



THE  
Albuquerque Archaeological Society  
*Newsletter*

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**EARLY AGRICULTURE AND COLLECTIVE ACTION IN THE  
SOUTHERN SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES AND  
NORTHWESTERN MEXICO**

**John Roney and Robert J. Hard**

7:30 PM, Tuesday, April 18, 2023  
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History  
2000 Mountain Road NW

*(Also available online)*

In this presentation, John Roney will discuss the authors' findings in a regional context, emphasizing precocious, interrelated Early Agricultural Period developments in northwestern Chihuahua, northern Sonora, and southeastern Arizona. In each of these areas people developed intensive forms of agriculture at a very early date (ca. 1300 BC), and for a time their accomplishments may have rivaled those of contemporary peoples in Mesoamerica. Between 1300 BC and AD 200 they built large fortified hilltop settlements, and constructed extensive irrigation systems in riverine settings. They likely experimented with new concepts of land ownership and with new ways of creating organized societies. These developments are not limited to northwestern Chihuahua, but occurred in parallel fashion in similar environmental settings at La Playa in northern Sonora, in the Tucson Basin of southern Arizona, and along the Gila River near the Arizona-New Mexico state line.

John Roney served as a District and Field Office archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management in Albuquerque for many years. Now retired, he continues to work as a consultant while also pursuing his own archaeological interests. Robert Hard is a professor of anthropology at the University of Texas at San Antonio who conducts research in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and northern Mexico. Robert and John have collaborated for many years on research into the Early Agricultural Period (1200 BC to AD 200). In addition to numerous articles, they have recently published a book detailing their research in northwestern Chihuahua (*Early Farming and Warfare in Northwest Mexico*, University of Utah Press, 2020).

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023 MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

President Ann Braswell called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. The meeting was held in person at the Albuquerque Museum and available on Zoom as well.

**MINUTES:** There were no additions or corrections to the meeting minutes published in the February 2023 Newsletter, so the minutes stand as published.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Tom Obenauf:** Income for the month was \$760 in membership renewals and donations. Operating expenses for the month were \$15.74 for the monthly Zoom license fee, \$50.64 for postage, \$70.32 for newsletter copying, and \$40.00 for annual Archaeological Society of New Mexico (ASNM) dues. There were no program expenses for the month. The checking account balance is \$8,050.18.

### **VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORTS**

**Gretchen Obenauf** spoke of the importance of supporting the Archaeological Conservancy. Its new regional representative Mandy Woods was introduced. She said she looked forward to working with AAS.

**Bob Hitchcock** announced that John Roney has agreed to speak at the April meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership – Mary Raje:** People have one more week to pay membership dues. She has forms available after the meeting to renew.

**Newsletter – Helen Crotty:** Nothing to report.

**Rock Art – Carol Chamberland:** The recent rains have played havoc with the schedule, but they are planning to go out in the field Thursday.

**Maxwell Collections (Lab – Karen Armstrong):** The number of volunteers on Wednesday has been ranging between 9 and 12.

**Pottery Southwest – Hayward Franklin:** The fall-winter edition will be out soon.

**Field Trips – Pat Harris:** A field trip is scheduled for March 26 at the Albuquerque Museum with docent Carol Chamberland to tour the Indigenous Arts and Cultures exhibit. There will be a visit to Foothills Pueblo on April 15, and one to Caja del Rio Plateau on April 29.

**Webmaster – Dick Harris:** The webpage has been updated.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The proposed 2023 budget was published in the Newsletter this month. The membership voted to accept the budget as proposed.

This year's ASNM Annual Meeting will be held May 5-7 in Ruidoso.

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Thanks to Sherry Kircher for bringing refreshments for the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Braswell adjourned the business meeting at 7:54 pm.

## **SPEAKER**

Vice President Bob Hitchcock introduced the speaker, Robert Weiner, the 2022-2023 Paloheimo Fellow at the School for Advanced Research, a PhD Candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder, and Resident Archaeologist at Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions in Thoreau, NM. In his presentation entitled “Roads, Religion, and Power in the Chaco World,” Weiner reported on the results of five years of documenting Chacoan roads throughout the Four Corners Region in partnership with the Navajo Nation. He offered insight into small-scale architectural features along roads; the animate entities of land, water, and sky that roads engage; evidence for what practices took place on roads; and the relevance of all of this for writing more culturally informed histories of Chaco.

Susan King, Secretary

## **AAS APRIL AND MAY FIELD TRIPS**

Field Trip Chair Pat Harris announces another busy schedule:

**The field trip to the Caja del Rio Plateau on April 29** led by Jeremy Kulisheck, Mike Bremer and Gary Newgent is filled.

**The field trip to the Foothills Pueblo** in the Sandia Foothills on April 15 led by Sandra Arazi Coombs of the Forest Service did not fill to capacity with AAS members. Six open spaces were transferred to Torrance County Archaeological Society in order for our leader Sandra to have the size group she specified. They will be an independent group and not expected to pay the \$10 since they are not associated with AAS.

**A field trip to the Piro Pueblo of Sevilleta**, led by Michael Bletzer will be held on May 13. It has been a while since we’ve visited this pueblo which is the only surviving Rio Grande Piro mission pueblo. Older parts of the pueblo date from 1300s. Ruins include the very small visita complex, a large and possibly fortified Spanish compound, and several pueblo roomblocks.

Walking conditions according to Michael, “Easy, slight climb on walk to site, sandy soil and many loose cobbles around the architecture. No shade, no facilities.” Bring trekking poles, hats, sturdy shoes, weather protection, lunch and plenty of water.

It is 60+ miles to the site from Albuquerque. We will depart fairly early and return approximately mid-afternoon. Details will be emailed to the members who sign up.

Sign up: patparhar@hotmail.com.

## **“AT A CROSSROADS: TOWARD CHANGING PERSPECTIVES THROUGH RECENT RESEARCH IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO” IS THE THEME OF ASNM’S 2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

David Greenwald, President of host Affiliate Jornada Research Institute and Chair of the 2023 Archaeological Society of New Mexico’s 2023 Annual Meeting, announces that the speakers and their topics for the meeting are now confirmed. The full program is posted on the ASNM and Jornada Research Institute websites (see Calendar Check) along with registration forms. The meeting will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, with field trips on Sunday, May 7. Arrangements have been made with the Elegante Lodge next door to the Convention Center for a block of rooms at the much-reduced price of \$139.95 per night plus tax. To reserve your room, please call them at 575-257-8743 or 575-258-5500 and mention the code “ASNM meeting” to get the discounted rate. Ruidoso offers many other lodging facilities in a wide range of prices

and varying distances from the Convention Center. Look online for maps, prices, amenities, and cancellation restrictions.

The focus of the program is on how recent investigations in southeastern New Mexico have changed our perceptions of the archaeology through time in that area, culminating in the Bandelier Lecture Saturday evening by Myles Miller, “Jornada Mogollon Pueblo Communities in Time, Space, and Thought.” The talks begin at 7 pm Friday evening following a 6 pm buffet dinner with Greenwald’s presentation “The Archaeology of Tularosa Canon: AD 600–900.” Eleven papers, each 25 minutes long, followed by five minutes of questions and answers, will be presented on Saturday. Among the offerings are presentations on the Paleo-Archaic occupation of the Tularosa Basin, Blackwater Draw in review, Cañada Alamosa and the Jornada Mogollon, age of the White Sands footprints, archaeological investigations in Lea County, subsistence strategies in the Permian Basin, the Merchant Site of southeastern New Mexico, and Jornada Mogollon rock art. Among the speakers are Brendan Asher, Samuel Cason, Matthew Cuba, Evan Giomi, Alexander Kurota, Karl Laumbach, Miles Miller, Lay Powell, Joan Price, and David Rachal. The Saturday papers will be followed by the banquet dinner and presentation of awards and, as noted, the Bandelier Lecture. **Note that the reduced fee for early registration ends April 15.** Five field trips are currently offered on Sunday: petroglyphs at Three Rivers, at Willow Spring, or at Rio Bonito; the JRI Creekside excavations; and the historic Monjeau Look Out on the Lincoln National Forest.

## **NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE**

**BLM Proposed New Rule.** The Bureau of Land Management on March 31 announced a 75-day public comment period on a proposed rule to balance its operations with a focus on conservation, recreation, and climate impacts across millions of acres of American public lands.

The draft rule would clarify that restoring and protecting public lands is a use of the land within the framework of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). FLPMA provides for the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), an authority that has been underutilized since the law’s passage in 1976. The proposed rule would direct BLM staff to identify priority landscapes for protection and restoration using ACEC designations and use funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for restoration projects.

The rule would also formalize the practice of “conservation leasing” for land restoration or protection, clearing a path for durable compensatory mitigation agreements with extractive industry as part of the permitting process. It also takes the concept of measuring landscape health, a process that currently only applies to grazing, and applies it to all renewable resources, bringing consistency and the best science to land management practices across BLM. The proposed rule also requires BLM offices to engage in meaningful consultation with Tribal nations during the decision-making process and incorporates Indigenous Knowledge into land management practices. (From *Preservation Archeology Today*, a service of Archaeology Southwest.)

## **CALENDAR CHECK**

### *Lecture*

**“Kuaua Pottery: What the Sherds Reveal”** by Hayward Franklin at 2 pm Sunday, April 23 at the Bernalillo Town Hall Council Chambers, 829 Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo. Friends of Coronado Historic Site meeting. Masks are discretionary and refreshments will be served. Non-members welcome with \$5 suggested donation.

*Conferences*

**ASNM Annual Meeting** May 5–7, 2023 at Ruidoso Convention Center. Program features the archaeology of southern New Mexico. Program and registration form posted on ASNM and Jornada Research Institute websites: <archaeologicalsocietynm.org> and <jornadaresearchinstitute.com>.

**Pecos Conference** August 10–13, 2023 in Flagstaff, Arizona area. Preliminary notice.

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**ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**PO Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196**  
**www.abqarchaeology.org and www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc**

**Annual Dues:** For emailed newsletter: Student, no charge (provide copy of current ID); Basic Individual \$25; Basic Family \$30. Print newsletter by First Class mail: Basic Individual \$30; Basic Family \$35; Institutions/Libraries: \$10 for print newsletter by First Class Mail, emailed newsletter at no charge.

**2022 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

To contact officers or committee chairs, or to change mailing or email address, email [info@abqarchaeology.org](mailto:info@abqarchaeology.org) or consult Membership Directory. Current members can sign up for field trips at meetings or by emailing [trips@abqarchaeology.org](mailto:trips@abqarchaeology.org).

**Officers**

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**Vice Presidents:**

Gretchen Obenauf

Robert Hitchcock

**Secretary:**

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**Treasurer:**

Tom Obenauf

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Evan Kay

**Standing Committee Chairs**

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Helen Crotty

Mailer: Ann Braswell

**Maxwell Museum Crew:**

Karen Armstrong

**Rock Art Recording:**

Carol Chamberland

**Greeter:**

*Vacant*

**Committee Chairs (continued)**

**Field Trips:**

Pat Harris

Steve Rospopo

**Refreshments:**

Jo Lynne

Gretchen Obenauf

***Pottery Southwest***

Editors: Hayward Franklin, Peter

McKenna, Gretchen Obenauf

**Webmaster:**

Evan Kay

Assts: Thatcher Seltzer-Rogers

Richard Harris