News MAC
Newsletter of the New Mexico Archeological Council 2009-2

President's Message

Deni Seymour, NMAC President

Often times the general membership is not aware of all that goes on behind the scenes both during board meetings and on NMAC's admin list serve. In an effort to be a bit more transparent I want to be sure that all of you know you are welcome to attend meetings.

Also we are working on a Skype-like interface so those members in other portions of the state can attend the meeting remotely. It would help if we had some expressed interest in participation so that we would focus our efforts on getting the links established.

While there have been many issues addressed in the last couple of months (too many to summarize here) I want to bring your attention to the following:

First, NMAC has established a lifetime membership award. The first recipient is David Brugge who will be recognized at the Fall NMAC meeting.

Second, the following letters have been sent out address a variety of issues:

A. NMAC comments on cultural resources survey for Chaco Road project sent to NMDOT. NMAC is a concerned party.

B. 7 letters to committees for the Galisteo Basin funding sent to:

Honorable Ben Ray Luján, U.S. Congressman, New Mexico
Honorable Martin Heinrich, U.S. Congressman, New Mexico
Honorable Tom Udall, U.S. Senator, New Mexico
Honorable Nick J. Rahal, II, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests

C. a letter to the governor requesting action on the deasssioning issue. (This follows another letter sent in January asking what was up with the process.).

Third, NMAC is preparing a letter to send out to professors in the academic world. We hope to encourage them to become members and to spread the word to their students. This will help broaden our membership, and create greater influence that higher membership numbers can bring on important issues, as well as helping the next generation of professionals and scholars.

Finally, I would also like to thank David Phillips who manages and maintains NMAC-L, which is really separate from, though related to, NMAC. Please keep in mind that this listserv is run through UNM, which means anyone can participate and there are many people who are not archaeologists and many non-NMAC members who are signed on. According to Dave he must read every message that comes through so this influences the nature and direction the listserv can take.

Though there are long periods between information dispersal episodes a lot is happening behind the scenes by your dedicated officers and committee member s, and supplementary advisors. Thanks to all of them for making this job easier and pleasant.

Membership and Changes in Dues

Jean Ballagh, NMAC Membership Chair

As noted in a previous email, the Executive Board voted to make two changes in the NMAC dues structure, effective January 2010. (1) Because families/couples/ partners who are both members share NMAC benefits, their dues will be $20 each rather than the $25 rate for individuals. (2) People who choose to pay their dues for at least 3 years at a time will pay $20 per year. (Note: this doesn't apply to catching up on delinquent dues.).

The current rates for students ($10, with copy of student ID), individuals ($25), and supporting/institutional ($35) will remain the same. The $35 rate applies both to individuals who would like to offer a little extra to NMAC (supporting) and to business and non-profit entities (institutional). Please note that institutional membership (1) is non-voting and (2) includes just the entity, not individual employees (e.g., employees who would like to attend conferences or workshops would still need to become members themselves). And here is a reminder of some of the reasons that NMAC membership is important. For individuals, NMAC provides conferences and workshops, offers research

grants, and through NewsMAC and NMAC-L is a forum for exchange of information. For archaeology in New Mexico, NMAC provides a voice for the professional and academic community on issues such as the proposed road to Chaco Canyon, the deaccessioning of materials from the Museum of New Mexico, and the treatment of cultural resources on State lands. The more individuals that are involved, the stronger the voice.

If you have any questions on the dues changes, please contact me or any member of the Board. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter. The membership form is attached as well, and it is also on the NMAC website, www.nmacweb.org.

Archaeological Discoveries Along US 70 in the Hondo Valley

Jim Railey, SWCA Environmental Consultants

The Hondo Valley is the largest drainage in the Sierra Blanca highlands of southeastern New Mexico. Excavations there in the early 2000s made some exciting discoveries that have re-shaped our understanding of prehistory in this part of the state. The multi-year excavation effort was prompted by a widening of US 70 along the Rio Hondo and Rio Ruidoso, and was carried out by SWCA Environmental Consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, and Four Corners Research. The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) administered funding and oversaw the work, and the final report (Campbell and Railey 2008) is available as a free PDF download on NMDOT's web site (http://nmshtd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=15134). Regge Wiseman (2009) recently published a review of the report.

The most significant discoveries of the US 70 project came from excavations at nine prehistoric residential sites, which collectively span an occupation range of approximately 300 BC-AD 1100. Over 90 radiocarbon dates were produced from these sites (Figure 1), including some from LA 58971 obtained previously by Wiseman (1996). Among other things, the dates indicate that ceramics first entered the valley around AD 530-540, and projectile points suggest the bow and arrow arrived just prior to this date.

One important discovery came from the flaked-stone assemblage, which revealed significant changes in raw material usage, flake size, and flake reduction stage between the pre-ceramic and ceramic-bearing sites. These changes are consistent with a shift from "formal" (biface-focused) to "expedient" technologies documented across much of North America. But whereas this shift has been explained with reference to reduced mobility (e.g., Parry and Kelly 1987), the Hondo Valley data do not support this explanation, as there is no evidence for any change in mobility patterns throughout the time span covered by the nine residential sites. On the other hand, the observed changes in flaked-stone patterns correspond much more closely to the arrival of the bow and arrow, as inferred by the appearance of small, thin, corner-notched projectile points. In the report I argue that the shift from the atlatl to the bow can indeed account for the transition from "formal" to "expedient" technologies. In an article that is slated to appear in an upcoming issue of *American Antiquity*, I expanded on this argument and used the US 70 data as the case study (Railey 2009).

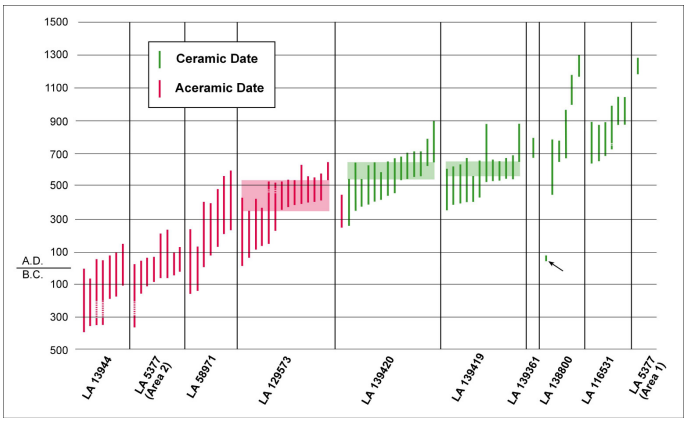

Figure 1. Two-sigma, calibrated radiocarbon dates from the US 70 project sites. The shaded areas show the minimum time spans for the most recent pre-ceramic site (LA 129573), and the earliest two ceramic-bearing sites (LA 139420 and LA 139419). The arrow indicates a problematic, "early" ceramic date.

Perhaps the most notable finding of this project was that intensive, maize-based farming and storage began much earlier in the Sierra Blanca highlands than was previously thought. Prior to the US 70 project, evidence of intensive farming and storage (measured primarily through maize ubiquity [see Hard 1997:95; Hard et al. 1996; Rocek 1995] and bell-shaped storage pits) was known to extend back to AD 500. The US 70 project pushes this back six to eight centuries. All nine of the residential sites contained bell-shaped storage pits (there was a total of 59 such features), and maize ubiquity was consistently high (when only bell-shaped pits are considered, maize ubiquity at all seven sites containing maize was 100 percent). Mano size and grinding area do not provide clear evidence in support of intensive farming, but selective removal of large manos by later prehistoric peoples in the valley may partially account for this pattern (large manos were abundant at the Late Formative Bonnell Site; that site lies just outside the US

70 project corridor and was not investigated by this project, and post-dates all sites investigated by the US 70 project). All of the residential sites had rich midden deposits, suggesting intensive occupations. Recognizable house remains were rare, but include those of surface structures in both pre-ceramic and ceramic-bearing sites.

Zooming out and looking at the US 70 results in a broader geographic context, a pattern emerges that suggests a subsistence-settlement dichotomy across southern New Mexico. Whereas archaeological remains in the desert lowlands indicate a persistent pattern of highly mobile hunter-gatherers, in the highlands it now appears that a less mobile, farming- and storage-based pattern took hold as early as the first millennium BC. The highland pattern of early intensive farming and storage is supported not only by the findings of the US 70 project, but also by earlier discoveries along NM 90 in the Mimbres Area to the west (Turnbow 2000). Doleman (2005) previously argued that intensive farming took hold much later in southern New Mexico (ca. AD 500) than in southeastern Arizona, and explained this divergence by differences in geography (specifically, the wider spacing of basins and ranges in southern New Mexico did not encourage vertical mobility – considered crucial to early-farming systems in the area – as much as in southeastern Arizona). However, NM 90 and US 70 findings do not support Doleman's explanation, because they show that intensive farming actually began much earlier in southern New Mexico than was previously thought, and thus there is not such a long time lag between the two areas in terms of this subsistence change. Rather, the evidence now suggests divergent subsistence-settlement patterns between the highlands and lowlands of southern New Mexico, beginning in the Late Archaic/Early Agricultural period, with little or no intensive farming in the desert floors of the Jornada region until sometime around or after AD 1000.

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Southern Cerrillos Hills Lead in Paint on Pajarito Plateau Produced Glaze Painted Pottery

Sheila Goff, Colorado Historical Society
Diane C. Curewitz, Department of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman

The development of glaze paint during the late thirteenth century for use in pottery decoration was a significant transition in ceramic technology in the American Southwest, especially in the northern and middle Rio Grande, Little Colorado and Zuni regions. It appears to be associated with the emergence of large pueblo villages in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries which integrated people from historically diverse cultures. The exchange of glaze-painted pottery played an important role in constructing and maintaining social, economic and ritual interactions between diverse individuals, households and communities during this tumultuous period (see Shepard 1942 and Habicht-Mauche et al. 2006 for early and recent research on glaze paint ware).

One of the principal ingredients in glaze paint recipes is lead. Glaze ware potters seem to have preferred the use of southern Cerrillos Hills lead in their recipes. The earliest glazes produced in the Zuni region contained this lead (Huntley 2006) as did glazes from the Galisteo Basin (Habicht-Mauche et al. 2002).

Shepard (1942) observed production of glaze ware on the Pajarito Plateau, particularly in the late production period. Warren (1979), and more recent studies, indicated Pajarito sites such as Puye, Tyuonyi, San Miguel/Ha'atse, Yapashi, Kuapa, Rainbow House/Rito de los Frijoles and Kotyiti stand out as potential locations of production and/or exchange. We report recent temper studies which confirm that Pajarito Plateau residents produced and exchanged Glaze A and Glaze C locally and that they participated in exchange networks with potters living in other areas of the northern Rio Grande. In addition, we report new stable lead isotope studies that show Pajarito potters participated in the larger network of potters who used southern Cerrillos Hills lead in their glaze paint.

In 2005 I conducted petrographic studies of ten glaze ware sherds from two Pajarito sites--Frijolito and Tsirege - to identify production locale and provide evidence for local production (Goff 2009). I compared the temper in Glaze I, III, IV and V (A, C, D, E using Mera's classification scheme) sherds from Anna O. Shepard's collection at the University of Colorado Museum with basalt samples which Diane Curewitz collected in Frijoles Canyon east of Tyuonyi along the Frijoles Canyon Trail at Bandelier National Monument. I found that temper in eight out of ten sherds from my sample matched geologic deposits on the Pajarito. Four Glaze A sherds specifically contain basalts found at Bandelier. Four others (Glaze D and E) contained distinctive tuff specific to the Pajarito. The final two sherds contain augite porphyry and hornblende porphyry available in geologic deposits on the Pajarito, although this remains to be confirmed.

To determine if there were ties between Pajarito glaze paint ware producers and the larger network of glaze paint ware producers in the Rio Grande Valley, I sent the ten sherds to the Ceramic Materials Research Laboratory at the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Under the direction of Judith Habicht-Mauche, the stable lead isotope ratios were analyzed using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) analysis to identify the source of the lead used in the paint, a method developed by Habicht-Mauche and others (2002). The resulting data showed that Pajarito potters indeed chose to use lead from the southern Cerrillos Hills in their glazes even though northern Cerrillos Hills sources may have been closer to the Pajarito.

Diane Curewitz's dissertation research (Curewitz 2008) provides additional support for production of Glaze A and Glaze C vessels by Pajarito potters. Her extensive petrographic studies identified the same local basalt tempers that I observed in vessels at the Bandelier sites of Tyuonyi, Shohakka Pueblo, and the Tyuonyi Annex, as well as two sites directly across the Rio Grande from Bandelier, Caja del Rio South and Caja del Rio North. Vessels probably produced at these sites were found at Cieneguilla in the northern Galisteo Basin. In addition, Curewitz's research established that some aspects of glaze ware production on the Pajarito were more standardized than for earlier wares, particularly use of slip color, and width and placement of framing lines. This suggests that Pajarito potters participated in a community of producers adhering to region-wide production standards.

In order to determine if the preference for southern Cerrillos Hills lead noted in my sample held for these Pajarito potters, we submitted 24 additional samples of Glaze A sherds and 5 samples of Glaze C sherds from the above five sites for analysis of lead isotope ratios to the Geoanalytical Laboratory at Washington State University. This was made possible with funding from the New Mexico Archaeological Council.

The samples are very tightly clustered within the parameters that define southern Cerrillos Hills lead. One

outlier and possibly one other sample may have come from the northern Cerrillos Hills deposit. These results hold true for both the Glaze A and Glaze C samples. They not only support the initial results I obtained in 2005 but through the inclusion of Glaze C samples in this analysis show that the use of lead from the southern Cerrillos Hills in the paint on vessels made on the Pajarito Plateau persisted through time and across space.

Our combined studies confirming use of this lead source strongly suggest that Pajarito ceramic producers were part of a larger network of potters within which glaze ware decorated with paint containing southern Cerrillos Hills lead was significant. The initial use and its persistence may have been based on technological, traditional, or even ritual reasons, indicating shared belief systems among glaze paint ware producers in the Rio Grande Glaze Ware region. The aspect of social interaction we have discussed here – the exchange of raw materials for ceramic production - has not been established before for the Pajarito Plateau. Our study provides further evidence for the role of exchange in maintaining and creating networks among large pueblo villages in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and shows that Rio Grande glaze paint ware served as an integrative element during the reorganization that was occurring in the Classic period.

Glaze paint ware and the importance of southern Cerrillos Hills lead in its production clearly are central to understanding the dynamics of the Classic period of reorganization.

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Job Announcement

The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department of the City of El Paso is seeking a candidate for the position of Archaeology Museum Curator. The ideal candidate, under direction, will develop interpret, display and promote exhibits. Will organize and preserve museum objects, artifacts, and associated records.

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- promote archaeological research within New Mexico and disseminate knowledge arising from that research
- promote awareness of New Mexico's cultural resources among public agencies, corporations, and members of the public
- encourage the legal protection of cultural resources, and encourage high standards for professional archaeology

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