



glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 74, No. 2

August 2023



The 2022 Pecos Conference lecture tent, with Bill Gillespie and Rich Lange preparing for the AAHS award presentations

Next General Meeting:
September 18, 2023
7:00 pm (MST)
AAHS@Home (Zoom webinar)
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

In This Issue

- 2 President's Message
- 7 *Obsidian Procurement and Social Interaction at West Baker, LA 83574, a Classic Mimbres Site Beyond the Mimbres Homeland*, Sean G. Dolan
- 10 Cornerstone

President's Message

by Rich Lange, President

As the summer of 2023 moves on, I want to welcome the new officers of AAHS and the new and returning Board members to a great organization on a path striving to be the best for our membership and for our partners and colleagues. I am returning to a position I last served in more than 35 years ago, and now, as then, we are looking forward to a good year of great programs, field trips, and other opportunities, including returning to in-person meetings on the University of Arizona campus starting with the September meeting. Look for details about this and other information in future editions of *Glyphs*, online, and through our social media announcements.

Over the past 40 years, AAHS has moved from a club with a small and local feel to a well-respected regional, national, and international player. Things have changed—some of which are missed with a touch of nostalgia, many of which were necessary as the world around us changes and our universe has expanded. It was perhaps easier to establish the camaraderie of like-minded individuals when there were *Glyphs* and *Kiva* mailing parties during which envelopes had to be stuffed and labels applied, volunteers signed up to bring refreshments and other bits of equipment to the monthly meetings, and we were constantly shifting meeting venues as membership grew in the early to mid-1980s. The *Kiva* editorship was a volunteer, unpaid position, and the *Kiva* volumes were printed locally. I heard that 20 years earlier, AAHS had almost faded away, but a strong core of people ensured that, if nothing else, AAHS would survive as the publisher of *Kiva*!

Back then, the AAHS President wrote *Glyphs*, organized most of the speakers and speakers' dinners, wrangled the Board and other AAHS volunteers, made meeting room locations and time arrangements, and introduced and conducted the monthly meetings. Many of these tasks are now done by other officers and Board members (thank you!), and several of them are specially relegated to other individuals and committees by the *AAHS Operations Manual*.

We have particular positions or committees that are responsible for lectures, field trips, finances and budgeting, awards, preparation of *Glyphs*, selecting and editing articles for *Kiva*, managing our relationship with

a printer, tracking membership, preserving our history and archives, and creating and maintaining our presence on social media. Please consider volunteering and serving AAHS in the future!

August used to represent a time to wind down from summer field projects and prepare for the coming school year. Many school calendars have changed, beginning earlier and earlier, making that more difficult to do. One event that has not changed, still providing an opportunity to relax and share the experiences of bygone years and the summer's projects and field schools is the annual Pecos Conference, approaching its 100th anniversary! It began at Pecos, New Mexico by A. V. Kidder as a way to bring researchers together to compare thoughts about chronology, cultural traditions, and potsherds. In the first decade or so, they were not sure students should be included and probably never thought about the general public attending, in addition to a few families of the early participants. Now students and the general public are significant, important, and welcome members of the conference proceedings.

This year, the Pecos Conference returns to Flagstaff, Arizona, August 10–13, which is a good place to be this time of year! You can find details about registering online by searching for Pecos Conference 2023. Come see the annual awards presented to the worthy recipients of the AAHS Cummings, Stoner, and Lindsay Awards! Spend some time volunteering at the AAHS book table, too! Hope to see you there!



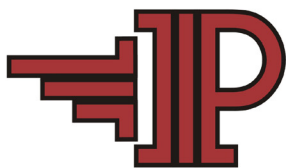
AAHS President Rich Lange (speaking) at an AAHS field trip, the Meddler Point platform mound site, Tonto Basin, April 1, 1989 (photograph by Madeleine Rodack).

**NO AAHS MONTHLY LECTURE IN AUGUST
JOIN US IN FLAGSTAFF FOR THE PECOS CONFERENCE!**

In August each year, rather than hosting an AAHS monthly lecture, we meet with those of you who can at the Pecos Conference. This year's Pecos Conference is being held in the Coconino National Forest about 10 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona, August 10-13, 2023. As usual, AAHS will have a presence at the conference, so bring your tent or find lodging in Flagstaff, and we hope you will join us!

As most of you know, this conference meets every year under a big tent somewhere in the southwest. Since 1927, archaeologists, historians, and others have met in August to share, in 10-minute presentations, a summary of recent fieldwork, issues, trends, or problems of culture history, methodology, or interpretation, or recent activities related to long-running programs. No technology is allowed, and presentations are given extemporaneously, without PowerPoint slides or other props except perhaps handouts and posters. Also, since 2015, special awards are presented to archaeologists under the age of 35 who give the best 10-minute presentations. These are typically very informative and well presented. The best presenters receive cash prizes, and the top two are awarded a special object for each of the main two awards—one in honor of Linda Cordell and the second in honor of Robert Powers.

**PECOS
CONFERENCE**



2 0 2 3



FLAGSTAFF

For many years at the Pecos Conference, AAHS has presented awards in honor of three strong members of the Society. Awards are given in honor of Byron Cummings, Victor R. Stoner, and Alexander J. Lindsay Jr.

Byron Cummings was the principal professional

founder of the Society, the first head of the University of Arizona's Department of Archaeology (later Anthropology), and the first Director of the Arizona State Museum (ASM). Reverend Victor R. Stoner was a strong avocational historian, supporter of the Society, and one of the founders of *Kiva*. Alexander J. Lindsay Jr. was a long-time southwestern archaeologist, AAHS member, and Officer. Join us to honor this year's award winners during lunch on Saturday afternoon. Announcements are made, and awards are presented during the conference.

AAHS sells used archaeology books at the conference. We have had very reliable volunteers to help with sales, but we can always use more. So, come to our booth and offer to volunteer if this is something you would feel good about. I always enjoy watching folks find just the right book at a greatly reduced cost or finding those special articles in previous issues of *Kiva*! Used books have been donated to us from private collections, and previous *Kiva*'s sell for \$1 each. Ninety percent of the proceeds are donated to the ASM library, which is grateful for our support for the important service they provide.

In addition to used books, AAHS will sell hats, stickers, and t-shirts at the conference and promote the Society, recruiting members. T-shirts this year will have long sleeve options and some new colors, as well as some cream-brown, gray-black, and red-white



Previous Pecos Conference AAHS book sale.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

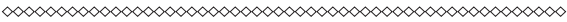


AAHS t-shirts that will be for sale at the 2023 Pecos Conference.

not want to miss the dinner and dance Saturday night with food by Salsa Brava and music by Andy See and His Swinging Jamboree! We'll see you there!

we have had the last few years. Sales of shirts, hats, and stickers support Society costs such mailing, the redesigned website we are working on, and other administrative costs.

So, join us in Flagstaff the evening of August 10 for an opening reception at the Museum of Northern Arizona, August 11-12 for presentations, awards, and vendor sales, and August 13 for field trips. You will



AAHS Lecture Series

Beginning in September 2023, lectures will be offered in a hybrid format, presented in-person at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Building ENR2, Agnese Nelms Haury Lecture Hall, Room 107, and simulataneously through Zoom. Directions to Room 107, with parking information, will be on the AAHS website, as well as in lecture emails received by members for the upcoming hybrid lectures.

- August 2023: No lecture; Pecos Conference, August 10-13, Flagstaff, Arizona
- Sept. 18, 2023: Shelby Tisdale, *The Contributions of Marjorie F. Lambert to Southwest Archaeology*
- Oct. 16, 2023: TBA
- Nov. 20, 2023: Maren Hopkins and Kelsey Hanson, TBA

Obsidian Procurement and Social Interaction at West Baker, LA 83574, a Classic Mimbres Site Beyond the Mimbres Heartland

Sean G. Dolan

I want to thank the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society for funding this EDXRF obsidian research and the Center for New Mexico Archaeology staff, M. Steven Shackley, Joseph Birkmann, Thatcher Rogers-Seltzer, and Patricia Gilman

Approximately 100 km southwest of the Mimbres Valley sits the West Baker site in southwest New Mexico. Eugene McCluney excavated West Baker, and based on the presence of Mimbres Classic Style III Black-on-white pottery and other lines of evidence, people lived there during the Mimbres Classic period (AD 1000–1130). West Baker is unique in that it is the area's largest known Classic Mimbres site with at least 23 rooms, as well as a shrine filled with turquoise, marine shell, and other artifacts.

Much of what archaeologists know about how people lived during the Classic period derives from excavations in the Mimbres Valley heartland along the Mimbres River. In contrast, the archaeological record of the area surrounding West Baker is relatively understudied, and archaeologists do not fully understand the identities and social experiences of West Baker's residents. Understanding people's social networks, trade relationships, and why they lived in edge regions away from core cultural areas has interested archaeologists in recent years. It is expected that people living in edge regions, like West Baker, would have been less subject to the social control of the core region and less able to participate in key identity-defining practices that occurred there.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate how socially connected people at West Baker were to those living in the core Mimbres Valley. If people at West Baker and those in the Mimbres Valley used the same obsidian source(s),

(continued on page 8)

A full version of this report including references is available on the AAHS website – https://azarchhist.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Dolan_AAHS-Report-WB-Obsidian.pdf

(continued from page 7)

they were likely connected to the same obsidian social network and consistently interacted. On the other hand, if they used different obsidian sources, people at West Baker probably interacted less with those in the Mimbres Valley.

Obsidian is but one chipped stone raw material people in the Southwest United States-northwest Mexico used to manufacture tools. Fortunately for researchers, this easily knappable, extremely sharp, volcanic glass can be used in provenance analysis. Each obsidian source on the landscape has a unique geochemical fingerprint researchers can use to determine with EDXRF spectrometry.

People in the Mimbres region were connected to two obsidian procurement networks. First, the Mule Creek network consisted of people primarily using Mule Creek obsidian with minor amounts of Cow Canyon, Gwynn/Ewe Canyon, and Red Hill obsidian. Second, the southern network consisted of people using Antelope Wells, Sierra Fresnal, and Los Jagüeyes obsidian. Mule Creek obsidian was still commonly used in the southern network, however.

However, because one cannot tell the difference between obsidian sources based on visual characteristics alone, analyzing the West Baker obsidian using EDXRF spectrometry is necessary. The EDXRF spectrometry was done by Steve Shackley.

Results indicate that people at West Baker used six geochemically distinct obsidian sources. Most of the artifacts ($n = 28$) are from an as yet geographically unknown obsidian source Shackley provisionally calls Pyramid Mountains Unknown. The remaining 11 artifacts derive from Mule Creek ($n = 5$), Antelope Wells ($n = 4$), Sierra Fresnal ($n = 1$), and Selene ($n = 1$).

Shackley has never encountered Pyramid Mountains Unknown obsidian in the tens of thousands of obsidian artifacts from Southwest United States-northwest Mexico archaeological contexts he has analyzed with EDXRF spectrometry. Because Pyramid Mountains Unknown has never been seen



in archaeological contexts in the region, and people at West Baker used it the most, there is a good possibility the location of this obsidian source is somewhere in the Pyramid Mountains, relatively near the site. In addition to Pyramid Mountains Unknown, people at West Baker used Mule Creek (Antelope Creek and North Sawmill Creek), Antelope Wells, Sierra Fresnal, and Selene obsidian.

People in the Mimbres Valley overwhelmingly used the Antelope Creek variety of Mule Creek obsidian for tool manufacture. People farther south who lived in the lower elevation basin and range near Deming and even farther south in Sonora and Chihuahua preferred Antelope Wells, Sierra Fresnal, and Selene obsidian.

Of the 39 obsidian artifacts analyzed, six are projectile points and 33 are flakes. Interestingly, the three smallest obsidian arrow points recovered at West Baker are made from Pyramid Mountains Unknown material. However, the three largest are made from Antelope Creek material. The Antelope Creek points likely came to West Baker through trade already finished, because the EDXRF data demonstrates that only one flake derives from Antelope Creek.

Based on the West Baker obsidian provenance data, people living there used different sources than those in the Mimbres Valley. Instead of Antelope Creek obsidian, they overwhelmingly used the local Pyramid Mountains Unknown obsidian and were connected to the southern obsidian network based on the presence of Antelope Wells, Sierra Fresnal, and Selene obsidian. Further, the lack of Antelope Creek debitage and the presence of Antelope Creek projectile points indicate some interaction occurred between the core Mimbres Valley and West Baker. People at West Baker may have visited kin groups in the Mimbres Valley to participate in rituals, bringing back Antelope Creek obsidian projectile points.

This West Baker obsidian study has contributed to a body of anthropological and archaeological research by examining the connectivity of people in the past and how archaeologists can better study prehispanic social networks in edge and core areas using understudied research collections with non-destructive methods. These EDXRF data have also increased the sample size of sourced obsidian artifacts from Hidalgo County, an understudied area for Mimbres archaeology. This study has also provided evidence of a new obsidian source in southwest New Mexico people used for small-scale chipped stone manufacture. Additional work on the obsidian artifacts and chipped stone tools from West Baker is ongoing. Future research will integrate the obsidian provenance data, ceramic data, and other material culture studies to help us better understand how small-scale agriculturists at West Baker connected to the social world around them.

Cornerstone

*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum*

Gender in Archaeology



Join us for this four-part
Master Class taught by
Suzanne L. Eckert, Ph.D.,
ASM head of collections,
curator of archaeology, and
professor of anthropology

Saturdays

Aug 19, 26, Sep 2 & 9, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

ENR2 Building, Rm N595

This in-person class is
limited to 20 participants.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**ARIZONA
STATE MUSEUM**

The archaeological record is extraordinarily rich and varied, and yet for most of its history, as a field of study, archaeology has failed to recognize gender as a viable research topic. This four-part Master Class presents an introduction to archaeological research on women and gender since the 1960s. We will explore the ways in which a consciousness of gender can offer a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological record and how the study of gender challenges traditional archaeological culture histories as well as how it impacts modern thought.

\$150 ASM members or \$180 non members (includes campus parking).

Contact Darlene Lizarraga at dlf@arizona.edu or
520-626-8381 for more information and/or to register.

AAHS Membership Application

Membership is open to anyone interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Membership runs for a full year from the date of receipt, and covers all individuals living in the same household. If you are joining as a household, please list all members of the household. Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership.

Membership Categories

- ☐ \$60 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$45 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$35 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$100 **Contributing members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$150 **Supporting members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$300 **Sponsoring members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$1,500 **Lifetime members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits

Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

I wish to receive *Glyphs* by (circle your choice): Digital Only Print and Digital

I wish to receive *Kiva* by (circle your choice): Digital Only Print and Digital

I am interested in volunteering in AAHS activities: Yes Not at this time

Institutional Subscriptions

University libraries, public libraries, museums, and other institutions that wish to subscribe to *Kiva* must do so through the publisher, Taylor & Francis at tandfonline.com. For institutional subscriptions to *Glyphs* (\$100), contact VP for Membership.

You can join online at www.az-arch-and-hist.org, or by mailing the form below to:

Sean Hammond, VP Membership
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

Name: _____ Phone : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Officers

President: Rich Lange | langer@arizona.edu
Co-Vice Presidents for Activities: Susan Bierer | susan.bierer@usda.gov
Alycia Hayes | Alycia_Hayes@nps.gov
Vice President for Membership: Sean Hammond | sitesteward@azstateparks.gov
Recording Secretary: Barbara Montgomery | bmontgomery@tierra-row.com
Communications Officer: Savanna Moore | AAHScommunications@gmail.com
Treasurer: Bill Gillespie | wbgillespie@gmail.com

Directors

Samuel Fayuant	Daniel Montoya	Ric Shorrock	Emily Jonsson (student representative)
Jeff Jones	Stan Ponczek	Ken Zoll	Molly Stothert-Maurer (ASM representative)

Editors of Society Publications

Kiva: Allison Rautman | rautman@msu.edu Thomas Rocek | rocek@udel.edu
Glyphs: Emilee Mead | emilee@desert.com | 520.881.2244

Board of Directors 2023–2024

A A H S



Est. 1916

Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society
Arizona State Museum
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0026
USA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The objectives of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society are to encourage scholarly pursuits in areas of history and anthropology of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico; to encourage the preservation of archaeological and historical sites; to encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials; to publish the results of archaeological, historical, and ethnographic investigations; to aid in the functions and programs of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona; and to provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips, and other activities. See inside back cover for information about the Society's programs and membership and subscription requirements.

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage
PAID

Tucson, Arizona
Permit No. 1161