



Taos
Archaeological
Society

2020 ASNM Annual Meeting

Demonstration and Field Trips

Sunday May 10, 2020

Burro Loading Demonstration

8:30 am - 10:30 am

Sagebrush Conference Center Parking Lot



**Orilla Verde Rafting Excursion Float
from the Taos Junction Bridge to Quartzite**

11:30 am - 2:30pm

PLEASE BE ON TIME

Guide and Contact Person: Phil Alldritt

Rafters will meet at the Pilar BLM Visitors Center at 11:30am and transfer to Taos Junction Bridge for Lunch at 12:00 noon. The raft trip will begin at 12:30pm.

A raft float is planned from the Taos Junction Bridge to Quartzite picnic grounds. The trip leaves from Taos Junction Bridge on May 10, 2020 at 1:00pm. If hiking is not in your plans, then this is a good option. A full safety briefing will be conducted by the raft guides.

Cameras and other electronics including phones will be placed in dry bags during the rafting excursion. Wetsuits and wetsuit booties are provided by the rafting company.

This is a class 2 rafting excursion. Liability waivers for the Taos Archaeological Society and Los Rios River Runners will be signed by the participants. No exceptions. Bring adequate water for the entire trip.

Cost \$65.00 includes lunch, wetsuit and wetsuit boots.

Pay Phil Alldritt.

La Vista Verde Trail Hike

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

PLEASE BE ON TIME

Participants Information

Guide and Contact Person: Jennifer Sawyer

All participants will meet at the Pilar BLM Visitors Center designated parking lot at 11:30am on Sunday May 10, 2020. Please check in with Jennifer Sawyer upon arrival. From the parking lot we will transfer to the trailhead nearby. Carpooling will be the most efficient method to do this. Appropriate hiking shoes are required for this moderate hike which will include a 2.5 mile round trip hike with petroglyph viewing along the trail. Bring adequate water for the entire trip and lunch.

We return to the Taos Junction Bridge for lunch. **Lunch should purchased in Taos or bring your own.**

Taos Junction Bridge Archaeological Site

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Participants in the La Vista Verde hike should visit the TJB Archaeological Site after lunch. This is a very short hike for the bridge including mining camp foundations and petroglyphs. Contact Jennifer Sawyer at the TJB parking lot to participate in this.

BaahKu Archaeological Site

12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

PLEASE BE ON TIME

Guides: Catrina Whitley, Steve and Randy Thorne

Artifacts will be available for viewing.

We will meet May 10, 2020 at 11:30pm at the KTAO Radio Station parking lot on the north side of Taos for carpooling and transfer to the site.

At the turn of the thirteenth century, the Taos Valley exhibited an increase in population and a shift in the types and styles of cultural materials. Black-on-White wares were imported from Santa Fe, smeared indented corrugated vessels replaced Taos Incised wares, structure complexity and extent of surface structures increased, and violence erupted unabashed and with great fervor. It is at this crossroad the Baahku Archaeological Site was inhabited. Initial survey of the site in the 1980s indicated single pit house and room block was present, however, subsequent random stratified sampling and excavations over the last four years revealed the presence of at least one additional pit house and a shrine; neither having surface evidence of their existence. A circle of large, elongated, upright boulders surrounded a deposit consisting primarily of non-local artifacts comprised the shrine. A shrine, or even ritual deposits, from the Valdez Phase or Pot Creek Phases in Taos similar to this have not yet been reported. This paper discusses the composition of the shrine, investigates cultural implications of the shrines close proximity to a spring, and the types of deposits and their connection to possible groups migrating into the Taos Valley. Though only thirty meters from the known pit house, the lack of surface indications of the pit house and shrine and tendency to not test for features this distance from the known site suggest we may have missed many of such features. The implications of not exploring for such sites and the feasibility of searching for a needle in a haystack will be discussed.

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project

12:00 noon - 2:00pm

PLEASE BE ON TIME

30 person maximum: First 30 to sign up

\$35 per person, pay at registration

Guides: Docents of the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project

Participants will meet May 10, 2020 at 11:45am at the Wells Petroglyph Preserve Parking Lot (Protected Location – Map provided at registration. No self-guided tours). This will be an approximately 1 hour driving time from the Sagebrush Inn in Taos.

The Wells Petroglyph Preserve is a 181 acre section of Mesa Prieta , a 20,000 acre mesa just north of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. A world class petroglyph site, the preserve has 8 trails and with over 10,000 elements, an extremely high concentration of Archaic, Puebloan and Historic images. Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project works to record and protect the entirety of Mesa Prieta, which may hold an estimated 100,000 petroglyphs. Appropriate hiking shoes are required. Hiking sticks, polarized sunglasses and binoculars are recommended. Facilities on the preserve are limited to one outhouse, which is a short hike from the parking lot. .

The tour is two hours long and should be considered a moderate hike. Appropriate hiking shoes are required. Hiking sticks are recommended.

All participants must sign the Taos Archaeological waivers form and the Wells Petroglyph waiver form before participating. No exceptions.

Pot Creek Archaeological Site

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

PLEASE BE ON TIME

Guides: Mark Henderson, Chupadero Archaeological Resources LLC

Participants will meet May 10, 2020 at the designated parking area at Fort Burgwin-SMU Campus (see map) by the “Art Buildings” at 3:00pm.

This location is a 25 minute drive from the Sagebrush. The group will conduct a short hike 500 meters to the site location. The group will tour the site and then visit the Pot Creek Archaeological Storage Facility which currently houses 1.3 million artifacts. The project of reorganizing the storage facility is currently underway. This project will be discussed with the group.

Pot Creek Pueblo was formerly home to several hundred ancestral puebloan peoples approximately seven hundred years ago. The site consists of at least nine earthen mounds surrounding at least one large plaza area with a great kiva. Each mound is an artificial landform, created by multiple episodes of adobe construction and reconstruction, creating a 'layer cake' of occupation levels within each mound. When the Pot Creek inhabitants began to build their adobe structures in the mid-13th century, the site was "zoned" so that each room block area surrounded a small plaza. In each of these small plazas, a small kiva--or circular subterranean structure--was built. These small kivas probably served as spaces for ritual, meetings and other gatherings of social or kin groups, while the great kiva presumably served as the primary ritual structure for the community as a whole. At the height of its occupation (AD 1260-1320), Pot Creek Pueblo would have looked somewhat like Taos Pueblo does today, with multiple-storied room blocks and an estimated 400 ground-floor rooms. The adobe walls of the Pot Creek buildings were constructed in massive courses rather than with adobe bricks. Roofs of the adobe surface rooms were held up by central support beams set into central basins. Lower story rooms were used for storage; upper story rooms were utilized for habitation. The prehistoric inhabitants of the settlement gathered wild plants and hunted local animals to supplement their agricultural livelihood, predominantly corn, beans and squash. Bison bones found at the site suggest that Pot

Creek inhabitants traveled to the margins of the Great Plains--nearly 100 km to the east--to hunt, or that they were engaged in trade with groups living on the Plains. Crafts produced at Pot Creek Pueblo include gray cooking and black-on-white decorated pottery vessels, chipped stone and ground stone tools, and bone tools. A few ornaments of turquoise and shell have been found, indicating trade with groups to the south and southwest. Refuse was thrown into areas between the major occupation mounds, located to the north of current excavations.

The visible remains of Pot Creek Pueblo are only part of the story, however. Buried beneath the remains of the adobe rooms are subterranean structures called pit houses that were occupied by a few family groups between AD 1100 and AD 1200. These structures were roughly circular and dug quite deeply into the earth, an adaptation to the cold Taos winters. When the prehistoric puebloan populations began to build above-ground adobe structures in the 13th century, a smaller adobe pueblo was constructed (AD 1200-1250). These early adobe rooms underlie the later occupation during the late 13th and early 14th centuries.

Pot Creek Pueblo was abandoned around AD 1320 and it is believed that the inhabitants of the site moved to settlements contiguous to the modern settlements at Taos Pueblo and Picuris Pueblo.

Other Day Trips of Interest in Taos

(Rainout Options)

Martinez Hacienda

Open Sunday 10am-5pm

1 mile southwest of the Sagebrush Hotel Admission: \$8.00

The Hacienda de los Martinez is one of the few northern New Mexico style, late Spanish colonial period, "Great Houses" remaining in the American Southwest. This fortress-like building with massive adobe walls became an important trade center for the northern boundary of the Spanish empire. The Hacienda was the first terminus for the Camino Real which connected northern New Mexico with Mexico City. The Hacienda was also headquarters for an extensive farming and ranching operation.

Millicent Rodgers Museum

Hours: 10am-5pm

Located 5 miles north of the Sagebrush Hotel

Free admission is available to all Conference registrants when registration badge is shown. MRM houses an outstanding Maria Martinez and family pottery collection in addition to the textile, jewelry, pottery, Spanish colonial, Hispanic religious, basket, and tinwork galleries. Everyone should see this museum at least once. Special tour is conducted at 1:00pm with the Executive Director.