions of labor, Women cooked, cleaned, washed laundry, and kept 4-8 kids safe and accounted for, while also managing supplies, loading wagons, and tending to the sick and injured as cholera and typhoid were rampant. If their men died, they assumed their duties as well. One poignant example was a woman who buried a child and then

gave birth to another a few days later. These ladies were made of tougher stuff.

Early contact and relations with the indigenous people were often commercial as trading and river ferries were common. Later, conflict arose as the impact of migration became apparent, (diseases and resource depletion). The author edits the diaries to create a vivid portrait of the hardships endured and also provides various analysis of the data to summarize the experiences of the women generally. An interesting perspective on times that were formative in the character of the nation.



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.

Social Chair: Plan the summer picnic and holiday brunch. The current social chair members, Michelle and Mark McKibben, have offered to assist whomever decides to step forward. Without them there might be no summer and winter get-togethers.

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 only to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.