

LA JORNADA

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico

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ASNM NEWS

Rock Art Council Formally Established by ASNM Trustees

At their May 2, 2009 meeting in Taos, the Trustees approved the goals and by-laws of the proposed Rock Art Council, which is modeled on the Certification Council and will replace the previously informal committee structure that originated with the ASNM Field School led by Col. James Bain and continued in the Rock Art Projects led by Jay and Helen Crotty and later by Jerry and Jean Brody and Jack and Anne Francis. The Council will promote education about rock art and will offer training and assistance when and where needed to rock art recording teams working in New Mexico. The goal is to standardize documentation statewide and to assure that records are submitted to the appropriate local and state institutions [more details in report on page 3].

The Trustees at their September 19 meeting in Socorro approved interim officers Gary Hein as Chair, Carol Chamberland as Vice-Chair; and Janet McKenzie as Secretary. It was further agreed that funds remaining from the previous Rock Art Field Schools and Projects will be transferred to the ASNM Treasurer for uses approved by the Rock Art Council when a financial plan has been approved by the Council members.

Members of the Rock Art Council met July 9, 2009 in Albuquerque to discuss a proposed process for revising some of the recording documents, but in the future most such discussion will be carried out on line. Council members have already engaged in a lively online discussion of—among other matters—proposed additions to the element list to accommodate specific images that occur regionally and various methods for recording the colors of painted elements. Archaeologists and out-of-state rock art recorders who are Council members have provided useful suggestions.

Currently there are six ongoing recording projects in New Mexico, and reports from their leaders [pp.3-4] show a variety of sponsoring or associated individuals and entities. Paul Williams, 2009 ASNM Annual Volume Honoree, BLM Taos District Archeologist and a long-time supporter and participant in rock art recording, is indirectly involved with three of them, and Gretchen Obenauf, BLM Rio Puerco District Archeologist and current President of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society has sponsored another. One is affiliated with a community organization and involves both private and BLM lands. Two are on private land, and one just getting underway is associated with New Mexico State University and recruited college students to do the recording on land owned by the University. The Council hopes that these reports will encourage other individuals or affiliated societies to consider organizing rock art recording projects.

2010 ASNM Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 30 to May 2 in Santa Fe

The host hotel for the ASNM Annual Meeting is the Courtyard Marriott, 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe. A special room rate for the meeting is \$89.95, provided the Archaeological Society of New Mexico is mentioned when making reservations at (505) 473-2800. Phil Essig, chair of the event for the Santa Fe Archaeological Society, is planning a morning program with Santa Fe's 400th Anniversary as its theme. More details and the call for papers and registration forms will appear in the winter issue of *La Jornada*.

Call for Nominations for Honoree for 2011 ASNM Volume

Nominations for honorees for the 2011 volume of ASNM's Annual *Papers* are requested. Each year, ASNM dedicates a volume of its *Papers* to someone who has made significant contributions to Southwestern archaeology. Nominee names are requested from individual ASNM members and from affiliated societies. Letters of nomination should give the nominee's name, address, date of birth, education, occupation, and archaeological society affiliations. Describe the wonderful and illustrious things the nominee does or has done that caused you to propose his or her name. Summarize his/her activities in Southwestern archaeology, including publications, research, teaching, public education, ASNM or related organization activities, site conservation, etc. Please send letters of nomination by January 15, 2010 to Karen Armstrong, 1705 Chelwood Park Boulevard, Albuquerque, NM 87112. If you need more information, call Karen at (505) 294-8218, or email fybate@comcast.net.

Call for Nominations for 2010 Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Achievement

The president of each of our affiliate societies recently received a letter and an award nomination form for this year's Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Achievement. The award recognizes individuals from our affiliated societies who have contributed in some manner to promote archaeology in general. They need not be archaeologists. Please contact your society president to nominate any deserving individual or individuals that you believe to be worthy of this distinguished award. All award nominations must be received by January 30, 2010. For additional information, contact Bradley Bowman, Award Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 582, Cedar Crest, NM 87008. Telephone: (505) 281-4745 or email bradleybowman@earthlink.net.

Call for Nominations to the ASNM Board

Members of local societies are encouraged to run for the Board of Trustees of ASNM. People interested in running or in nominating someone else (with their permission) for the position should contact Nancy Woodworth at (505) 281-7820 or njwood@spinn.net by January 31 so that their names can be submitted to the Board at the February meeting.

OTHER NOTES FROM THE ASNM BOARD MEETINGS

ASNM Membership Gains

Dolores Sundt, ASNM Executive Secretary, announced at the September 19 Trustees meeting that we welcomed 22 new members at the Taos Annual Meeting, fewer than half of whom are from the Taos area. This is a record number of new members for our Annual Meetings. We have a total of 40 new members for the year.

Treasurer's Report

Anna Walters announced that ASNM's finances are in good shape with positive balances in all accounts. In the current economic climate, short-term investments in CDs and money market accounts are yielding lower interest rates than the bank pays on our checking account; therefore some funds have been shifted to the checking account for the time being.

Scholarship

Greg Sagemiller reported that he will soon be emailing the New Mexico academic institutions whose students are eligible and will send hard copies of our scholarship forms for next year. Each year his list of persons to contact improves. The announcement is sent both to the academic aid officers and to professors in the anthropology departments. Applicants can reply online or download the application form. This notification is also to be sent out on our ASNM list serve. Joan Mathien is keeping the data on previous awards since 1995 on the website.

Special Publications

Dave Kirkpatrick reported that they are still waiting for the photo, graphics and cover art for the Casamero volume. The Mera volume is moving along fairly fast. Regarding the collection of Marjorie Lambert's stories, they have now received Xeroxes of the photos needed for illustrations.

Vidal Site

Joan Mathien reports that Betty Kelly and Sheila Brewer are working to put all the photos and notes in folders. Betty Kelly has finished the photos and slides, but a lot remains to be done with the paper records. Phyllis Davis is writing up some of the material.

By-Laws and Standard Operating Procedures Revisions

A committee consisting of John Hayden, Emily Brown, and Helen Crotty is examining the current documents, which are badly outdated and were last revised in 1988. The committee would welcome copies of by-laws from other state archaeological societies.

ROCK ART COUNCIL NEWS

The Archaeological Society of New Mexico has been promoting the recording of rock art by trained volunteers since the 1960s. At the Annual Meeting in Taos, the administration of the program changed from a limited committee structure to a broadly based council structure.

The Rock Art Council will continue to base its efforts on maintaining continuity with the past and building on the work of Col. James Bain assisted by his wife Nan, Helen and Jay Crotty, Jean and Jerry Brody, and Anne and Jack Francis.

The ASNM Board of Trustees established these goals for the Rock Art Council:

- Providing education about rock art;
- Establishing standards acceptable to the archaeological community and the Historic Preservation Division that ensure all data collected by rock art recording procedures be mutually compatible and that complete copies of all rock art data are deposited in the Archaeological Records Management Section;
- Providing training to interested parties;
- Providing assistance to meet the standards;
- Assisting in the submission of rock art site records in the New Mexico Cultural Resource Inventory System (NMCRIS); and
- Developing communication and working relationships with rock art recording groups, governmental agencies, and individuals in New Mexico and the Greater Southwest region.

The Council has 35 members representing four affiliate societies, six land management agencies including HPD and State Land Office, four states other than New Mexico, and--most importantly--six active projects.

- Albuquerque Archaeological Society
- Doña Ana Archaeological Society and NMSU
- Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project
- Rio Puerco BLM Rock Art Recording Project
- Santa Fe Rock Art Recording Projects
- Taos Rock Art Team

The official web site for the council is <http://newmexico-archaeology.org/text/racouncil.htm>.

Reports from Rock Art Recording Teams

Albuquerque Archaeological Society—Milford Fletcher

A group of volunteers coordinated by Maynard Merkt is currently recording several petroglyph sites east of Placitas on private land in the Hagan valley. To date, 4 sites have been recorded with a total of 275 photos that include 960 elements. The data have been computerized and the recording staff has led several groups to view the petroglyphs at the landowner's request. The recording staff is currently working on a very rich site with a number of unique petroglyphs. The sites include numerous large shields and life-sized deer. It is currently thought that the majority of the glyphs were made by Pueblo people but there appears to be a small number of Archaic images scattered on the sites along with the usual graffiti and historic drawings. Unless the weather is particularly mild in the next few weeks, the project will probably extend until next spring.

Doña Ana Archaeological Society and New Mexico State University—Marglyph Berrier

The first Rock Art Council training and recording class in Doña Ana County will take place on November 5 and 7, with a classroom "Introduction to Rock Art Recording" on the 5th followed by field work on the 7th. Six graduate students and one senior from NMSU's Cultural Resource Management program will participate. Marglyph, with assistance from Dave Kirkpatrick of Human Systems Research, has designed a presentation based on the online training material provided on the Council website. Also involved in the planning were Dr. Beth O'Leary of NMSU and Council member-at-large LeRoy Unglaub. Gary Hein has volunteered to join them from Santa Fe for the field work. The intended outcome is to update the old LA form and to provide the University and ARMS with copies of all completed forms and digital photographs. Of course, we also hope to inspire the students to have an interest in rock art and the recording process. We picked a small project that is less than 20 miles from Las Cruces, is on University (unrestricted) property, and is endangered by off-road recreational vehicle use and looting. It is a small site (probably 150-200 elements) and is easily accessible with little rock scrambling.

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project—Janet McKenzie

In 1999, grassroots community non-profit Vecinos del Rio formed a Petroglyph Committee to record all the petroglyphs on Mesa Prieta, a 12-mile long formation north of Ohkay Owingeh (formerly San Juan) Pueblo. There may be 30,000 Archaic to Modern glyphs, with a wide variety of Historic Period examples. Our ultimate goals include protection and preservation of this important cultural resource as well as engaging and educating the local communities with the process.

Many archaeologists and rock art experts work with the project pro bono. At the moment we have eight recording teams in the field. Our accomplishments include training dozens of volunteers, working with landowners to record on their property, acquiring equipment, developing a recording format, designing a multi-layer GIS petroglyph database, and fundraising to support the project. Our Summer Youth Internship Program is in its ninth year, training local youth in rock art recording in association with the BLM. Our 250-page fourth grade curriculum "Discovering Mesa Prieta: The Petroglyphs of Northern New Mexico and People Who Made Them" is in use in about 10 local schools. We have also developed a small resource library and archive about rock art for teachers, volunteers and others.

The Rio Puerco BLM team—Carol Chamberland

The Rio Puerco BLM Rock Art Team was formed in March 2009 at the request of Gretchen Obenauf, Albuquerque Archaeological Society President and BLM Rio Puerco District Archeologist, to record BLM sites in the area. The team is drawn from AAS members and all its members are officially BLM volunteers. We are now fully trained, have completed two nearby assignments and are currently working on two long-term projects. One of these involves a long drive; so we go there intermittently and make a full day of it. It is a challenging site that features tiny pictographs on a very high ceiling, so we spend some of our time on our backs looking up in wonder.

Our other project is on a five-mile ridge north of Albuquerque that features hundreds of petroglyphs on andesite boulders. This one is not such a long drive but involves a treacherous dirt road followed by a half-mile hike straight up a slippery slope to reach the boulders. It is an aerobic challenge but we are rewarded with lovely petroglyphs of birds and fish among other more usual imagery. The Rio Grande is several miles away from this site so we spend some of our time wondering about the fish and enjoying the band of feral horses that roam the area.

Santa Fe Rock Art Recording Projects—Gary Hein

This summer and fall we have been working in the vicinity of the Santa Fe River. The BLM Law Enforcement Officer for the area requested that we record a specific site about which he was concerned. A due diligence check of the records revealed that this site and several other sites were identified in a survey completed by Bruce D. Dickson, Jr. in 1979. The Dickson survey covered a tremendous amount of land, and documentation of the petroglyphs was limited to noting their presence and relative time period. Our approach has been to systematically survey for other possible sites while recording the rock art. Once we finish the area we will reconstruct the site numbers based on Dickson's survey report. The conversion of the original Section, Township and Range locations of the Public Land Survey to Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates of present-day GPS units is subject to a wide margin of error.

To date our two teams have recorded 205 panels and 660 design elements in 2 proveniences. We are using topographically based proveniences, with one team surveying the escarpment while the other follows the hill. The records are separated into what will most likely be three of the Dickson sites.

This project is part of a larger rock art recording effort requested by Paul Williams, BLM Taos Archeologist. The data collected will eventually support a study of the rock art associated with three major habitation sites encompassing the Archaic to the recent.

Taos Recording Team—Carmen Acosta Johnson

Thanks to the stewardship of a private landowner we have been recording in a previously closed area west of the Rio Grande Gorge. The site is rich in petroglyphs including lovely geometric abstracts, very large, complex panels, unusual shrines, an echo site, a lava tube and much more. The numerous footprints ranging from giant size to baby prints suggest that we are in a major migration pathway from the Rio Grande Gorge all the way to San Antonio Mountain on the Colorado border. A team from Columbia University recorded surface artifacts last summer and plans to return next summer to excavate. We hope to make our findings and theirs digitally available for research. We think we'll be working here for a very long time. Team members are Gary Grief, Dorothy Wells, and Carmen Acosta Johnson.

16TH BIENNIAL JORNADA MOGOLLON ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Report by Marglyph Berrier

The 16th Biennial Jornada Mogollon Archaeology Conference was held at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology October 2-3, 2009. The Conference's geographic focus is known as the Jornada branch of the Mogollon cultural region and encompasses south central New Mexico, west Texas, and northern Chihuahua, Mexico. The Conference was created thirty years ago by Patrick H. Beckett to provide archaeologists with a forum for sharing their research. Pat attended the year's conference and gave an introduction that included the story of how the conference got started.

The eight sessions included: origins of the Jornada branch of the Mogollon culture, late prehistoric occupations in the Jornada Mogollon, perspectives on belief systems and ritual practices, rock art studies, research in population and subsistence, ceramic studies, technological tools in archaeology, and one session whose papers were on historic and preservation themes. Most of the attendees were from the El Paso/Las Cruces area but some came from as far away as St. Louis, Missouri and Phoenix, Arizona.

The conference was co-sponsored by the City of El Paso along with three regional contract archeological companies including TRC Environmental, Inc., Geo-Marine, Inc., and Statistical Research, Inc. Although the retirement of the Museum's director Marc Thompson meant that the museum was short-staffed, Marilyn Guida and the museum community put together a well run and organized conference with the help of many volunteers. Lora Jackson-Legare was especially helpful as the program manager. The museum doesn't currently have the resources to publish the papers but Dave Kirkpatrick and Reggie Wiseman of ASNM have volunteered to edit them.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

BLM Withdraws Eight Parcels of Land Near Chaco Canyon from Oil and Gas Lease Sale

On September 29, the Bureau of Land Management withdrew eight parcels of land covering over 10,000 acres from an oil and gas lease sale scheduled to take place in Santa Fe on October 21. All of these parcels are located within a few miles of northwest New Mexico's Chaco Canyon—a premier unit of the National Park System and one of only twenty World Heritage Sites in the United States. Some of the parcels also bordered proposed wilderness areas in this unique desert landscape.

BLM chose to withdraw the parcels after receiving a formal protest letter from the Hopi Tribe. A coalition of organizations—the San Juan Citizens Alliance, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Dine CARE, Chaco Alliance, Western Resource Advocates, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation—had planned to file a similar objection with BLM.

“It’s hard to imagine a more inappropriate location for gas drilling,” said Jonathan Poston, Director of the National Trust’s Southwest Regional Office. “Visitors are transported into a different world when they come to Chaco. The sense of mystery, culture and history they experience there would be shattered by industrial development on the park’s doorstep.”

In the letter sent by the Hopi on September 28, the tribe notified BLM that the sale could “adversely affect Chaco” and “other ancestral sites” nearby. The letter also called out BLM for neglecting to notify and consult with the Hopi over the sale, even though the tribe claims cultural affiliation to the original inhabitants of Chaco Canyon, believes that the canyon is a “traditional cultural property,” and is currently consulting with BLM over a proposal to pave the dirt access road to the park.

Because the lease sale is but the latest in a series of recent threats to the integrity of Chaco Canyon, the coalition plans to move forward with proposals to achieve greater protection for this national treasure to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same magical experience that awaits today’s visitors. Other issues of concern regarding Chaco Canyon include a proposal by San Juan County to pave the Park’s access road, a 2006 decision by the New Mexico State Land Office to lease for oil and gas development a parcel located one mile south of Chaco, and air quality impacts from fossil fuel development and coal burning power plants in the Four Corners region. [from a Coalition news release posted on NMAC-L]

Archaeologists Discount Possibility of Clovis-Era Comet Impact

A comet impact didn't set off a 1,300-year cold snap that wiped out most life in North America about 12,900 years ago, scientists say. Though no one disputes the occurrence of the frigid period, known as the Younger Dryas, more and more researchers have been unable to confirm a 2007 finding that says a collision triggered the change. Nicholas Pinter, a geologist at Southern Illinois University, argued that black mats described as charcoal in the 2007 research weren't actually charcoal. Instead they were from ancient, dark soil formed in a long-ago wetland, Pinter said. <http://tinyurl.com/yzk7zk4> - National Geographic [from Southwest Archaeology Today, a service of the Center for Desert Archaeology]

UPCOMING EVENTS

NMAC Fall Conference: “The Northern and Middle Rio Grande” November 14-15, 2009. Optional hands-on training session on Rio Grande Glaze Wares Sunday led by Hayward Franklin limited to 30 persons. Program and registration form at www.nmacweb.org

Southwest Symposium January 8-9, 2010 “Building Transnational Archaeologies” Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. Contact sw-symposium.binghamton.edu/index.html.

Archaeological Society of New Mexico

As a New Mexico non-profit corporation, ASNM is one of the oldest of its kind in the United States. The Society has a number of affiliated local societies listed below. ASNM encourages and assists others to unite to preserve, study, protect, and promote appreciation of the prehistoric and historic cultural resources of New Mexico.

Membership: Individual, Family, Institution \$25, Contributing \$35 or more

Privileges: Enrolling in ASNM Incremental Certification Program and Seminars, ASNM newsletter, and annual volume of *Papers of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico*.

ASNM Newsletter: Helen Crotty, editor

Papers of the ASNM (Honoree volumes): Emily Brown, Editor, Karen Armstrong, Dave Brugge, and Carol Condie.

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AFFILIATE SOCIETIES

We rely on members of affiliate societies to keep us up to date on officer and contact information. Send corrections, updates, and e-mail contact addresses or news of local activities to Helen Crotty (jhcrotty947@gmail.com).

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