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The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 68, No. 7

January 2018

## The Elk Ridge Story



Karl W. Laumbach  
Human Systems Research

**Next General Meeting:**  
January 15, 2018; 7:30 p.m.  
Duval Auditorium  
Banner-University Medical Center  
1501 N. Campbell Ave.  
Tucson, Arizona  
[www.az-arch-and-hist.org](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org)

### In This Issue

- 2 President's Message
- 4 *Preserving the Mimbres Pueblo Legacy: The Elk Ridge Story*, Karl W. Laumbach
- 9 The Cornerstone

## President's Message

by John G. Douglass

A new year is upon us and I'm sure many of us are trying to follow through on fulfilling New Year resolutions. Each year, I try but generally fail after awhile in doing this; however, I'm the eternal optimist about doing better the following year.

The Society is doing well as we start 2018. Our new board members are getting their sea legs underneath them and have jumped into a variety of projects for the Society. Each year, I think the board membership can't get better, but it continues to do so, for which I'm very grateful. Our investments continue to grow under the leadership of the Finance Committee, which recently met to review progress and help ensure a healthy future. Our field trips and lectures continue to be very popular. Our journal, *Kiva*, continues to be published on time thanks to our wonderful editor, Deb Martin. These are just some of the great things happening with the Society.

But, as you know, we can always do more with the generous support of members. In November, you received a letter from me requesting help with our amazing Research and Travel Grant program. A portion of the funds we give each year in this program come from our investments, and the rest comes from donations from each of you. Our grant committee works very hard to evaluate applications and award grants to the finest among them. We are the only Society I know of in the American Southwest that offers travel grants to students to attend professional meetings and present their work. These students are the future of studies in archaeology and history of the American Southwest and northwest Mexico, and it's vital that we support them.

One of the things that really amazes me is that roughly 15 years ago, the Society was almost bankrupt and ready to close its doors, but thanks to some hard work by the board and committees, we were able to turn around portions of the issues (such as changing from self-publishing to working collaboratively with an academic press). In addition, right around that time, a member of the society, Frank R. Orrell Jr., passed away and left the Society a significant

amount of money. The board established an endowment fund with the money, and it has grown to the point where now we can do wonderful things with a portion of its annual growth. A few months ago, I announced the creation of the



Frank R. Orrell Jr. Bequest Curriculum Development Award, which will award up to \$5,000 a year for development of novel teaching approaches related to the archaeology and history of the American Southwest.

Another former member of the Society, Carryl B. Martin, left \$25,000 to the Society a few years ago. The board decided to use these funds to create a grant program for five years (up to \$5,000 a year) for important archaeological and historical research in the American Southwest. We have just received the second year of applications, and I know there will be some tough decisions for the committee to make in recommending an award to the board.

These sorts of gifts to the Society as part of estate planning make a lasting positive effect on what we are able to do to support our mission. I hope that some of you will consider including the Society in your estate planning, either through an unrestricted gift, or a gift with specific requirements associated with it. The board has worked hard in setting up awards and other programs utilizing gifted funds to acknowledge the benefactor and will continue to do so. The Society is more than 100 years old now and through continued gifts from members for important programs, the organization will last at least another 100 years. Thank you so much for considering this.

*Follow AAHS on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-AZ/Arizona-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-AZ/Arizona-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society)*

## January 15: Topic of the General Meeting

### *Preserving the Mimbres Pueblo Legacy: The Elk Ridge Story*

*Karl W. Laumbach  
Human Systems Research, Inc.*

The Mimbres Pueblo culture came to its zenith during the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries. Large and small pueblo sites utilizing some of the most beautiful black-on-white ceramics ever made could be found on the Gila, Mimbres, and Rio Grande drainage systems. Mimbres ceramics were widely traded within the system and far to the east into southcentral New Mexico. Unlike other southwestern ceramics of the time, Mimbres bowls often depicted images of everyday life, animals, and reflections of Mimbres religious traditions. As a consequence they were, and remain, highly desired by collectors.



Digging for “pots” in pueblo sites has been a recreational activity across the American Southwest for more than a century. During the mid-1970s, commercial “pothunters,” spurred on by a growing art market for all things Southwestern, began the methodical bulldozing of Mimbres Pueblo sites in southwestern New Mexico. By 1989, many of the large Mimbres pueblo sites on private land (and many on public land) had been destroyed. In an effort to stop this wholesale destruction, a legislative effort enacted a law which made it a 4th degree felony to knowingly disturb a human burial on private land in the State of New Mexico.

Prior to the spring of 1989, no one knew that a large intact Mimbres Pueblo lay buried under alluvium on the West Fork of the Mimbres River. For the 90 days before the law took effect, the landowner used heavy equipment to extract as many pots as possible; however, the sheer depth of the deposits prevented complete destruction. The Elk Ridge Story chronicles those halcyon times and the controversial effort by Human Systems Research to preserve what was left of a previously undocumented and highly significant Mimbres Pueblo.

**Suggested Readings:**

Gilman, Patricia A., and Roger Anyon

2017 Mimbres Preservation, Pithouses, Pueblos and Pottery. *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* 31(1).

*Speaker Karl Laumbach, a native of New Mexico, has been pursuing the state's archaeology and history since graduating from New Mexico State University in 1974. As Principal Investigator and Associate Director for Human Systems Research, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of New Mexico's past, Karl has directed hundreds of projects throughout New Mexico. His interests include New Mexico's land grants, Hispanic-Anglo assimilation, Apache history, and the pueblo archaeology of southern New Mexico.*

**ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY-  
TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART NAVAJO  
TEXTILE STUDY GROUP MEETING**

In cooperation with the Tucson Museum of Art, we meet to discuss classic Southwestern textiles, their construction, and the history of regional style development. Our next meeting, Saturday, January 27, will feature Master Weaver Barbara Teller Ornelas, discussing Two Grey Hills textiles. For more information, time, and location details, contact Marie Lynn Hunken at [NavajoRugInfo@gmail.com](mailto:NavajoRugInfo@gmail.com).

## AAHS Lecture Series

All meetings are held at the Duval Auditorium, University Medical Center  
Third Monday of the month, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Feb. 19, 2018: Paul F. Reed, *Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape:  
The Role of Current Research and Technology*

Mar. 19, 2018: Peter Boyle and Janine Hernbrode, *Sights and Sounds  
of the Cocoraque Butte Rock Art Site*



## Upcoming AAHS Field Trips

*Participation in field trips is limited to members of AAHS.  
There is generally a 20-person limit on field trips, so sign up early.*

### Perry Mesa

January 13, 2018

#### WAITING LIST ONLY

A field trip to visit archaeological sites in the Perry Mesa area is being planned for Saturday, January 13, 2018. The trip will be led by Scott Wood, retired archaeologist for the Tonto National Forest. The Perry Mesa region is located in the mountainous Transition Zone of Central Arizona. There, you will find lava-capped mesas and steep-walled canyons. The Agua Fria River is the major water source in the region, although there are many secondary sources. Archaeological site types in this region have been identified as relating to the Perry Mesa Tradition (AD 1200–1450), and include petroglyphs, six major settlements of 100+ rooms, many small temporary residential (fieldhouse) sites, resource procurement areas, and agricultural fields. The people who lived here came from elsewhere, lived in the region for a time, and then moved on. Their



point of origin is unknown, as is their post-abandonment destination. Also present, but on a smaller scale, is evidence of pre-Classic sites, Protohistoric/Early Historic period Yavapai sites, and Historic sites.

If you are interested in this trip, please contact Chris Lange, [clange3@msn.com](mailto:clange3@msn.com).

### **Tentatively Scheduled Field Trips**

*Both of these trips require Arizona State Land permits. The applications have been submitted and are pending approval. If you are interested in being on the list to be notified when the trips have been approved, please contact the Trip Organizer listed.*

#### **Cerro Prieto Trincheras Site Saturday, February 10, 2018**

Archaeologist Doug Craig will lead a tour of the Cerro Prieto site north of Tucson. Cerro Prieto, meaning “Black Hill,” is a large Hohokam village site occupied sometime between

AD 1150 and 1300. The site is located on the side of a volcanic hill, which is rare for Hohokam sites. Due to its unique location, many archaeological features are visible on the surface, including house foundations, terrace walls, and an elaborate trail system. Petroglyphs are also present at Cerro Prieto.

The site is located on a hill in an undeveloped area; therefore, some amount of walking over uneven and steepish terrain will be required. If you are interested in the tour, contact Kirk Astroth at [kirkastroth@gmail.com](mailto:kirkastroth@gmail.com).



#### **Classic Period Village and Astronomical Site in the Eastern Tortolita Mountains**

**March 17, 2018**

The aboriginal flora of the eastern Tortolita Mountains consisted of a dense diversity of wild plants, including a thriving grassland that

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directly and indirectly fed a great variety of animal species. The local washes, especially the Indian Town and Indian Well, flowed most of the year. These springs and run-off from the summer and winter rains provided irrigation for crops, while abundant rock outcroppings provided stone for buildings and canvases for petroglyphs. It is not surprising that people settled this area and flourished for hundreds to thousands of years.

Today, one finds the remains of Archaic sites in the southern Tortolitas, Hohokam pre-Classic sites from the southern to central Tortolitas, and Transitional to Classic period sites in the central to northeastern Tortolitas. These consist of camps, villages, towns, fieldhouses, a petroglyph area, resource procurement areas, and agricultural fields. In fact, this area exhibits the highest density of sites of all types in the entire region.

The tour, led by Robin Rutherford, will visit a couple of these sites. There are three major village sites in the area, and we will visit one or more of them, as well as an astronomical site. Several miles of walking through desert terrain will be required. If you are interested in the tour, contact Robin Rutherford at [rrutherford@comcast.net](mailto:rrutherford@comcast.net).

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR AAHS BOARD MEMBERS

**T**he success and vitality of AAHS is due largely to the dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and talent to make the Society the great organization it continues to be. Annual elections for AAHS Officers and Board Members are coming up in the Spring, and we would like YOU to be involved! If you are interested in participating in the Society by serving on the Board, or if you know someone you think would be a good addition to the Board, please email Sarah Herr, [sherr@desert.com](mailto:sherr@desert.com), before the end of February. Board positions are open to all members of the Society.

## Cornerstone

*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing  
Arizona State Museum*

### **A HISTORY OF THE ARIZONA ANTIQUITIES ACT**

*Beth Grindell, Ph.D.  
Former Director, Arizona State Museum*

**F**or 90 years, the Arizona Antiquities Act (AAA) has both shaped and responded to the development of archaeology in the state. The earliest law, passed in 1927, met a severe legal challenge but set a precedent for a state in controlling and preserving archaeology on state lands. Over the next six decades, there were three major amendments (1960, 1983, 1990) and two minor ones (1981, 1998). Here, the changes and several failed attempts to amend the laws are summarized and the difficulties and occasional successes in prosecuting vandalism and looting of archaeology on state lands are reviewed. Despite the legislation's occasionally convoluted history, it has contributed enormously to understanding Arizona's rich history.

Byron Cummings' 1927 legislation launched a grand vision for Arizona archaeology. He wanted centralized control of archaeology on state and federal lands in the hands of a few people authorized to issue permits to professional archaeologists. He wanted to prevent looting, save contextual information, and retain as much material and information as possible in the state for the benefit of all Arizonans.

Rewritten in 1960, the new AAA staked a claim to what Haury believed was legitimately the state's to control — archaeology on state lands. The 1960 law was designed to limit archaeological excavations to professionals working under established standards. Under Thompson's direction, the amended legislation of the 1980s and 1990 implemented changes that kept the AAA current with new federal laws and included new stakeholders, cultural resource management archaeologists, and Native Americans. The 1990 private lands repatriation law fulfilled a bit more of Cummings' vision by bringing human remains on private lands under state control.

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The AAA no longer seeks to control archaeology on all lands in Arizona, but otherwise, the major goals remain those Cummings developed in 1927 – outlaw unpermitted excavations on state lands and prevent removal of archaeological materials from the state with subsequent loss of information.

Because of the AAA, all legitimate archaeological work on state trust lands has been conducted under permit, which has imposed a professional standard of work and preserved, to the extent possible, the information and objects for further study. The AAA establishes penalties for looters and sets a standard in the public mind for the appropriate treatment and protection of archaeological sites. Education and outreach are essential to encourage counties and municipalities confused about the state-wide mandate of the AAA to develop appropriate policies.

The AAA mandates tracking of projects through the permitting process to insure information and materials are curated appropriately. In this aspect of activity, the AAA has been overwhelmingly successful. For four decades, CRM archaeology has predominated in Arizona, and the state's population has quadrupled, driving massive land development. The body of knowledge gathered and the collections of objects excavated have fueled a thriving academic discussion of Arizona's ancient history and provided a wealth of publicly available information (through publications, museum exhibits, public talks, and tours) to an interested public. An adequately funded statewide repository remains to be developed.

The AAA has proven irreplaceable in protecting the state's heritage on state lands. There are problems – pothunting does not stop just because of laws; monitoring and law enforcement are inadequately funded. Some private lands may not be susceptible to archaeological mandates, some municipalities undoubtedly avoid legal mandates. Despite these problems, the AAA has reined in wanton destruction. Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the country; much, if not most, of the commensurate land disturbance, is on state and private lands. Without the AAA, much of the state's history of human settlement would vanish, unseen, and unknown.

From: Grindell, Beth. (2107). To Prevent Further Despoliation: A History of the Arizona Antiquities Act. *Kiva* 83:344–368.

## 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

- \$50 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- \$40 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- \$35 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- \$75 **Contributing members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$120 **Supporting members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$300 **Sponsoring members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$1,000 **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):    Email    Mail    Both

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 AAHS VP for Membership at the address below.

You can join online at [www.az-arch-and-hist.org](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org), or by mailing the form below to:  
Barbara Montgomery, VP Membership  
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society  
Arizona State Museum, The University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

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*Glyphs*: Emilee Mead | [emilee@desert.com](mailto:emilee@desert.com) | 520.881.2244

### Board of Directors 2017-2018

**A A H S**



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Arizona State Museum  
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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.

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