



THE
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
Newsletter

VOLUME 55 No. 3

US ISSN 0002 4953

March 2021

**MONUMENTAL ROADS OF THE CHACO WORLD: NEW
UNDERSTANDINGS FROM FIELDWORK AND BEYOND**

Rob Weiner

7:30 pm Tuesday, March 16, 2021

At Your Computer, Tablet, or Smart Phone

The presentation discusses recent fieldwork on monumental roads throughout the Chaco World that combined LiDAR and drone aerial photography/photogrammetry with renewed on-the-ground documentation of roads and their associated landscapes. It will focus on the diversity of road uses and destinations across time, with examples from the North Road, Kiz Nizhoni, Chambers, and the Reservoir Site. Insights from collaboration with the Navajo Nation, Pueblo perspectives, and comparative examples of ritual pathways from throughout the ancient world offer new understandings of the role of these linear earthwork features in Chacoan society.

Rob Weiner is a PhD candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder, where his dissertation research focuses on the history, use, and meaning of monumental roads in the Chaco World. His MA thesis at Brown University examined gambling in Chacoan society as described in Native oral traditions and artifacts excavated from Pueblo Bonito. More broadly, he is interested in the role of religion in the big picture of human history. Rob has conducted archaeological fieldwork in all Four Corners states as well as in Turkey, and his research has been published in numerous journals including *American Antiquity*.

A day or so prior to the meeting, an email message will be sent to members with the link for the Zoom meeting. If you haven't joined us before – or even if you have – plan to join the meeting 10–15 minutes before the 7:30 start time to get familiar with Zoom (some procedures may have changed or differ from other Zoom productions) and say "Hi" to friends already in the meeting. All the participants except the speakers will be muted by host Evan Kay when the presentations begin and until the question-and-answer session following the program.

AAS DUES FOR 2021 ARE NOW PAYABLE

If you have not already done so, please fill out the attached membership renewal form and mail it with your check to Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, PO Box 4029, Albuquerque NM 87196. **The grace period for dues payment ends March 31**, after which delinquent memberships are dropped from the mailing lists. To check on your membership status, visit info@abqarchaeology.org.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Ed. Note: In the February Newsletter, Notes from the January 19 Zoom meeting of the membership were mistakenly headed as from the January 18 meeting of the AAS Board. Minutes from that meeting were published on page 4 of the February issue under the correct heading.)

The February meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by President Evan Kay, who relayed the following reports.

Treasurer Tom Obenauf: Ending balance for the last month is \$5,321. The proposed budget for 2021 was approved by the members present. No income from field trip fees is in the budget for this year due to the pandemic.

The budget includes a donation to the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History. We are not paying them now to rent the space for our monthly meetings; we would like to continue our good relationship with them. We are also donating \$500 to the Grant County Archaeological Society for a research station and lab that they plan to install at the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site.

AAS would like to thank Steve and Donna Rospopo for all their work supporting AAS, including the annual internal review of the Treasurer's books. They were nominated by the AAS Board for the Archaeological Society of New Mexico's Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Achievement.

Membership Chair Mary Raje: Reminders were sent to 48 members to renew their annual memberships. Notices were sent to 21 students currently on the roster asking if they were still students, and if so did they want to retain their membership. Some have responded.

Lab Leader Karen Armstrong: No lab work is being conducted due to the pandemic.

Rock Art Recording Chair Carol Chamberland: A silver lining for rock art in this pandemic situation is that it has allowed time to catch up on all the rock art reports.

Vice President Gretchen Obenauf requested a personal copy of the records and commented that the details of the recordings that the team does are fantastic. The Bureau of Land Management appreciates all this great volunteer work.

Vice president Ann Braswell: The March speaker will be giving an update on his research on Chacoan roads. In April, Severin Fowles will be the guest speaker; the subject will be Apache rock art in the northern Rio Grande area.

Pottery Southwest: Gretchen Obenauf is working on the next issue.

The business part of the meeting concluded at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan King, Secretary.

SPEAKER

Vice President Gretchen Obenauf introduced Anne Stoll, a field archaeologist retired from Statistical Research Inc., of Redlands, California, where she remains a Research Associate. Since retirement, she has maintained an active interest in prehistoric rock art research, presenting and publishing papers on African, Mexican, and Brazilian sites. Her talk on rock art in Zimbabwe is illustrated in part by photographs taken by her husband, George Stoll. Ms. Stoll provided the following synopsis of her presentation.

Exploring the Painted World of the Ancient San Bushmen of Zimbabwe: From Antbears to Kudus and Beyond

By Anne Q. Stoll

A series of opening slides presented an orientation to the country of Zimbabwe, its location in southern Africa and, briefly, its political history between 1890 and 1980 as a former British colony known as Rhodesia. The background explanation continued with slides about today's Bantu-speaking agro-pastoralist residents of Zimbabwe to draw a distinction between them and the San Bushmen hunter-forager artists of the past.

The work of German ethnographer Leo Frobenius and his 9th Expedition to southern Africa was highlighted next. Between 1928 and 1930, he and his team of professional illustrators created 675 copies of rock art in what was then Southern Rhodesia. These images are available online for all to see and use at the Frobenius Institute in Frankfurt, Germany. I combined this resource with others, published and unpublished, to create a master list of 348 individual, named painted rock art sites in an area centered on Harare, Zimbabwe's capital city. I propose that this number of sites, most likely an underestimate of the total, indicates the remarkable richness and density of this part of eastern Zimbabwe in painted prehistoric art.

The next set of slides illustrated the topography and general appearance of the rock art sites in the Harare area. The granite *kopjes* generally have shelters with great wide-mouth openings, but a few caves, such as Gambarimwe, have a more vertical orientation. A third setting type is found at Chiremba-Balancing Rock Park south of Harare, where isolated boulders have been painted. One example from this park is Devil's Rock, which seems to depict a healing ceremony and the arrival of a bright celestial object.

The focus of the talk then moved to examples of the animals painted by the San Bushmen artists in this eastern portion of Zimbabwe. I showed a chart of relative animal frequencies, noting the different signature of common animals in the Harare area compared to those in Matopos National Park to the west. The most frequently represented animal in our study area is the greater kudu – particularly the kudu cow – and photos were shown of kudu in the wild as well as rock art images. Kudu cows sometimes seem to serve as “observers” or “witnesses” to the activities of humans and this was shown by a slide from Manemba Cave depicting a human attempting to touch a fat-tailed sheep with a long pole as a kudu cow watches from the side. The importance of paintings of domesticated fat-tailed sheep as temporal markers was explained, as the animals first arrived in southern Africa by about 200 A.D.

The next series of slides showed an assortment of animals – such as antbears, Cape buffalo, porcupines, a leopard, a mongoose, a cat or young lion, an ostrich with chicks and a catfish, wart hogs, several now-extinct *quagga*, and a remarkably sensitive painting of a zebra. All clearly demonstrate the extraordinary talent and expertise of San Bushman artists.

Examples of *therianthropes* – confluences of humans and animals – in the art were then introduced, culminating in the series of bird therianthropes from Gambarimwe Cave. Using PhotoShop, George enhanced 17 bird-human combinations to separate them from their busy background. These images appear to show a remarkable process of transformation. Individuals, presumably in trance, sprout wings, bend forward and start to fly, tucking up their human legs under them while keeping their human heads, aided by a non-bird figure on the right (Figure 1).

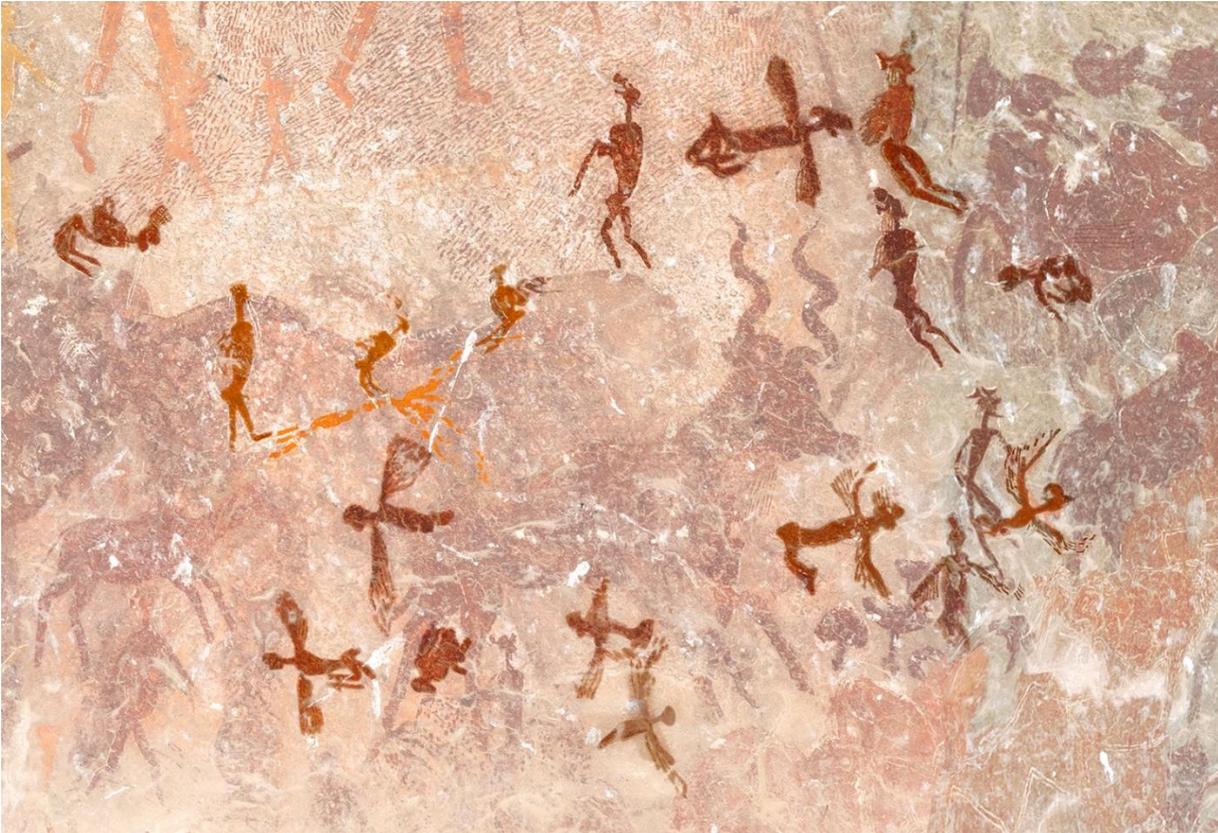


Figure 1. Bird therianthropes (conflations of humans and animals) from Gambarimwe Cave, Zimbabwe. The 17 bird-human combinations were enhanced by photographer George Stoll to separate them from the busy background. The images appear to show a remarkable process of transformation: individuals, presumably in trance, sprout wings, bend forward and start to fly.

The presentation closed with three slides selected to show examples of ritual touching of animals as illustrated in the rock art. Elephants, frequently depicted in the Harare area, were featured in two of these slides, in which a number of male figures reach out to the legs and trunk of an elephant, while other figures nearby seemingly wait to approach. The final “touching” slide defies explanation: a bent human figure appears to hold a child toward a kudu bull that touches the child’s leg with its nose, surrounded by other animals. All of these images undoubtedly reflect powerful ritual practice and belief for the ancient San Bushmen of Zimbabwe.

THATCHER ROGERS, AAS ASSISTANT WEBMASTER AND BOOK REVIEWER WINS ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SOCIETY’S STUDENT AWARD

Archaeology PhD student Thatcher Rogers's project, "Between Casas Grandes and Salado: Community Formation and Interaction at the Pendleton Ruin Site in the Borderlands of the American Southwest/Mexican Northwest, AD 1200–1450" is the recipient of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society's 2021 Carryl B. Martin Research Award. This award will provide \$5,000 to support Thatcher's dissertation research. Besides serving as Assistant Webmaster for AAS and Book Reviewer for AAS and ASNM, Thatcher is the new ASNM Treasurer and has been employed at UNM’s Office of Contract Archeology, where he has authored numerous papers. Congratulations, Thatcher, and thanks for all you do!

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.

2021 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To contact officers or committee chairs, or to change mailing or email address, 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

President:

Evan Kay

Vice Presidents:

Gretchen Obenauf

Ann Braswell

Secretary:

Susan King

Treasurer:

Tom Obenauf

Directors-at-Large:

Cindy Carson

John Guth

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership:

Mary Raje

Newsletter:

Helen Crotty

Mailer: Lou Schuyler

Museum Archiving:

Karen Armstrong

Rock Art Recording:

Dick Harris

Carol Chamberland

Greeter:

Sally McLaughlin

Committee Chairs (continued)

Field Trips:

Pat Harris

Steve Rospopo

Refreshments:

Ann Carson

Publicity:

Evan Kay

Pottery Southwest

Editors: Hayward Franklin, Peter

McKenna, Gretchen Obenauf

Webmaster:

Evan Kay

Asst.: Thatcher Rogers

2021

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal _____ New _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

(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.)

Please select a Newsletter category (e-mail or first class mail) AND a Membership category (Student, Individual or Family):

Newsletter by e-mail:

Student with current ID: Free _____
Individual: Basic: \$25.00 _____ Sustaining: \$35.00+ _____
Family: Basic: \$30.00 _____ Sustaining: \$40.00+ _____

Newsletter by first class mail (see COVID-19 notice below):

Individual: Basic: \$30.00 _____ Sustaining: \$40.00+ _____
Family: Basic: \$35.00 _____ Sustaining: \$45.00+ _____

Institutions/Libraries:

\$10.00 _____ (newsletter sent by first class mail)
Free _____ (newsletter sent by e-mail)

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);
☐ 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).

Mail the completed form and your membership dues check (payable to Albuquerque Archaeological Society or AAS) to:
Treasurer, Albuquerque Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4029, Albuquerque, NM 87196-4029

Questions about membership? (address or email changes, current dues verification, etc.): email info@abqarchaeology.org.

AAS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and your Sustaining contributions are tax deductible

COVID-19 notice: During the pandemic we must limit print copies of the Newsletter to institutions and members who do not have Internet access at home. Please check here to confirm you do not have internet access at home: ☐