

Our speaker for the Thursday, January 25, Chapter meeting at the Sedona Public Library, at 3:30, will be by Mike and JJ Golio presenting “Documenting Precontact Hilltop Enclosures in Arizona.”

40 years ago, the Golios discovered their first precontact hilltop enclosure in Arizona and have been studying them ever since. In the early nineties, Mike gave a Pecos Conference presentation on this work. Hilltop enclosures include forts, ritual enclosures, and hilltop habitation sites. They can be defensible or defensive.

After acquiring a drone and becoming a licensed drone pilot, Mike began taking aerial videos of the sites. His drone videos allow archaeologists to study a site without actually going there. He also does 3D site models which give even more detail. The Golios have been recording drone videos of sites whenever possible, writing site reports, taking photographs, and turning it over to archaeologists. A presentation and poster at the last Pecos Conference used their work.

This presentation will show some of the interesting things they've found while documenting hilltop enclosures. The Golios have collaborated on papers and presentations for the Salado Conference, Pecos Conference, AAS, San Diego Rock Art Papers, ARARA, and URARA. They have also led outings for AAS, Friends of Agua Fria, and other groups. Early in the pandemic, JJ walked Badger Springs Wash Trail with geologists, archaeologists, and hikers. The Golios then used the knowledge they shared to write, “Geology, Archaeology, and History Guide to Badger Springs Trail”. The guide is available on the AAS website under the Member-Only Research Pubs section.