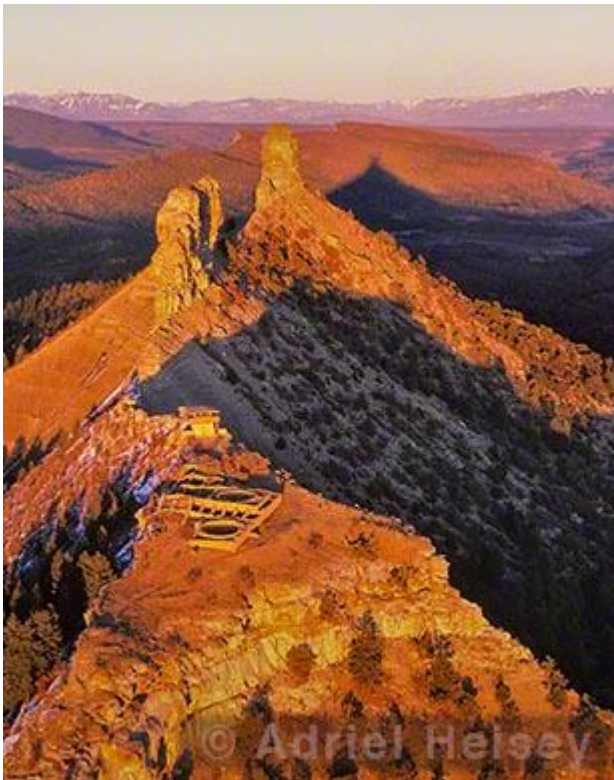


**Full Lunar Eclipse with The Solstice Project
at Chimney Rock and Pueblo Bonito, Sunday 27 September 2015
Photos by Alonzo Riley, Brooks Marshall, & Adriel Heisey**



On September 27, 2015, the Solstice Project captured the total lunar eclipse for our film in progress, “Written on the Landscape: Mysteries Beyond Chaco Canyon.” It was my great privilege to work with a crew of outstanding cinematographers and time-lapse specialists.

Our settings were two beautiful Chacoan sites that express the union of astronomy and ceremony at an astoundingly distant relationship:

Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon, the heart of Chaco’s astronomically oriented regional pattern, and 95 miles to its north, Chimney Rock’s Chacoan Great House, famous for its alignment to the Moon at the Northern Major Standstill.

We chose this challenging site for its explicit revelation of the Chacoans’ reverence for the lunar cycle, which they so repeatedly expressed in building alignments of Chaco Canyon.





It was an honor to witness a lunar eclipse at the austere beautiful site of Chimney Rock, a place of sacred history to Puebloan people.

From its precipice, surrounded by a bowl of mesas and distant peaks of the southern Rockies, the moon rose in a pristine sky, with a dark bite in it of the earth's shadow. We were awed as the moon entered the full red darkness of the eclipse. While we can now precisely predict eclipses, such a sudden ghostly loss of the moon must have evoked fear and inspired a search for order.



(Viewed from nearby Peterson Ridge).

At Pueblo Bonito, the center of the Chaco world, a part of our crew recorded the moon entering eclipse over the Great House's southeastern corner, and through a second story corner doorway, in its totality.



As an aspect of their astute knowledge of the moon's behavior, did the Chacoans succeed to some extent, like their Mesoamerican trading neighbors, in predicting lunar eclipses? Did that capability enhance their power and further integrate their vast region in a shared cosmology?

We thank archaeologist Stephen Lekson and archaeoastronomer Christopher Powell for their interesting and insightful interviews.

The Solstice Project is profoundly grateful to our filming colleagues for meeting the challenges of capturing this event: Dyanna Taylor, Matt Dibble, David Aubrey, David Rogers, William Stone, Jim Gallup, Shelene Bridge, Corrina Leathergood, and Georgia Griffis; and to our consistent helper Andrew Sinnes. We are indebted to Ron Sutcliffe, Kim Malville, Alan Saltzstein, and the Chimney Rock volunteers who so generously hosted us and to the NPS for its thoughtful assistance to our Chaco Canyon work.



Your support over the years motivates me to keep documenting our deepening insight into the remarkable heritage written on the landscape.

Keep us in mind as we work to bring out this great new film!

For progress on our film see...
www.chacomysterycontinues.com

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*For more information about Chaco Canyon,
Ancestral Puebloan astronomy, and more...*
www.solsticeproject.org

Many thanks, and until next moon,
Anna Sofaer

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