

News RCC & San Tan February, 2021

Rim Country Chapter and San Tan Chapters

The Rim Country Chapter (RCC) the San Tan Chapter (STC) have partnered to provide members with activities during this difficult time. The STC has specifically invited RCC Members to attend Zoom presentations with a variety of interesting and informative speakers. The RCC has been organizing day field trips specifically inviting the STC Members to participate. Due to conditions and host site requirements, the number of participants on field trips is limited and sometimes broken into two groups. Some field trips are being repeated due to interest. Announcements of field trip sign-ups and of Zoom meeting sign-ins are sent out by both chapter presidents to members.

Recent December Events:

Jan. 13th San Tan Zoom Meeting: Dr Annalisa Alvrus of Mesa Community College presented **Vampires, Witches, and Zombies, Oh My!** in which she discussed the anthropology and origins of practices regarding these folklore beliefs, based on archaeological and historical source accounts. Dr. Alvrus began describing one of the goals of anthropology is to "make the strange familiar and the familiar strange." Generally, people do things for a reason. If these beliefs and behaviors help them to survive, they will likely be passed on to their children and become a part of their culture.

Dr. Alvrus began describing one of the goals of anthropology is to "make the strange familiar and the familiar strange." Generally, people do things for a reason. If these beliefs and behaviors help them to survive, they will likely be passed on to their children and become a part of their culture. Calamities, such as a pandemic, require an explanation, something or someone to blame. A common concept around the world is that people transition between a series of life stages, such as childhood, adulthood, marriage, death and so on. They often have specific ceremonies or rites to help with the transitions and make sure they happen properly. Sometimes people believe that a person can be stuck in a transition, in between, perhaps because something was not done right to facilitate the transition. Consequently, a corpse may be exhumed and reburied with steps taken to ensure it stays buried. Alternatively, a calamity can be blamed on people who are different in some way. Drugs are sometimes used by powerful individuals to control others. Hence beliefs in vampires, witches, and zombies.

Jan.8th Dixie Mine Field Trip: This was a second overflow Field Trip repeating the Dec. 19 Field Trip. After viewing remnants of historic ranching and mining operations along the 6 mile trail, the hikers arrived at a series of petroglyph panels featuring snakes, lizards, anthromorphs, and geometric designs, plus historic ranch graffiti.



Jan.16th Hieroglyphic Canyon Field Trip: This was an early morning Field Trip hike to a well-known petroglyph site east of Apache Junction. The narrow canyon features a slick-rock basin water pool overlooked by many panels of petroglyphs featuring mountain sheep, anthromorphs, deer, and geometric figures.



Jan. 23rd and 24th Tonto National Monument Upper and Lower Ruins Field Trip: This Field Trip to the Upper Cliff Dwelling was canceled due to threat of snow and rain. The hike is along a somewhat rough trail with 600 foot elevation gain. Plans are to reschedule later.

Upcoming January Events:

Feb. 10th 7:00 pm San Tan Chapter Zoom Meeting: Dr. Michelle Turner of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez, Colorado, will present on **The Archaeology of the Aztec North Great House** at Aztec Ruins National Monument in New Mexico.

In 2016, a team from Binghamton University conducted archaeological testing at the previously unexcavated Aztec North great house at Aztec Ruins National Monument. The fieldwork revealed architectural surprises, including unexpected construction methods and remodeling over time, as well as fascinating artifact patterns. Dr. Turner will discuss what has been learned about the site's chronology, about the architecture, and about people's daily lives at this site. She will also discuss her ongoing research into the great house's place in the larger cultural landscape of Aztec Ruins and its relationship to Chaco Canyon and other regions.

Michelle Turner is a postdoctoral scholar at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, where she works on the Northern Chacoan Outliers Project. She received her PhD in 2019 from the Department of Anthropology at Binghamton University (SUNY). This talk grows out of her dissertation research on the Aztec North great house.

San Tan Chapter President Marie Britton will send out an email containing the link for the Zoom meeting and it will be forwarded to Rim Country Chapter Members.

Feb. 5th San Tan Maricopa County Regional Park Field Trip: Nikki Bunnell, Interpretive Ranger of San Tan Regional Park, will lead a morning hike in the Park. It will be 5.5 miles, and approximately 2.5 hours, including time to stop and talk. She will point out petroglyphs and the several rock piles apparently used for agriculture. She will talk about the various features and evidence of Hohokam presence. Since the number of participants is limited, there will be a second overflow hike in the afternoon, led by John Dawley. Contact Rim Country President Sharon DuBose (s@dubosecpa.net) or San Tan President Mari Britton (mbrit@cox.net) for details.

TBD: Tonto National Monument Upper Ruin Field Trip: These duplicate Field Trips are being rescheduled from Jan. 23 and 24, which were cancelled due to threatening weather. The Field Trip to the Upper Cliff Dwelling is along a somewhat rough trail, 600 foot elevation gain, 3-4 hours. An NPS representative will guide and narrate the Upper Ruin hike for a limited size group. The Lower Ruin can be visited as a self-guided tour.

Membership Reminder: Please renew your membership for 2021. An active AAS membership is not required to attend meetings, but it is for all field trips. Chapter Membership ensures that you will receive emails alerting you to meetings, field trips, and other events. Contact Rim Country Chapter (Payson) treasurer Dennis DuBose, email dadubose@gmail.com or San Tan Chapter (Queen Creek) treasurer Jim Britton, email jabritton@cox.net (480-390-6038) for membership information.

--- Dennis DuBose