

Goat Camp Ruin: Goals and Schedule for Fall 2020

Plans for the 9th season are tentative as we are still coping with the pandemic situation that forced the shutdown of the Spring 2020 session. A set of protocols for crew safety has been prepared (see attached), under which work will resume at a much reduced level compared to previous seasons, at least until such time as it is deemed safe to maximize operations again. All participants must be willing to follow the directions of the protocol or the instructions of the Project Director in implementing it.

The excavation program for Season 9 will be pretty much a continuation from where we left off at the end of Season 7. Our focus will be on Room 8, but we will also be taking a deeper look into Room 28, opening up/completing Room 30, and wall trenching the exterior of the north, east, and south sides of the Room 8, 28-30 complex. And we will be continuing our stabilization work and doing some more backfilling of the rooms that have been completed. Maybe we'll even open up one of our roasting pits. And there are, of course, the perpetual carryover items that we also didn't get done last year (like backfilling and moving rockpiles and screened dirt piles). We also have some additional mapping to do - as I was inspecting the damage done around New Years by an idiotic and selfish fourwheeler, I found another room or so that will need to be added to the site map!

Excavation and Stabilization Work: First Priority

Room 6	Assess the stabilization potential of the room and conduct wall treatments and/or complete backfilling as appropriate.
Room 7	This season we will continue the stabilization of the room and conduct wall treatments and/or complete backfilling as appropriate.
Room 15	We still need to buttress the back wall with a ramp of rock to illustrate the interpretation and then add more backfill to the room.
Room 22	Complete back-filling.
Room 8	Complete second test unit inside the room. Continue excavation of the room by quarters. Also, exterior wall trenching of the north and possibly south sides.
Room 28	Continue original test trench along west wall to original floor. Exterior wall trenching on the north and east sides.
Room 29	Complete exterior wall trench on east side.
Room 30	Complete exterior wall trenching, complete excavation of interior.
Room 31	Final map and backfilling.
New Room	Add to master site map, record, and surface collect.

Excavation Work: Second Priority/Carryover to Next Season

Feature 2	Clear brush and duff to expose walls, map, excavate 1m x 1m test unit (?) (may transfer this work to new room depending on conditions and potential for information return).
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- Features 4-5 Clear brush and duff to expose walls, map, excavate 1m x 1m test units (?).
- Feature 17 Clear and define retaining (?) walls, map.
- Feature 24 Excavate half of this roasting pit.
- Feature 26 Clear and define this presumed "retaining wall" and make surface collections along it to determine how it relates to the occupational history of the site either as an original feature or as an Apache attempt to fortify that portion of the site they had reoccupied.
- Feature 32 Relocate and excavate F. 32, the slab-lined cyst, and perhaps see how it relates to the original ground surface in front of Room 1. To do this, we will need to move one of the backdirt piles from the room excavation.
- Features 36-39 Clear brush and duff to expose walls, map and add to master site map.

Upcoming Additional Work

Relocate backdirt and rock piles. Stabilize and backfill remaining exposed features, lay out visitor trail through site, etc. If the Town doesn't do anything to repair the OHV damage to the trail and adjacent parts of the site, we may do some of that this season.

Lab Work

As usual, lab work for this season will be undertaken during the summer after the close of the Spring excavation session: ceramic rough sorting and initiation of description and analyses of lithics, shell, ground stone, etc. Depending on how much we get done, we may start work on detailed ceramic analysis. This year we will finally initiate radiocarbon analyses with the funding we currently have available and seek to acquire additional funds for more radiocarbon and the processing of the float and pollen samples and expand our analysis of the pottery.

Compile a photo catalog of decorated ceramics, projectile points, and "exotic" artifacts. As part of this effort, we will attempt to compile a central directory of participant photos from the project.

Other Work (carry over)

Survey/recording of contemporary and earlier sites in the Goat Camp area not already covered by FLEX or ADOT excavations. This will include compiling survey and excavation data from Risser Ruin for comparisons. This may not get started until next Summer. Or later.

Tentative Schedule

Following the guidelines of our COVID-19 Protocol, we will be working a limited schedule of one work day per session, each separated by at least two weeks, as follows:

September

Saturday the 26th (just shy of a year since my surgery)

October

Saturday the 10th

Saturday the 24th

Contd. on next page

November

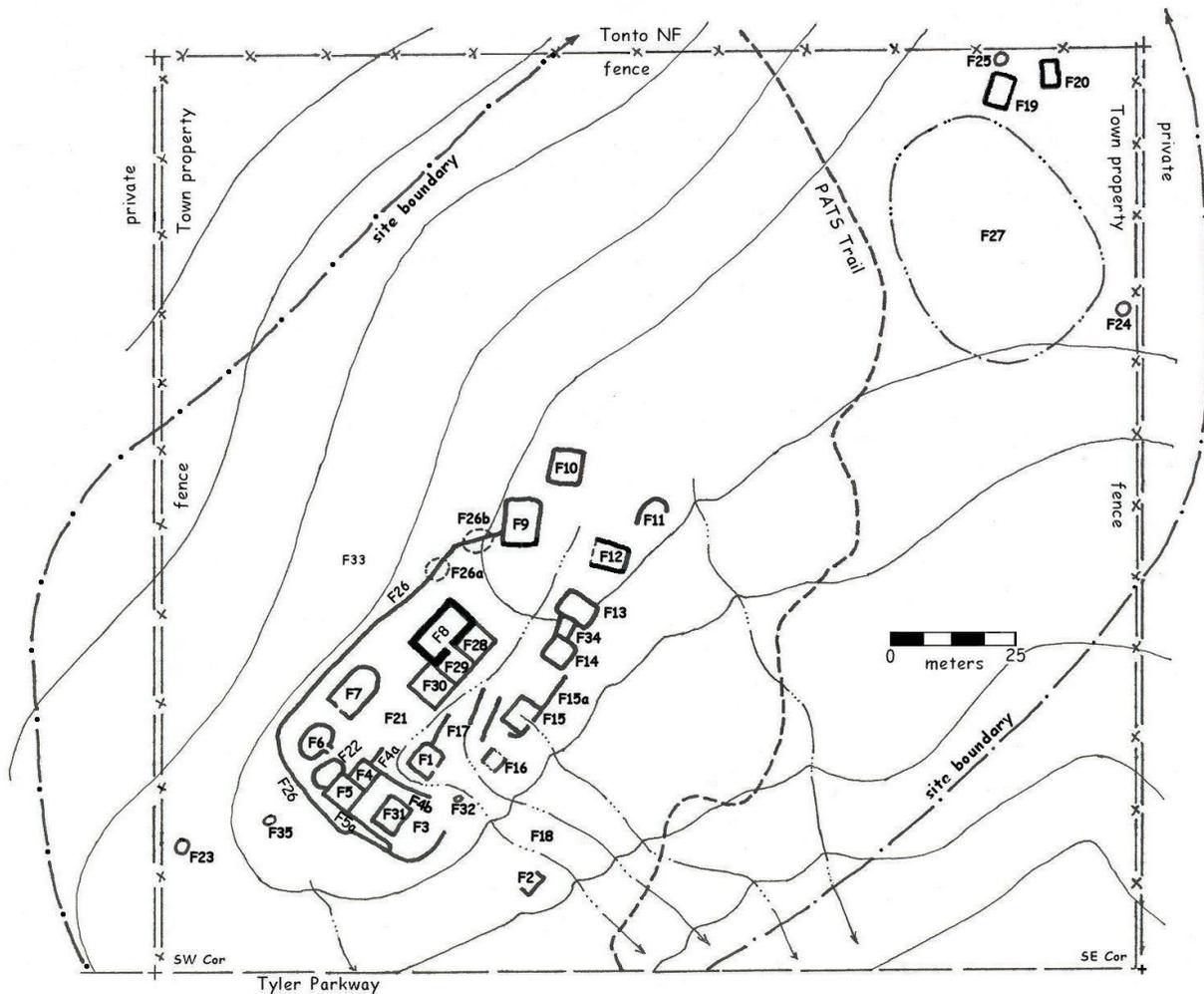
Saturday the 14th

Saturday the 28th (just after Thanksgiving unfortunately, sorry)

December

Saturday the 12th

Start Times: start time for all field sessions will be 9:00; we generally work until 3PM, following our usual Saturday schedule, unless we decide to stay longer on any given day. Any changes due to weather, climate change, or increasing viral activity will be conveyed to all concerned by e-mail.



GOAT CAMP RUIN PROJECT COVID-19 EPIDEMIC TRANSMISSION PREVENTION PROTOCOL

7/24/2020

This protocol, loosely adapted from that of the Arizona Trail Association, is intended to direct the activities of volunteers working on the Goat Camp Ruin Project for the Arizona Archaeological Society during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and until such time as an effective vaccine and therapeutics are widely available and in use. Many of these procedures may be in place for months or years. As might be expected, this document is subject to change. The Goat Camp Project will conduct field and lab operations only when it is deemed lawful and prudent to do so, and will cooperate in full with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including temporary emergency orders.

COMMUNICATION

Refrain from participation in any Goat Camp Project activity if you have symptoms of, have recently tested positive for (within 3 weeks), or believe you may have COVID-19.

Read the CDC guidelines regarding underlying conditions that would put you at high risk of severe illness and determine if your participation in the activity will unduly jeopardize your safety.

Inform the Project Director if you develop symptoms (even mild ones) of COVID-19 within 14 days after a Goat Camp workday (within 24 hours of discovery).

GROUP SIZES

Until there is an effective and widely available vaccine, social distancing and a lowering of social density will still be our best approach to combating the pandemic. Since group size for Goat Camp field or work days generally averages about 10-12 people, this may not be an issue. As always, after a notice for a workday has gone out, it will be more important than ever to inform the Project Director whether or not you intend to participate. If it appears that group size will exceed a maximum of 10 volunteers and two field directors, adjustments may have to be made on a first-come/first served basis.

FACEMASKS

All participants in field or lab sessions must wear facemasks during the session, as per CDC recommendations. They must be worn even if you feel well and regardless of the results of any recent testing — you may be pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic and there is no current guarantee that you cannot be re-infected even if you have had it and survived. Participants will provide their own facemasks. If you do not wear a mask, you will not be allowed to participate.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Given the nature of archaeological field and lab work, this can be difficult to achieve at times and we may find ourselves having to adjust procedures over the course of the season.

The basic rule will be to maintain a 6 ft./2 m. distance from all other participants at all times. To achieve this in the field, participants may be assigned one to an excavation unit. If the size or configuration of the unit does not allow for that, pairs of excavators may be assigned to opposite sides of the unit or in some other configuration that will minimize face-to-face proximity.

Each excavator will screen their own backdirt. If they are uncomfortable identifying artifacts in the screen without assistance or have difficulty carrying or lifting the weight, another person may be asked to perform that task, but only one person should be operating a screen at a time.

The same distance rule will be applied during lunch and when hauling equipment up or down the trail.

If conditions have not ameliorated by next summer, distancing during lab work, washing and sorting artifacts, will follow the similar guidelines to keep work stations separate and minimize sharing of resources. Given the relatively small size of the lab, this will require limiting the number of participants in each session.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING HANDS

All participants are encouraged to wash and/or sanitize their hands per CDC guidelines prior to arrival at a work event and upon or shortly after leaving. Participants at lab sessions are required to do the same prior to and after using the labs bathroom facilities or lunch area.

USE AND CARE OF TOOLS

Participants are encouraged to bring and use their own tools but are not required to do so; communal tools will be provided as always. All participants must wear gloves when handling any communal tools or other resources, including buckets, screens, loppers, shovels, picks, trowels, tapes, levels, and clipboards. Participants will provide their own gloves.

Between fieldwork days the Project Director will wash all communal tool handles with bleach or alcohol wipes; between work sessions, these tools will be set aside and remain unused until the next session or will be subject to additional sanitization. The same procedures will be applied to tables, chairs, and other facilities and tools in the lab.

FOOD AND WATER HANDLING

As always, participants will be responsible for their own food, water, and other beverages. Food should not be shared among volunteers. Do not share water drinking bottles or larger jugs for refilling. If it is necessary to share water, sanitize any spigot, handle or other item that has come in contact with hands, mouths or bottles with bleach or alcohol wipes or other sanitization procedure.

TRANSPORTATION and LODGING

To maintain social distancing and sanitation, ride sharing and carpooling are discouraged for the duration of the outbreak. Transportation may be shared by individuals not practicing social distancing such as members of the same household, but otherwise all participants should arrive at the worksite on their own.

Similar considerations should be given regarding lodging, especially for those out-of-town participants who typically stay with other volunteers or private homes in Payson. In order to minimize exposure risk from overnight stays, work sessions will be limited to one day per weekend, at least for the Fall season.

CANCELLATION

The Project Director reserves the right to immediately and arbitrarily exclude participation by individuals, conclude daily operations, and cancel any and all work sessions if participants do not adhere to these rules. This protocol is designed to establish working conditions that will keep participants healthy and alive. If those conditions cannot be met or maintained because of the actions or attitudes of any individual participant(s) the project will be shut down. In a situation like this, each of us is responsible for the safety of all of us.