

**NRAO/Socorro Colloquium Series**

**G.B. Cornucopia**

*NPS/Chaco Culture*

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**The Astronomy of Chaco Canyon: A Thousand Years of Tradition**

**Abstract:**

The ancient culture of Chaco Canyon produced massive architectural constructions more than a thousand years ago in an environment that was austere and challenging. Long hot summers, frigid winters, and unreliable water sources would seem to discourage the creation of what visitors to Chaco Culture National Historical Park come to explore. More than a dozen masonry structures, some with 600 to 800 rooms, 4 stories in height, covering more than 5-6 acres, attest to a highly organized society with a deep understanding of their delicate environment. Some of that understanding was gleaned from observing the sky both night and day. What were they observing, and how did they use that knowledge to create their cities and towns along with impressive landscaping over 60,000- 70,000 square miles, and what can we learn in the modern world from these ancient peoples.

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**May 29, 2015**

**11:00 am**

**Array Operations Center Auditorium**

**All NRAO employees are invited to attend via video, available in Charlottesville Auditorium, Green Bank Auditorium, and VLA Video Conference Room.**

Local Host: M. Goss

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