



THE
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Newsletter

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**POINT PUEBLO, A GREAT HOUSE COMMUNITY IN THE
MIDDLE SAN JUAN**

Linda Wheelbarger

**7:30 PM, Tuesday March 21, 2017
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW**

San Juan College field school excavations at Point Pueblo in Farmington, New Mexico, have revealed a great house with attached great kiva constructed of both local vernacular and stylized Chacoan Type II architecture. Extensive early southern influence, AD 850–1050, is based on the dominant presence of Red Mesa Black-on-white pottery. The great kiva floors demonstrate a continuous ritual placement of artifacts subsequent to a major ritual remodeling event of the floor and roof support piers, apparently completed in the late AD 1100s. A large pit containing over 600 sherds present at the southern edge of the great kiva interior may have been used for communal offerings. A new type of great kiva floor feature was discovered on the remodeled floor wherein a horizontal arch of cobbles set in clay was constructed extending out from the northern and southern ends of the remodeled eastern Chacoan roof support piers. Numerous small to medium pit features were constructed on the remodeled floor and then capped before use of the great kiva continued through to the end of the AD 1200s. Point Pueblo exemplifies ritual complexity of the Middle San Juan region during the Chacoan time period.

Linda Wheelbarger is a professional archaeologist who has worked in the Southwest for 40 years. In the summer of 1978 as a graduate student at Washington State University, she helped to excavate sites in the proposed McPhee Reservoir area under Dr. David Breternitz and Dr. Bill Lipe through the Dolores Archaeological Project (DAP). She fell in love with the Southwest and moved here in 1979 to build her archaeological career by continuing to work at the DAP in 1979 and 1980. Through the early 1980s, Wheelbarger worked on several large survey projects while settling permanently in the city of Farmington, New Mexico by 1981. After working as a contract archaeologist for several years at the Salmon Ruins Division of Conservation Archaeology, she obtained a full-time position in that field at the San Juan College (SJC) Cultural Resources Management Program in 1987. She became co-director of the SJC contract archaeology office in 1991 with Meredith Matthews and began teaching the college's field school in 1999 and other archaeology classes in 2005. Although Wheelbarger retired from the contract archaeology segment of her career in 2010, she continues to teach the field school, archaeology internships, and both credit and non-credit classes through the SJC Community Learning Center as well as continuing with public archaeology commitments and conference presentations.

AAS DUES FOR 2017 RENEWAL DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2017

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed. To those who haven't but who want to stay on the membership list, please fill out the attached membership form and mail it with your check to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, PO Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196, or bring both to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

February 21, 2017

President Carol Chamberland called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM welcoming visitors.

Refreshments were provided by Joan Mathien, Cindy Carson, and Ann Carson. Carol invited everyone to enjoy refreshments after the meeting.

January Meeting Minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Guth reported a balance of \$4150 in the AAS checking account. He reminded attendees to review the February newsletter for a written summary of the 2016 finances and the proposed budget for 2017. The 2017 budget includes letting the net value of \$16,000 "drift down" for donations to programs similar to those of the last four years, including, the Archaeological Society of New Mexico Scholarship Fund, The Archaeological Conservancy Holmes Group Site, and the Cedar Mesa Perishables Project. Carol thanked Donna and Steve Respo for conducting the internal review of AAS finances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Judy Fair- Spaulding: Will start sending out reminder notices next month and requested that people "pay up!"

Archiving – Karen Armstrong: The group The Bolack Ranch project is being processed currently. Karen invited others to join the group on Wednesdays at 8:30 AM in the basement of the Hibben building to participate in the archiving.

Rock Art – Dick Harris: The team went out to a Rio Puerco site on this date and recorded a panel of petroglyphs with "probable solar markers". The team had three good days of scouting in the past month. Carol remarked that she will resume being a team leader for a large winter project south of Albuquerque until the weather heats up, when they will move to northerly sites.

Field Trips – Pat Harris: Trips are planned through July, and signups for March, April, and May are available tonight. The March 12 field trip will be to Arrowhead Pueblo in Pecos National Historic Park. The January 22 tour of the Mabel Dodge Lujan exhibit at the Albuquerque Museum and the January 28 trip to Socorro and Magdalena for "A Livestock Driveway" were well attended. Thirty-four people are signed up for the Maxwell-Hibben Collections tour on February 25. Pat reminded everyone that field trips are for current AAS members only and that it is important that everyone hike within his/her capabilities. [Ed.: For more information on upcoming trips see Spring Field Trips on page 4.]

ONGOING BUSINESS

Carol Chamberland called for members' approval of the proposed budget for 2017, and the motion passed

Carol reported that as a result of having a children's art show during our 50th anniversary celebration, she was invited to visit two schools to speak on rock art and that the children were enthusiastic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gretchen Obenauf reported that member Mark Rosenbloom, former AAS Webmaster was diagnosed with cancer, and she asked his friends in AAS to sign a card for him that she passed around the room.

Gretchen introduced Bradley Vierra, who presented a New Mexico Archeological Council Lifetime Achievement Award to longtime AAS member and archaeologist Carol Condie.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ginger Foerster, Secretary

SPEAKER

Bradley Vierra provided the following summary of his talk.

FORAGING TO FARMING IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

Bradley J. Vierra, Ph.D.

It was V. Gordon Childe who characterized the shift from foraging to farming as the Neolithic Revolution. The term *revolution* implies abrupt and significant change coupled with possible conflict. However, the transition from foraging to farming economies was probably more dynamic, diverse and closely related to historical factors than previously considered. The use of domesticated plants spread widely across the American Southwest from Mexico. Research has traditionally focused on the movement of farming communities across the region that displaced or subsumed local foragers. However, various aspects of this process have been debated in respect to the effects of climate change, the expansion of farming populations, the integration of cultigens into local foraging economies, the coexistence of foragers and farmers, sedentism, diet breadth, the effects of a farming economy on fertility and health, and the importance of social or communal activities.

This lecture presented a discussion on the distinction between the Archaic and Neolithic, the origins of agriculture and the dispersal of maize cultivation across the region, early agricultural villages, and how this process might have played out in the northern Rio Grande Valley. The Archaic is defined as a hunter-gathering lifestyle with people residing in small groups that seasonally moved across the landscape. They hunted with the spear and atlatl, and used baskets for containers. Recent research indicates that maize entered the Southwest about 4,000 to 5,000 years ago during the Late Archaic, with the oldest directly dated specimen being from Las Capas in Tucson (ca. 5500 B.P.). This cultigen spread quite rapidly across the Southwest; both as people moved and as maize was integrated into local economies. The Neolithic is defined by the presence of villages, increased sedentism, a greater reliance of cultigens, the use of pottery and the bow and arrow. Therefore, Neolithic villages did not begin until several thousand years after the arrival of maize to the Southwest.

As previously noted, most researchers perceived of Archaic foragers as living in small groups of two to three households; however, the excavations at the Las Capas and other sites in the Tucson Basin, and at Cerro Juanaqueña in Chihuahua, Mexico radically changed this perspective. Approximately 5,000 features consisting of pithouses, bell-shaped storage pits, roasting pits, small pits, burials, middens and irrigation canals have been excavated at the Las Capas site. The site was periodically occupied from ca. 2300 to 730 B.C. Several perspectives have been offered in respect to what all this means. One is that Las Capas represents one of the earliest villages in the Southwest. Another perspective argues that Las Capas and other similar sites in the Tucson Basin are simply large palimpsests that have been repeatedly occupied over time. A third perspective suggests that Las Capas was occupied during periods of drought when people expanded their diet to include an increased reliance on maize. Otherwise, they lived along the edge of the floodplain and narrowed their diet to mostly include wild plants during wet periods. Lastly, a fourth perspective suggests that Las Capas was occupied during the growing season, and then people moved to higher elevations along the edge of the floodplain during the winter months.

Cerro Juanaqueña is a Late Archaic *trinchera* site. That is, a hilltop that is covered with about 550 terraces and 150 rock rings. This site is the largest of over 10 sites in the area which appear to have been occupied during two periods of increased rainfall (ca. 1250 and 300 B.C.). Archaeologists suggest that the increased rainfall provided an abundance of maize that both increased population growth and created a situation of competition between settlements. Yet, it is unclear why they initially integrated maize into their diet, whether the occupants were migrants or local inhabitants, and who they were defending their stored foods from.

Although pottery is a hallmark of the Neolithic it now appears that the earliest pottery in the Southwest actually occurred during the Late Archaic and the first few centuries B.C. The evidence at Las Capas indicates that both unfired and fired figurines and small bowls were present at the site. The small bowls may have been used for ritual purposes. On the other hand, the typical globular jars were initially used during the first few centuries A.D. and are associated with the beginnings of the Neolithic. These jars could be used for a variety of tasks including cooking, storage and serving vessels. Indeed, they were the original “crockpots” that could be set to cook while women conducted other activities.

The Archaic spear and atlatl was efficient at hunting large game with a strong impact shock; however, it was not accurate and therefore you needed to have several hunters working together. By contrast, the Neolithic bow and

arrow was much more accurate, and could be repeatedly shot by a single hunter. It was much more efficient at hunting a variety of game from large to small.

Not all early villages across the Southwest were the same. For example, early villages in the northern Southwest consisted of a row of rooms that faced out onto a plaza that contained pithouses and farther out at the edge of the site was the midden. The amount of rainfall varied every year so people often moved, and competed against each other for arable land. Yet, they did periodically come together for communal gatherings at great kivas or dance circles. On the other hand, early villages in southern Arizona contained separate courtyard groups. That is, you had several separate groups of pithouses focused around a single courtyard, with all the separate courtyard groups oriented towards a large central plaza. In this case, the groups worked together to irrigate their fields, were less mobile and experienced less conflict than their northern counterparts.

So, how does all this relate to the forager to farmer transition in the northern Rio Grande Valley? Well, one possible scenario is that the local residents had to make an important decision during a severe drought from circa A.D. 200 to 500. Some of the residents in the Albuquerque area moved to the Puerco River Valley, became more dependent on maize, and lived in early villages. By contrast, those residents living farther north in the Santa Fe area continued to live a foraging lifestyle with maize only being a supplement to the diet. One of the important characteristics of early villages is a marked increase in population growth. This population eventually occupied much of the Albuquerque area and began to move northward up the valley circa A.D. 600 to 900. Initially the Santa Fe area contained evidence of people ranging from foragers to farmers, with the possibility of mutual trade relationships between these groups circa A.D. 1000 to 1200. Oral history at Taos Pueblo indicates that two groups of people may have resided in that area during the A.D. 1000s to 1100s. The northern group were hunters and were known as the winter people; whereas, the southern group were farmers and were known as the summer people. Pot Creek Pueblo is located in the area of the southern group. Evidence from the excavations at Pot Creek Pueblo indicates that two groups of people may have lived there during the A.D. 1200s. That is, the northern part of the pueblo may have been occupied by foragers, vs. the southern part of the pueblo by farmers. This is based on several facts. For example, the northern roomblocks are oriented towards the winter solstice and the southern roomblocks towards the summer solstice. Studies of the human remains indicated that women residing in the southern roomblocks were similar to farmers, and that milling bins were only located in this area of the site; whereas, women in the northern part of the pueblo looked more like foragers. Lastly, a kiva was ritually closed that contained evidence of hunting activities on the north side and agriculture on the south side. Overall, it's possible that the evidence from Pot Creek Pueblo represents an example of foragers and farmers residing together in a single village. If so, the origins of the winter and summer moieties currently found at Taos Pueblo has its origins in this duality of forager and farmer.

Dr. Vierra has edited a book entitled *The Archaic Southwest: Foragers in an Arid Land* which will be available this fall from the University of Utah Press.

AAS SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Signups for the March 12 trip to Arrowhead Pueblo, the April 22 trip to the Magdalena Pueblo/Gallinas Springs Pueblo, and the May 20 trip to the Three Sisters sites were available at the February meeting. Others may sign up at meetings or by emailing trips@abqarchaeology.org. Field Trip Chair Pat Harris has trips planned through July, some with easy access and others that may involve more difficult hiking on uneven surfaces or even some strenuous climbing. The April trip is a two-hour drive each way, but the sites can be viewed from the cars—or reached by hiking across an arroyo. The May trip is a very long day, starting with a 1½-hour drive to Willard and then a 40-mile trek over unmaintained forest roads to the sites. The “Sisters” Pueblos Blanco and Colorado are relatively easy to walk to and around, but the third and most southerly “Sister,” Pueblo de la Mesa requires a strenuous scramble over a 45-degree talus slope.

Pat asks that field trip participants be aware of their own physical limitations and not attempt hikes beyond their personal fitness levels, particularly in remote areas where there may be no cell phone reception and emergency medical services are a long way away. Pat will send emails to those on the signup sheets with descriptions of the trip including the hiking difficulty, mileage, condition of the trails so people can decide if they want to participate.

**CAROL CONDIE RECEIVES NEW MEXICO ARCHEOLOGICAL COUNCIL 2106 LIFETIME
AWARD IN ARCHAEOLOGY AT AAS FEBRUARY MEETING**

Bradley Vierra of the New Mexico Archeological Council presented Carol Condie with the Council's Lifetime in Archaeology Award for 2016 at the AAS February meeting. Among Carol's achievements are her having started the first woman-owned Cultural Resource Management firm in Albuquerque, her service as a member of the Board of Directors of The Archaeological Conservancy and a former president of NMAC, and her persistence in lobbying for the establishment of Petroglyph National Monument and in pursuing the Albuquerque Archaeological Ordinance and the position of City/County Archaeologist. She is a longtime member and former board member of AAS and has also been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico and an editor of its annual volume of collected papers.



CALENDAR CHECK

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting May 5–7, 2017, Moriarty Civic Center. Online registration, call for papers, posters, and vendors and more information at <casnm.org> and <newmexico-archaeology.org>.

Pecos Conference August 10–13, at Pecos, New Mexico. Preliminary notice.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196

www.abqarchaeology.org

www.facebook.com/abqarchsoc

Annual Dues: For emailed Newsletter: Student no charge (provide copy of current ID); Basic \$25; Sustaining \$35+. Print Newsletter by First Class Mail: Basic \$30; Sustaining \$40. Institutions/Libraries: \$10 for print Newsletter by First Class Mail, emailed Newsletter at no charge.

2016 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To contact officers or committee chairs, email info@abqarchaeology.org or consult Membership Directory.
Current members can sign up for field trips at meetings or by emailing trips@abqarchaeology.org.

Officers	Standing Committee Chairs	Committee Chairs (continued)
President Carol Chamberland	Membership: Judy Fair-Spaulding	Field Trips Pat Harris
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2017

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal ____ New ____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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(Please print email in capital letters to avoid confusing lower case letters, "r" and "v" for example)

Please check this box if you do **not** wish your information to be printed in our annual directory. (Federal law prohibits disclosing members' contact information to anyone outside of the organization.)

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I/We would be interested in working with the following committees:

- Greeters (name tags & guest signup at meetings);
- Membership (keep track of membership lists and send renewal notices) and/ or---
- Assist Membership chair with display and signups at archaeological events;
- Field Trips (arrange for trip or assist chair with signups and follow up);
- Laboratory (assist with Hibben Center archival work);
- AAS *Newsletter* editorial assistant/trainee;
- AAS 50th Anniversary Volume Editor, assistant, researcher;
- Board of Directors and position desired;
- Other (describe on back).

Under the **Join AAS** tab on our website abqarchaeology.com please click the upper right Pop-up icon to print this form, fill it out, and mail the form and your membership dues check (payable to the Albuquerque Archaeological Society or AAS) to:

Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196

Questions about Membership? (address or email changes, current dues verification, etc.): Email

info@abqarchaeology.org