

# East Valley Astronomy Club Presents “Southwestern Rock Calendars and Ancient Time Pieces”

A FREE presentation funded by the  
Arizona Humanities Council Speakers Bureau

7:30 p.m. Friday May 21, 2010  
at Gilbert Public Library, 775 N. Greenfield Road  
(southeast corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe roads)



View of summer solstice sunset from  
inside the Casa Grande Ruin, Arizona

**Native Americans in the Southwest developed sophisticated skills in astronomy  
and predicting the seasons, centuries before Old World peoples first entered the region.**

In this presentation archaeologist Allen Dart discusses historically known sky-watching practices of various southwestern peoples, and how their ancestors' observations of the heavens may have been commemorated in ancient architecture and rock symbols.



Sun dagger equinox phenomenon,  
Picture Rocks, Arizona

The program illustrates cardinal, solstice, and equinox alignments and possible calendrical reckoning features at such places as Arizona's Casa Grande Ruins and Picture Rocks petroglyph sites, New Mexico's Chaco Canyon archaeological district, the Hovenweep area of Utah, and the Mesa Verde and Chimney Rock regions of Colorado.

**Mr. Dart also offers interpretation of how these discoveries may relate to ancient Native American ritual.**



Two weeks prior to Winter Solstice

Winter Solstice

Mr. Allen Dart has worked and volunteered as a professional archaeologist in New Mexico and Arizona since 1975, for government, private companies, and non-profit organizations. He is currently the Executive Director of Tucson's nonprofit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, which he founded in 1993 to provide educational and scientific programs in archaeology and culture. A Registered Professional Archaeologist, he has been a recipient of the Arizona Governor's Award in Public Archaeology for his efforts to bring archaeology and history to the public.

Through the Arizona Humanities Council's support for programs like this one, the people of Arizona benefit from federal funds allocated through the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**No reservations needed  
For meeting details contact Bill Houston  
at 602-402-6901 or [vp@evaonline.org](mailto:vp@evaonline.org)**

**For information about the presentation subject matter**

**contact Allen Dart at 520-798-1201 or [adart@oldpueblo.org](mailto:adart@oldpueblo.org)**

**Chaco Canyon, New Mexico  
Image courtesy of National Park Service**