



# SITE LINES

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2  
SPRING 2018

## Message from Council Co-Chairs

We're sitting at home looking out at the dark sky and rain. Is this storm going to be juicy enough to reopen the forest? We'll watch the listserv for an email from Mike Bremer. In the meantime, we'll just have to sit tight and hope for no fires.

The annual meeting is a campout this year. The committee in charge of arrangements for this meeting consists of Will Dearholt, Chair; Gail Bryant, Courtney Perkins and Don Carlson. The date is Sept 15, with the campout extending from September 14-16 for all who are interested. Start thinking about your silent auction contribu-

tions.

Watch your email and or listserv for more information.

If you have friends or acquaintances who would like to be site stewards for the Santa Fe National Forest, they should complete an application, which can be found on the website. We continue to take applications and do interim training as needed. There is a special plea from Gallina Team co-ATL Jo Douglas for new team members.

The next Site Steward Council meeting is July 28, 2018, at 9 AM. All SFNF Site Stewards are invited to attend.

-Paul Leo and Lois Haggard

## Linda Ruth Robinson

Linda Ruth Robinson died on the first day of spring, March 20, 2018, at her home in La Cueva in the Jemez Mountains. She was 73. Linda was predeceased by her father William Aaron Robinson (1983) and her mother Maybelle Elizabeth (Cummings) Robinson (2006). She is survived by John Dickenson, her companion and partner of 32 years, her son Diego Robinson, her brother William A Robinson (Joan), her nephew Will Robinson (Teresa), and grand-niece Dana Elizabeth Robinson.

Linda was born in San Antonio, Texas, on October 7, 1944. She graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio in 1962 and later attended San Antonio College and Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Linda moved to the Jemez Mountains in



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The editors thank you!

## Linda Ruth Robinson (cont.)

1982 where she often stayed at the Bodhi Mandala Zen Center in Jemez Springs.

Linda started working with the U.S. Forest Service, Jemez Ranger District in 1986 as a volunteer at Cerro Pelado Fire Lookout with her young son, Diego. She was eventually hired on as a seasonal worker and later had a permanent appointment as a Forestry Technician. Her jobs with the Forest Service included: Fire Lookout, Wildland Fire Fighter, Fire Prevention Technician, Forest Protection Officer, Timber Marking Crew (Jemez and Cuba Ranger Districts), Small Timber Products sale administrator (Jemez and Cuba Ranger Districts), and Fisheries liaison with college interns in the Respect the Rio program. Linda often filled in for the front office and the Walatowa Visitors Center where she was known for her friendly smile and helpful attitude. She retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2015.

Linda and John joined the SFNF site stewards in 2010, and were assigned to the Jemez team. They volunteered to monitor sites on Cat Mesa,

which, until recently, took the honors for having some of the worst roads in the Jemez District.

Linda loved wildflowers and enjoyed seeing them when hiking and dog walking with friends and neighbors and encouraged wildflowers to grow in her yard. She loved to work in her flower gardens and is remembered for giving away many irises, lilies, and Egyptian walking onions. Linda also enjoyed cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and road trips to Pagosa Springs, Colorado; Red River, New Mexico, and other places with John and her gal pals and other couples and friends. She fostered several cats and dogs for Animal Amigos and often ended up adopting them. Magic Mike, a canine escape artist, was adopted in 2013 and surely misses walks with Linda and the Horseshoe Springs walkers.

A Memorial and Celebration of Life was held at the Jemez Mountain Baptist Church in La Cueva on May 5, 2018. Church members graciously hosted a potluck that fed the almost 100 people who attended.

-John Dickenson

## Singing Stones of the San Luis Valley

The final presentation of the spring site steward lecture series held in early April featured the "Singing Stones of the San Luis Valley." Our own Mike Bremer and lecture series organizer Gail Bryant presented a slide show with musical video segments provided by researcher Marilyn Martorano.

Recently, a number of uniquely shaped ground stones were identified in the Great Sand Dunes National Park on the eastern slope of the San Luis Valley, Colorado. Others were noted in museum and private collections in the area. They initially were thought to be pestles used for grinding, pounding, and crushing material with a mortar or perhaps roller manos or digging tools. No use-wear or pounding marks were noted on the objects, which were large and carefully shaped. What utility were these stones made to perform?

The recent work of a French researcher, Eric Gonthier, who studied long, cylindrical stones from Africa, revealed that some of the stones had acoustical properties. Gonthier determined

the stones were portable lithophones—lithos is Greek for stone; phonē means sound. A lithophone is a musical instrument consisting of a purposefully selected rock (often formally shaped) that is tapped or played with friction to produce musical tones.

Further research revealed the stones have been documented from numerous cultures around the world including Europe, the Far East, Africa, the South Seas, and South America. While most are portable, others are stationary and include large boulders and even stalactites and stalagmites. There are at least two locations in North America that exhibit concentrations of stationary rock/ boulder lithophones: Ringing Rocks Park in Pennsylvania and Ringing Rocks in Montana; others are found in museums across the country. Sources of the stone include columnar basalt and raw-shaped stones found in alluvial soils.

The nonprofit Friends of the Dunes organization was recently awarded a Colorado State Historical Fund Archaeological Assessment Grant to study these lithophones from the San Luis Valley (SLV). A research project led by archaeologist Marilyn

## Singing Stones (cont.)

Martorano tried to determine when and why these artifacts were made and utilized and why there appear to be so many of them in the SLV. The information resulting from the study will be an important contribution as to how the area was utilized in prehistoric times, and especially how native peoples used their environment for more than just simple survival. A total of 22 lithophones were included in the study: ten in Great Sand Dunes National Park and others from private land and museums in the San Luis Valley. None have been documented elsewhere in Colorado.

As reported in the June 2018 issue of the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project newsletter, new information about a mysterious rock in the MPPP was obtained last year by Los Alamos National Laboratory engineers and avocational archaeoastronomy researchers Ron Barber and John Martin. "The rock features a possible image of an outlined human that has mostly been obliterated by apparent pounding of the upper surface of the rock. Eighteen cupules were identified on the surface; many of the pounded and ground cups were placed along the top edge of the rock and actually transformed the profile into a wavy scalloped feature. . . . When tapped with a stick, a clear musical note is rung."

undulating wave to the shape. Some had rounded ends; some were pointed and other shapes. Weighing two to ten pounds, their portability varied. Material types included granite, andesite, and basalt. The stones were purposely shaped and revealed rough peck marks or incising; some have smooth ground surfaces or are polished. Some had a surface residue that included ochre.

Testing for musical quality was performed using a mallet, bone, antler, and stone. All of the stones had musical qualities and all were found to have acoustical nodes and dull zones. A known method of salt testing was used: the stone was sprinkled with salt and struck repeatedly with a mallet, causing the salt to migrate to two sections

of the artifact that corresponded with findings of dull-tone areas.

The stones were elevated in some manner using the dull tone areas. A large diameter cotton rope was laid underneath the stones for support to play the stones in succession; they also were singularly supported on a person's ankles or knees as well as suspended with leather straps. All techniques provided opportunities for acoustical testing.

The musical sounds produced by the lithophones resembled the playing of a marimba, xylophone, or metal bells. The dull areas produced two notes.

The primary grant task was to assess the acoustical value of each of the stones to identify the note, octave, multiple notes and octaves. Longer stones tended to produce low notes, shorter stones high notes. Most produced at least two notes. Lithophones four-and-one-half times longer than wide produced the best sound. Overall, the 22 lithophones played a minimum of 57 notes on a pentatonic scale. Acoustical samples were provided so our audience could appreciate the tones.

Others who researched the "singing stones" are Duncan Caldwell, who published in *American Antiquity* in July 2013, and New Mexico archaeologist Emily Brown, who completed her dissertation on "Kiva Bells" and other prehistoric musical instruments.

Marilyn Martorano is interested in studying other lithophones or prehistoric acoustical instruments. She can be contacted at 303-845-0085 or [martoranoconsultantsllc@gmail.com](mailto:martoranoconsultantsllc@gmail.com).

—Candie Borduin



*Lithophones from the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the San Luis Valley. Photo courtesy of Marilyn Martorano. (photo used by permission)*

## April 21 Council Meeting Summary

First of the Old Business topics was Site Steward Perks, which included the June 2 tour of Comanche sites; the Jarido Canyon tour on May 12; and Dean Wilson's sherd identification workshops. Summaries of these tours are presented below. Dean Wilson held a workshop for the Rio Chama team on May 2 and 5 – half day in the lab and half day at Poshu. The Jemez area workshop is next, followed by Caja del Rio and Pecos areas in 2019.

The Council discussed some of the Annual Meeting suggestions, but final arrangements are pending.

Reporting Non-Site Activities. An important item for all stewards who report their activities: "When a steward reports a non-site-related activity (discovering a new site, visiting another team's site) on the *Activity Report*, they should indicate "Other" and specify the area. On the *Site Visit Report*, they should report such activity under the nearest site and Mike can decide whether to add the site to the list to be visited. K. Paul (Jones) says there are locations like this in the Rio del Oso, and Mike eventually added them as sites." Stewards who have other questions should contact their ATL.

Manuals Revisions. All of the manuals (Site Steward, Council, ATL/AATL) have been revised

and are now posted on our website. Many thanks to Jo Douglas!

New steward certifications: As you all know, new stewards have a one-year probation period before they are certified, based on the recommendations of their ATL. The Council and Mike Bremer voted to certify the following:

Pecos: Sean McGann, Jason Poole, Bruce Bender, Caroline Panagos, Lee and Maryann Onstoff.

Rio Chama: Rae Beaubien, Linda Brown, Terry Price, Christine Saridakis, and Dan Schwartz.

Gallina: Lyn Bain and Michelle (Shelly) Martin  
Jemez: Don Carlson (transferred from Rio Chama team)

### Congratulations!

Site Steward Foundation Report: see next story.

Committee Reports: Archives – nothing new.

Communications: website and List Serv rolling along nicely; *Site Lines* deadline June 1.

Area Reports: Stewards in all areas are beginning monitoring trips for the season.

The next Council meeting is Saturday July 28 at the SFNF office in Santa Fe, starting at 9 a.m.

## Site Steward Foundation Update

The Site Steward Foundation operated an information table at the Archaeological Society of New Mexico 2018 annual meeting hosted by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society at the Navajo Lodge in Albuquerque May 4-6, 2018. The theme of this year's meeting was "Chaco Culture: In and Out of the Canyon." Approximately 200 people attended the meeting to listen to archaeologists and other speakers on Friday and Saturday with field trips offered on Sunday. The Foundation will also be operating an information table at the upcoming Pecos Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona, August 9-12, 2018.

The Foundation is again offering grants this year totaling \$1,000 to site steward programs and other archaeology related organizations. If you

would like to apply for a grant, please contact Gary Newgent at [sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:sitestewardfoundation@gmail.com) for a grant application. The deadline to apply for a grant is November 1, 2018.

If you are not a member of the Site Steward Foundation, or have not renewed your membership for 2018, please consider joining or renewing today. The Foundation accepts debit and credit cards for membership dues and donations on our website [www.sitestewardfoundation.org](http://www.sitestewardfoundation.org). If you would like to be notified of Foundation tours and activities, please subscribe to the email list on the Foundation website.

—Gary Newgent, President

## Gary Newgent Wins Bice Award

During the Archaeological Society of New Mexico annual meeting, among the awards given was the Bice Award, in memory of and recognition of Richard A. Bice's many contributions to New Mexico archaeology.

Winning the award this year was Gary Newgent, who received a plaque that reads: "In recognition of his leadership and support of site stewardship in New Mexico and the adjacent Four Corners states with special recognition of his service to the Site Steward Foundation, Inc., as president and co-founder, and to the Santa Fe National Forest's Caja del Rio site steward program, as Area Team Leader."

Many congratulations, Gary, this is a well earned award!



## Wilderness First Aid: Prevention and Treatments

This article is intended to help you prevent and treat some of the more common minor incidents that can arise during the course of your site steward activities. Prevention is always the most important goal.

### Blisters

Prevention – 1) Wear hiking boots that fit properly and have been broken in. Your heel should not move up and down in the back of your boot when you walk. 2) Wear a thin pair of liner socks under your heavier hiking socks. Friction will occur between your socks instead of between your boot and foot. 3) Avoid wearing wet boots and/or socks for extended periods of time. 4) Protect hot spots before they turn into blisters. Cut a circle out of a piece of mole foam that is slightly larger than the hot spot. Place the cutout circle portion of the mole foam over the hot spot and tape the mole foam in place. It may require several layers of mole foam to prevent additional rubbing of your boot on the hot spot.

Treatment – 1) Treat a small intact blister the same as a hot spot. 2) A large or broken blister should be drained, the loose skin removed with scissors and then cleaned with an antiseptic or soap and water. Apply an antibiotic cream and cover with a non-sticking gauze pad or Spenco 2<sup>nd</sup> Skin®, then protect the site with mole foam the same as for a hot spot.

### Small Cuts & Open Wounds

Prevention – Be careful and aware of your surroundings at all times. Watch out for loose footing, uneven terrain, and sneaky tree branches

Treatment – 1) Wash your hands and, if you are treating someone else, put on protective gloves. 2) Stop the bleeding by applying direct pressure to the site. 3) Clean the wound and the surrounding skin thoroughly with soap and water (even if it causes more bleeding). Do not clean out wounds with hydrogen peroxide or Betadine® as these can damage the tissue. 4) Cover the wound with a clean nonadhesive bandage or dressing.

### Ankle or Wrist Sprain

Prevention – 1) Wear appropriate hiking boots and be alert and cautious while hiking. 2) You may want to try using either one or two trekking poles to help out with balancing. 3) When walking downhill you may try walking sideways to the slope instead of facing downhill. 4) Remember that even large rocks can become dislodged or move.

Treatment – remember the acronym RICE

1) Rest – Stop or decrease the use of the injured joint with the aid of splints, wrapping, slings, and periods of rest. 2) Ice – Apply an ice pack or water as soon as possible to help reduce swelling and dull pain. 3) Compression – Wrap the injury with an elastic bandage, tape or cloth. Overlap your dressing as you wrap the joint and continue the wrap for

## Wilderness First Aid (cont.)

several inches above and below the injury. Do not wrap so tightly so as to constrict circulation. Leave fingers and toes exposed so you can compare their appearance to the uninjured extremities.

4) Elevation – Elevating the joint will help minimize swelling.

### Sunburn

Prevention – Wear sunscreen, a hat, and protective clothing. Reapply sunscreen after being in the water, heavy sweating or three to four hours after the previous application. Remember to use sunscreen on your neck and ears.

Treatment – Most sunburns will heal on their own within 2 to 3 days. You can soothe it with cool compresses, aloe vera lotion or an aloe vera leaf, moisturizing cream, etc. Ibuprofen will help reduce the pain and inflammation.

### Heat Illness

Prevention – 1) Drink water even when you are not thirsty. Now drink some more water. If you are drinking enough you should be urinating clear to pale yellow urine every one to two hours.

2) Wear loose fitting, light-weight, light-colored clothing. Hike in the early morning or late afternoon.

3) It is very important to monitor the seriousness of heat illness symptoms as they may rapidly progress to life threatening heat stroke.

### Minor Heat Illness

Edema – swelling of the hands, feet and ankles; Prickly Heat – rash caused by plugged sweat glands

Treatment – Drink water, rest in a cool, shady spot, cool off with a water soaked cloth, and add ¼ teaspoon table salt per quart of drinking water or use hydration salts.

### Severe Heat Illness

Muscle cramping or spasms and heat exhaustion may be characterized by headaches, nausea, vomiting, and dizziness.

Treatment – 1) Stop physical activity, lay the victim down in the shade with their feet elevated to about a 30 degree angle. 2) Re-hydrate with water containing ¼ teaspoon table salt per quart of water or an oral rehydration solution. Drink about ½ glass every 10 to 15 minutes until the symptoms improve and the victim is able to urinate clear fluid. 3) Remove hot and sweat

soaked clothing, cool the victim with water and fanning. 4) Full recovery may take up to 24 hours.

Extreme Heat Illness- Heat stroke shows the same symptoms as heat exhaustion and the victim shows abnormal mental and neurological functions. Heat stroke has a mortality rate of 80% when not treated promptly!

Treatment – 1) Remove the victim's clothing and cool the victim with water or ice and fanning. 2) Do not give the patient any fluids. 3) Evacuate to a medical facility immediately.

### Tick Bites

Prevention – 1) Wear long pants and tuck your pant legs into your socks. 2) Check your clothing and body for ticks after hiking.

Treatment – 1) To remove a tick the only method you should use is to grasp the tick with a pair of tweezers as close to the skin as possible, then pull it steadily outward till it detaches. 2) If part of the tick remains in the skin, remove it using a needle like you would remove a splinter. 3) Wash the bite site thoroughly with soap and water. 4) If you get sick 2 to 30 days after receiving a tick bite you should seek medical help.

### Rattlesnake Bites

Prevention – 1) Wear hiking boots and long, baggy pants. 2) Do not put your hands or feet into any place which you can not see into. 3) Be aware of your surroundings when hiking and pay attention for verbal warnings of a rattlesnake's presence.

Treatment – 1) Get everyone away from the snake, try and remember what the snake looks like. 2) Clean the bite site with soap and water, and wrap or bandage the wound site. 3) Do not use any suction techniques – the effectiveness of suction is debatable. 4) Remove any rings and jewelry from the victim in case of swelling. 5) If an individual shows mild or no symptoms proceed to walk back to the car and seek medical help. If you can, advise the medical facility you will be going to that you will be arriving with a snakebite victim. 6) Symptoms may include swelling at the site which spreads slowly over 6 to 12 hours, numbness and tingling of the lips and face within an hour of the bite, twitching of the eye and mouth muscles, weakness, sweating, nausea, and vomiting. 7) If an individual shows severe symptoms try to get medical help to the site as

## Wilderness First Aid (cont.)

soon as possible.

Facts About Rattlesnake Bites:

- 1) There are fewer than 15 snakebite deaths in the U.S. per year.
- 2) 25 to 30% of rattlesnake bites do not release venom into the victim.
- 3) A snake's striking distance is generally a distance of one-half of its body length.
- 4) A decapitated snake head can still inject venom into a victim.
- 5) If an antivenin is administered to a victim within 4 to 6 hours after being bitten the chances of survival are nearly 100%.

Enjoy your time in the field and remember prevention is always better than treatment for problems in the wilderness! Be aware of your movements and environment when you are

participating in your site steward activities.

This information is provided as a general guideline and is not meant to substitute for professional medical advice. Since cell phone reception in many areas of the forest are uncertain, identify sweet spots where a signal can be received; write it down and put the information in your first aid kit.

Resources used for this article:

"Wilderness & Travel Medicine" – Eric A. Weiss, M.D.

"Wilderness 911" – Eric A. Weiss, M.D.

"Wilderness Medical Associates Field Guide" – John Morrissey

"Wilderness First Aid" – Gilbert Preston, M.D.

-Beth Parisi

## The Pecos Area Graffiti Removal Patrol

In January 2018, someone scrawled graffiti on the remains of the front wall at a rock shelter on Rowe Mesa. This site has suffered from vandalism before, although it is at a fairly remote location.

The graffiti was two stick figures drawn on a highly visible rock. Luckily they were drawn with charcoal instead of something more permanent. Small bits of charcoal are scattered about the site as a result of the previous vandalism, where the hearth in the rock shelter was dug up.

the charcoal, and simple wet brushing and rinsing removed the rest, which was in the large pores in the rock.



Before graffiti removal



Removing charcoal image with brush

One of the stick figures had faded quite a bit, presumably from rain the week before. It was smaller and right next to the other figure, as shown in the before photo.

-Bruce Bender



Graffiti gone

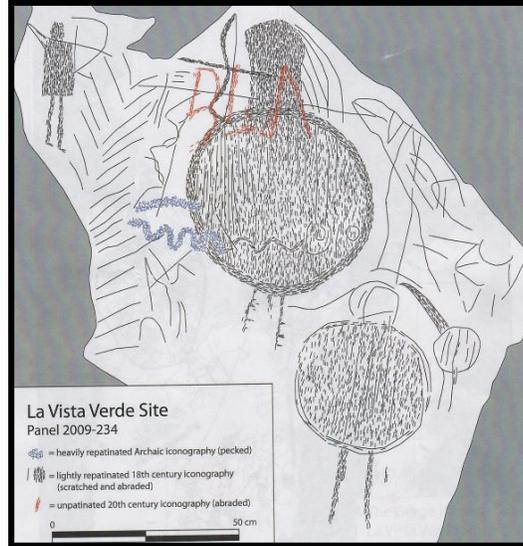
In March 2018, two site stewards and team leader went to the site and were able to remove the graffiti with soft brushes and water, armed with instructions by Pecos Area archaeologist Annmarie Kmetz. Dry brushing removed most of

All photos by Cathy Gates

## Comanche Rock Art Tour

I was fortunate to be part of the group chosen by lottery to participate in the Comanche rock art tour led by Severin Fowles (of Barnard College) on June 2. For more than a decade, Sev has been studying the evidence of the presence of the Comanche during the 18<sup>th</sup> century along the Rio Grande between Rinconada and Arroyo Hondo. In addition to his extensive examination of sites in this area, he has benefitted from his ongoing conversations with contemporary leaders of the Comanche Nation to blend together, and share with us, a fascinating story of their activities—in particular their incorporation of the horse into their culture.

presented in the upper left. The diagonal lines record the number killed.



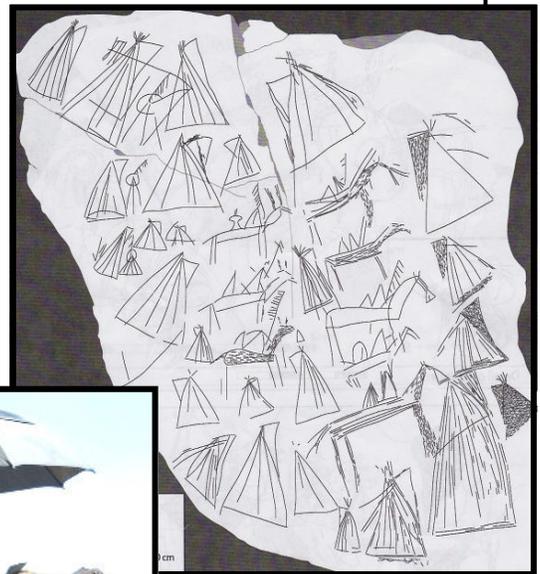
Images by Sev Fowles



Overview of rock art locale.

Photo by Chris Gardner

The second image is of an encampment. In the center, you see eight horses, with two riders on each horse. The one female (upper left) is identified by the hour-glass shape. Surrounding the horses/riders are the numerous teepees.



The focus of our tour was the rock art and teepee encampment at a site near the confluence of the Rio Grande and the Rio Pueblo. Unlike the rock art of the Pueblo Indians, their technique consisted largely of scratching thin lines onto the basalt boulders, with some abrading. This made it difficult to discern and photograph on a rock panel. Fortunately, Sev provided us with carefully drawn (to scale) reproductions—one of which took him three days to complete!

Most of the petroglyphs were done to commemorate a successful battle and to draw attention to a group or individual victory as documented by the number of horses seized or enemy who were vanquished. I have reproduced two of Sev's drawings (not to scale). The first depicts a battle scene with the triumph over the Pueblo Indians repre-



Sev Fowles impersonating Mary Poppins.  
Photo by Mike Bremer

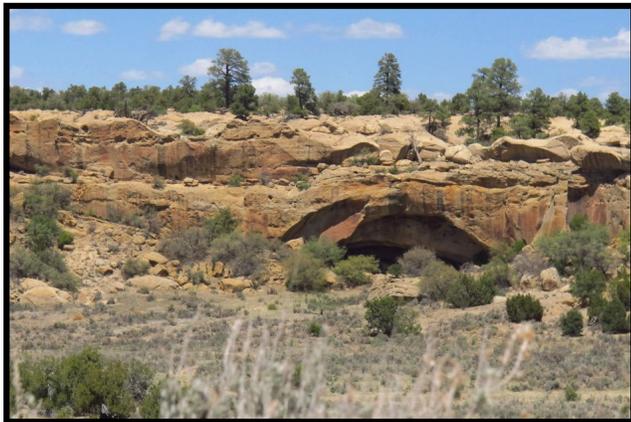
-K. Paul Jones

## Jarido Canyon Tour

Twelve lucky site stewards were selected by lottery to join John Pitts on May 12 on an enlightening tour of little known Jarido Canyon. This small canyon cuts into the southern flank of the Mesa Portales, on BLM land southwest of Cuba.

This area has been occupied by people for millennia, and evidence of their various migrations, settlements, and uses of the land abound. John took us to three sites in particular that attested to this canyon's occupation through rock art and inscriptions, remains of structures, and artifacts such as pot sherds, grinding stones, corn cobs, and worked obsidian, dating from the present back at least 1000 and possibly 7000 years.

The reason for the continuous occupation and use of this canyon was revealed in the first two sites we visited. Springs emerge from the base of the canyon walls and undercut the relatively porous and erodible sandstone forming large amphitheaters or shallow caves. These provide shelter under the overhang and a reliable source of water in this dry land.



Overview of rock shelter at one end of a side canyon  
Photo by John Pitts

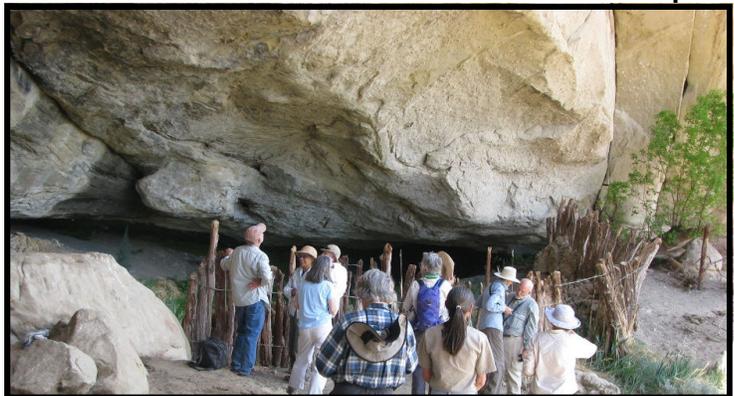
The first site is a large amphitheater with a spring near the cliff base and a smaller shallow cave near the top of the cliff. These caves contain rock art of all ages from Archaic spirals to historic ranchers' inscriptions. A relatively modern wood fence forms a sheep pen at one end of the amphitheater. The most interesting feature is a large red pictograph of a circle with a dot in the center and four radiating spokes. Its meaning is unknown. It was here that a number of years ago

John found an unusual carved stone artifact that was later determined to be a fetish from a Navajo jish, or medicine bag. The artifact remains there today buried at an undisclosed location.



The tour group inside the shelter with red "propeller" image  
Photo by John Pitts

The second site is another amphitheater with a large verdant spring and cattail-filled marsh under the overhang. A wooden post and mud wall appears to have been maintained for a long period to keep livestock out of the spring. Remains of a small building of stone chinked with mud and tucked into some large rocks sit just outside of the amphitheater. The age of the building is not known, but from the condition of the walls it appears to be relatively recent, perhaps a homesteader's home or shepherd's seasonal shelter.



Fenced spring at rock shelter.

Photo by Bill Cella

## Jarido Canyon Tour (cont.)

Most interesting is one of the best preserved examples of a Navajo 'star ceiling' on the roof of the overhang. These are simple crosses using black or red pigment applied by brush or stamp. These star ceilings can be found throughout the Navajo region and are thought to represent the Navajo's perception of the heavens as a healing power rather than depicting a particular star arrangement or constellation.

Along with the stars, a number of enigmatic red figures are on the roof of cave. These are finely detailed and appear to represent a man on horseback carrying a long lance, a man on foot with a lance, perhaps a dragonfly, and what were variously described as bird motifs or perhaps Star Wars fighter spacecraft. Maybe aliens were here after all! The big riddle that John put to us how these images were applied to the roof of the overhang, about thirty to forty feet above the floor. Much discussion among the group failed to provide a convincing theory. The final mystery to be solved is the large area of the overhang plastered with mud balls. Maybe the alien adolescents had nothing better to do.

The third site brought to life an ancient migration story of the Tewa people (ancestors of many of the modern pueblos of the northern Rio Grande valley) that John related to us. The story speaks of the discovery of an attractive place to settle on the small mesa across the canyon from a reliable spring during their migration southward from the Four Corners area, probably in the 12th or 13th century. Across the canyon from the second large amphitheater is a small mesa rising from the canyon floor. No more than a few acres in size, the mesa top is completely covered with the remains of a substantial pueblo. It is not known when or for how long this site was occupied, but the extent of the structures and abundance of pot sherds suggest at least a few decades. The site provides all the needs of an Ancestral Pueblo community: reliable water, an extensive valley floor for raising crops, nearby clay deposits for pottery making, a defensible site on the mesa top that has only one access route, and the 360 degree views of the surrounding terrain. Could this be the site described in Tewa oral history? There is plenty here to suggest it may.

On our way out of the canyon, one more stop

at a large boulder near the road gave us a summary of the entire day's agenda. Petroglyphs covered one side of the boulder, with many spirals and concentric circles common in rock art dating from Archaic (3000 to 7000 years ago) to Pueblo IV (500 to 700 years ago), animal motifs, an intriguing abstract figure inviting speculation as to its meaning, and obviously historic and modern engravings. An intriguing inscription contains a date that appears to be 1677, suggesting that Spanish settlers were here prior to the Pueblo Revolt in 1680. A few bullet holes bring it right up to the present day.



Boulder with pecked images.

Photo by John Pitts



John (at left) describes the rock shelter.

Photo by Bill Cella

All in all, an interesting and enlightening way to spend a beautiful Spring day. Thanks John!

-Tom Mayer

## Our Visits at Two Sites in the Rio Chama Area

The morning of June 8, 2016, began with an overview of Poshuinge led by our fearless leader (ATL), K. Paul Jones. It was a pleasant summer morning in the low 70's, sunny without a cloud, nothing close to the sultry Houston climate we recently moved away from. The dry desert air agreed with both my husband Bob and me, site stewards in training for the Rio Chama area. Knowing that it was going to be a long day I felt confident with this agreeable weather that it was doable.

We hiked around the perimeter of Poshu. K. Paul introduced us to archaeological lingo along the way, like world quarter shrine, midden, knapping site, lithic scatter, Biscuit A and B, grinding slicks, and my favorite, cupules. I embraced this new vocabulary snapping multiple photos of each pointed out by K. Paul. My hope was the photos would help me remember later all we observed that day.

By late morning we were hiking along the faint braided cow path, toward both sites. Both were identified as early Classic period and pre-Poshu, these were our potential assignments to monitor.

I was already feeling a little hungry just before noon when the three of us were wading through basalt boulders on a slope looking for petroglyphs. Our view to the south/southwest from this high point was northern Jemez Mountains. It was a new view for both Bob and me. K. Paul pointed to our destination, the two Pueblo sites, one higher up and the other farther away. After sighting our goal we headed down the slope to find a good place to climb up onto the nearby landform where the sites are located. Between us was a deep gully which we managed to navigate, climbing down then up the loose rocky sides. By the time we made it to the first site, I was completely exhausted. It was past noon and the temperature was approaching 90, with no clouds to temper the sun. After a quick look at a supposed large roasting pit at the site, K. Paul led us to a juniper where the site tag is located. Here in the paltry shade of an old juniper we ate lunch and found the site tag. Dried cow pies lay scattered under the tree where we sat. One of the concerns for these Tewa sites is the effect of cattle traffic and grazing. Obviously

this juniper was a favorite shade spot for the few cows that roam this open range.

We were all ready for lunch and relieved to be sitting down even in the hot shade. Nowhere on this site was there sufficient shade on a 90 degree day in June with not even a whisper of a breeze. We had packed PB&J sandwiches, water and orange Gatorade, which I chugged. (Not smart!) After eating we briefly explored the first site before walking to the second site. In 2003 evidence of pot hunting was discovered at this site. K. Paul showed us the filled in area where the pothunters had dug. Apparently they had come to the site on ATVs due to the tell-tale tracks left by these land-scarring vehicles.

Since 2003 there has been substantial erosion in the area. K. Paul showed us areas where the trail washed away. It is an isolated area where the two sites are located, and challenging for me to walk for several reasons, one being the lack of a clear trail. We often opted to walk in the wide dry wash that sweeps down to the Rio Chama.

The second time we hiked to these two sites it was October 2017 and the weather was in the 60s and 70s. This time we walked up the dry wash, a test for Bob and me, with K. Paul and Susan, another site steward in training. Bob had recorded our first hike using GPS on his phone. This second visit we retraced our hike. Going up the wash proved to be easier than taking the high ridge trail, and the temperatures were cooler, which I think made the most difference to my own stamina. When we reached the first site, our energy levels were good enabling us to explore the site more thoroughly, finding many large sherds of mostly Wiyo Black-on-White pottery. I found a broken metate that looked like it was made of the same finely vesicular volcanic rock that was found in Paquimé, Mexico, around 1300 CE. When I showed it to K. Paul and suggested a Paquimé origin, he just smiled and shook his head!

After lunch under the juniper, we explored the site, then headed back to the Poshu parking area. It was still a long hike back, sometimes feeling endless, walking in the wash. By the time the four of us arrived back at the cars we were exhausted (except K. Paul!)

This spring, on April 29, 2018, we returned to both sites to do our routine check. It was a

## Visits to Two Tewa Sites in the Rio Chama (cont.)

gorgeous morning as we hiked up the dry wash toward these two Tewa sites. On the way we met two cows enjoying the shade under a grove of half-dead elms and juniper. When they saw us approaching both reluctantly moved on into the sun.

When we arrived at the second site about an hour later it was already getting hot, especially with the climb up from the bottom of the wash where the sides steepen and narrow to form a canyon with budding cottonwoods. A year ago I had found a flat round smooth hand-sized rock, probably a grinding tool of sort. Bob had entered its location on his phone. We easily found it again this year. There was a collection of pot sherds arranged near the trail. After photographing, I gently scattered each sherd to a different place nearby. We then had lunch again under the juniper before a walk by the roasting pit.

At lunch we decided we would return by the high road, instead of the low wash trail which

can be hellish in the afternoon. The high road, or ridge trail consists of bush-whacking along the contour of the next hill over and up the basalt boulder slope to the place where cow paths come and go. Eventually the trail becomes more obvious, the closer you get to Poshu. This was the way we first went with K. Paul in June, 2016. Near the top of the ridge covered with basalt boulders Bob, using his GPS app, re-found the spiral petroglyph that K. Paul had shown us.

The views from this ridge in every direction – of the Rio Chama Valley, Sierra Negra, and the north side of the Jemez – are spectacular! And there was a breeze, albeit intermittent, that kept me going. We retraced our steps from 2016 in reverse. When we reached Poshu, we rested on the bench at the overview.

Never say never, but I think I'm done with these two sites. On to Ku and Ku 2, or perhaps another site yet undiscovered.

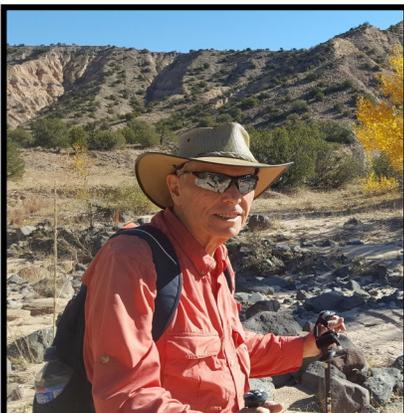
-Carolyn Florek



On the high road, first hike, June 8, 2016.



Bob in the nameless canyon near where we hiked up to the two sites, May 15, 2017



K. Paul on our second hike, October 18, 2016.

Photos by Carolyn Florek

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## Mesa Prieta Project Fund Raising Event

The Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project announces a benefit concert by Gary Farmer and the Troublemakers, Sunday, September 16th, 2018, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Please join us at Shadeh Nightclub at Buffalo Thunder Resort for an evening of music and dancing, a silent auction, and a special performance by the Lightning Boy Foundation Hoop Dancers.

Actor and musician Gary Farmer is known from his roles in such films as *Pow Wow Highway*, *Dead Man*, *Smoke Signals*, and *Ghost Dog*. Gary was honored last year with a lifetime achievement award at the 17th annual Native American Music Awards. Gary Farmer and the Troublemakers is a local favorite blues band – come on out! This event is sure to please!

A cash bar will be available during the performance. Arrive early to bid on the best of the best of our silent auction items.

The cost: is \$35 for general admission, \$40 at the door. Our website is <https://tinyurl.com/MesaPrieta>. Contact: Jennifer Goyette, 505-852-1351, [jennifer@mesaprietapetroglyphs.org](mailto:jennifer@mesaprietapetroglyphs.org).

All proceeds benefit Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, a non-profit organization in Northern New Mexico. Your support helps us to achieve our three goals:

- TO SCIENTIFICALLY RECORD an estimated 100,000 petroglyphs on Mesa Prieta,
- TO EDUCATE our community with tours, lectures and curriculum in local schools, and
- TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE this endangered landscape for future generations.

## Save the Dates

- July 28 9:00 a.m. SFNF Site Steward Council Meeting, Conference Room at SFNF Santa Fe office.
- August 9-12 Pecos Conference, Flagstaff, AZ
- Sept. 15 SFNF Site Steward Annual Meeting
- Sept. 16 4:pm, Mesa Prieta Fund Raising Event, Buffalo Thunder Resort