

President's Letter

Molly Lambert

Save these dates! Make Plans!

Santa Fe, New Mexico
2004 WAAC Annual Meeting
October 1-3 (Fri., Sat., Sun.)

Location: Museum of New Mexico
 – St. Francis Auditorium (downtown)
 and the Folk Art Auditorium
 (on Museum Hill) at the Museum of
 International Folk Art.

Spot Testing Workshop, see p. 2

San Geronimo Feast Day, Taos Pueblo
Sept. 29, San Geronimo Eve Vespers
Sept. 30, San Geronimo Day, Traditional Pole Climbing

(not a WAAC event)

Taos Pueblo is a living Native American community, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a National Historic Landmark; it has been continuously inhabited for more than 1000 years.

135 miles from Albuquerque (2:15 drive time)
 300 miles from Denver (4:30 drive time)
 233 miles from Purgatory (3:45 drive time)
 72 miles from Santa Fe (1:15 drive time)

Yes, we're gearing up for the 2004 Annual Meeting, and we mean up. Santa Fe and surrounds range from 5000 to 8000 feet above sea level so leave your water wings at home, steel your lungs, and grab those walking sticks, boots, and water bottles. See page 3 for our Call for Papers, or check the WAAC website (<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/waac/>) for the Call and for the most current information on the annual meeting. Meanwhile here are lots of tidbits.

Some of our activities will be held downtown Santa Fe where the Museum of New Mexico has their Museum of Fine Arts (including the St. Francis Auditorium) and The Palace of the Governors. Other activities will be held up on Camino Lejo, better known as "Museum Hill" – just a short bus ride, a quick car ride, or a healthy walk from downtown Santa Fe.

There are some very fine cultural institutions on Museum Hill. They are:
 The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art (www.spanishcolonial.org);
 The Museum of Indian Arts & Culture / Lab of Anthropology (www.miacolab.org);
 The Museum of International Folk Art (www.moifa.org);
 The Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian (www.wheelwright.org);
 The School of American Research (www.sarweb.org/ie4.htm);
 ... and, of course, the Museum Hill Café.

Santa Fe is small and very visitor-conscious. There are many options for lodging in the downtown area including a number of well-known historic hotels like La Fonda (505) 982-5511/www.lafondasantafe.com). My favorite place to stay is the Hotel St. Francis (505) 992-6350/www.hotelstfrancis.com) because it is on the edge of downtown (three blocks from the central plaza), is comfortable, has a big front porch and a bar, and is a good price. For a more economical stay, you may want to look into Ghost Ranch Santa Fe: Plaza Resolana (800) 821-5145/www.ghost ranch.org) which is a retreat center offering some B&B/dormitory style rooms, also within three blocks of Santa Fe's central plaza. If you get online you will find many hotels, motels, and Bed & Breakfasts to consider. WAAC will try to secure a discounted group of rooms at one or all three of the hotels listed above, but our group is considered quite small by conference standards so we don't know if such discounts will be available to us yet. You may want to make your arrangements separately for now. Booking early is always a good idea especially with the San Geronimo Fest happening that same weekend, albeit in Taos.

I would encourage you to get a copy of the Santa Fe Visitor's Guide. I know it sounds like one of those awful tourist publications one finds in your hotel room, but this one is actually quite good– and free and easy to get. Request one from the Santa Fe Convention & Visitors Bureau (800) 777-2489/www.santafe.org), which also has listings for hotels, B&B reservation services, weather, camping and family activities – or, the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce (505) 983-7317/www.santafechamberofcommerce.com). For local events listings, you can use the weekly newspaper *The Santa Fe Reporter* www.sfreporter.com. *continued*

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Deadline

Contributions for the *May* Newsletter should be received by the Editor before **September 30, 2004**.

President's letter, continued

Walking or the occasional bus ride is the best and most enjoyable way to get around the town of Santa Fe. Side trips usually require a car. If you are without car, you can take an airport shuttle from Albuquerque (there is no commercial airport in Santa Fe). Look into: Santa Fe Shuttle/Herrera Coaches (888) 833-2300 or Sandia Shuttle (888) 775-5696).

It seems likely that you will want to consider visiting a few of the many astounding historic, pre-historic, and natural sites in the Santa Fe or Four Corners area. Just to name a few:

Acoma Pueblo (505) 552-6604 / www.puebloofacoma.org); Bandelier (505) 672-3861 x517 / www.nps.gov/band); Santuario de Chimayo (505) 351-4889 / www.archdiocesasantafe.org/AboutASF/Chimayo.html); Ghost Ranch: Abiquiu (Georgia O'Keefe's former ranch / (800) 821-5145 / www.ghostranch.org); Chaco Culture National Historical Park (505) 786-7014 / www.nps.gov/chcu/); Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado (970) 529-4465 / www.nps.gov/meve/); Taos Pueblo (505) 758-9593 / www.taospueblo.com).

For those of you interested in some self-indulgence, here are two favorite health spas: Ten Thousand Waves just a few miles outside of Santa Fe (505) 982-9304 / www.tenthousandwaves.com) or Ojo Caliente Hot Springs on the road to Taos (800) 222-9162 or (505) 583-2233 / <http://ojocalientespa.com/>). Or, consider a southwestern cooking class at the Santa Fe School of Cooking (505) 983-4511 / www.santafeschoolofcooking.com).

And lastly, anyone going up towards Mesa Verde in southwestern Colorado may want to know about a public lecture being given by J.J. Brody (cultural resource manager and archaeologist) at the Anasazi Heritage Center (www.co.bsm.gov/ahc) in Dolores, Colorado (near Cortez) on the evening of September 24th. Brody will be speaking on the pre-historic painted plasters of the four corners pueblo cultures.