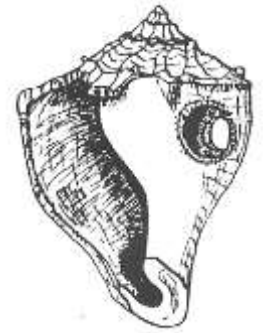


SWFAS

# NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 2001



### UGLY ECOTOURIST IN PERU:

I almost threw this out, but at least this shows you why this newsletter is a little late...

## STEVE BERTONE GIVES GREAT PRESENTATION AT AUGUST MEETING!

by Jack Thompson

At the August meeting Steve Bertone gave a very interesting presentation on historical and archaeological

resources in The Rookery bay area. Surveys are complete down to Marco Island and will be continued to the south.

He showed slides and discussed settlement by the first non-natives based on ground surveys, searching of early deeds and other documents in Monroe, Lee and Collier Counties. Lee was carved out of Monroe and Collier from Lee County. Oral history was of great value.

SWFAS has assisted Steve in the past and will be asked to do so again..

All future meetings at FGCU will be held on room 110.

## WHERE WILL WE BE?

This is just to emphasize this last item in Jack's article – and get somewhat philosophical. The practical part is note: **OUR FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE IN ROOM 110, ACADEMIC BUILDING 3 (same building as before).**

The other aspect – now that we are meeting at FGCU is to

consider how our group will restructure, what projects we will engage our energies with, how we will “interface” with the community at large in Southwest Florida, and how will we interact with our peers and fellow archaeologists on a state level (through FAS and the Archaeology Month, Week, Day we cooperatively participate in on a yearly basis).

These are all things we need to periodically consider, and what better time than the last golden days of Summer when things are quiet, and there's some time for a little contemplative thought.

Any insights you might have as to direction and emphasis would be welcomed by your SWFAS officers and Board of Directors!

### *Inside this Newsletter*

- 1 We are Moving! Florida Gulf Coast University will be the new site of our General Meetings**
- 2 You can't get there from here – Part Two!**  
Read Dr. Robert Gore...

## THE DATE BOOK

**September 12th<sup>th</sup> SWFAS Board Meeting** – Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

**September 19th, 2001 General Meeting – HELD AT FGCU MAIN CAMPUS – TAKE EXITS 19 OR 20 EAST OF I-75**

(see Map this issue)

### About SWFAS

**The directorate:** President Betsy Perdichizzi, first vice president Don Taggart, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Steve Tutko, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Charles Dugan, Jack Thompson, Tom Franchino, John Beriault, Charlie Strader and Dr Michael McDonald.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Charlie Strader; Publicity: Dottie Thompson, 597-2269; Sales: position open; Finances, Jack Thompson 597-2269, 774-8517; Lab: (774-8517), Art Lee, 261-4939, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Jack Thompson, 597-2269.

To Join: Address your check to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101. Dues are: Individual \$20, Individual Sustaining \$50.00, Family \$35, Student \$15.

Any questions, comments, contributions to the Newsletter: John G. Beriault, acting editor, P.O. Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or Email to: [JGBeriault@aol.com](mailto:JGBeriault@aol.com).



## POTSHERDS AND POTSHOTS... AN ONGOING SERIES BY ROBERT GORE

YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE (CAN YOU?).  
2. Journeying to Cuba.

It's time to pause for a little glaciology before continuing with our speculations on the Guanahatabey. It is now acknowledged that, during the

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terminal stages of the Wisconsin II glaciation, sealevels were substantially lower throughout the Caribbean-Gulf of Mexico region owing to glacial drawdown. Between 18,000-22,000 years BP a glacial maximum occurred, followed by a relatively rapid deglaciation over two periods, one at 15,000-13,000 years BP, and the second at about 9,000 years BP. Speaking generally, the glacial maximum lowered existing sealevels dramatically; data suggest up to 120 meters (about 360 feet, or 60 fathoms). This drawdown would have exposed a substantial portion of the continental shelves around Yucatan, Cuba, and Florida--extending their coastlines to as much as 75 miles farther offshore.

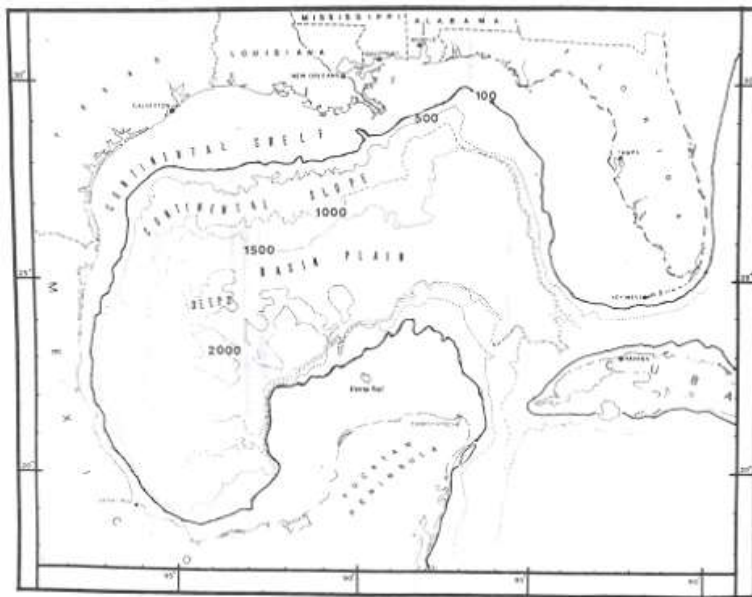


Figure 2: Coastal Margins Within the Gulf of Mexico During the Late Pleistocene, ca. 20,000 Years BP. Measurements in fathoms (1 fathom = 6 feet). The present-day 100 fathom isobath (heavy line) would have formed the seaward edge of the receding Pleistocene shoreline. Modified from Jones et al. (eds.), in Gore, 1992, fig. 4, p. 57

The rapid deglaciation that followed, of course, would have re-elevated sealevels. However, geological data suggest that these rises in sealevels did not take place

maintenance of existing Gulf and Florida Straits current regimes.

Another somewhat surprising finding from recent studies

tentative in occurrence, much like an icy snail reaching out from its shell, being startled and pulling back in, and then reaching out again and crawling forward. ]During these advances and retreats, between 21,000 years BP and 11,000 years BP, three major climate reversals took place, among which were scattered several smaller-scale changes every 2,000-3,000 years. For example, the deglaciation that peaked around 14,000 years BP produced a distinctly warm and humid period that has been named Termination 1. This was followed by a series of small-scale reversals producing cooler climates from about 12,000-10,000 BP, before the "true" interglacial period

TABLE 2  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCES BETWEEN THE 100 FATHOM ISOBATH  
ON THE FLORIDAN, YUCATECAN AND CUBAN CONTINENTAL SHELVES  
DURING THE TERMINATION OF THE WISCONSIN II GLACIATION

	During Glaciation	After Glaciation
FLORIDA-CUBA	68 nautical miles	92 nautical miles
FLORIDA-YUCATAN	180 nautical miles	340 nautical miles
CUBA-YUCATAN	75 nautical miles	190 nautical miles

Data extrapolated from bathymetric charts in J. J. Jones et al., (eds.), 1973; and Gore, R. H. 1992. The Gulf of Mexico, Pineapple Press, Sarasota. fig. 4, p. 32.

as a single event, but occurred instead in a stepwise manner at two clearly indicated intervals, producing in total at least three sea-stands of differing heights over a 10,000 year period. Two complex ancillary events (which will not be examined here) also occurred. One was the effect that all that newly released fresh glacial water floating on the ocean's northern surface had on the formation and maintenance of deep sea water masses, and subsequently on world weather patterns. The second was the effect all the reworked coastal morphologies had on the

was that the ice advance or retreat was not an all-or-none situation; instead, the comings and goings were almost

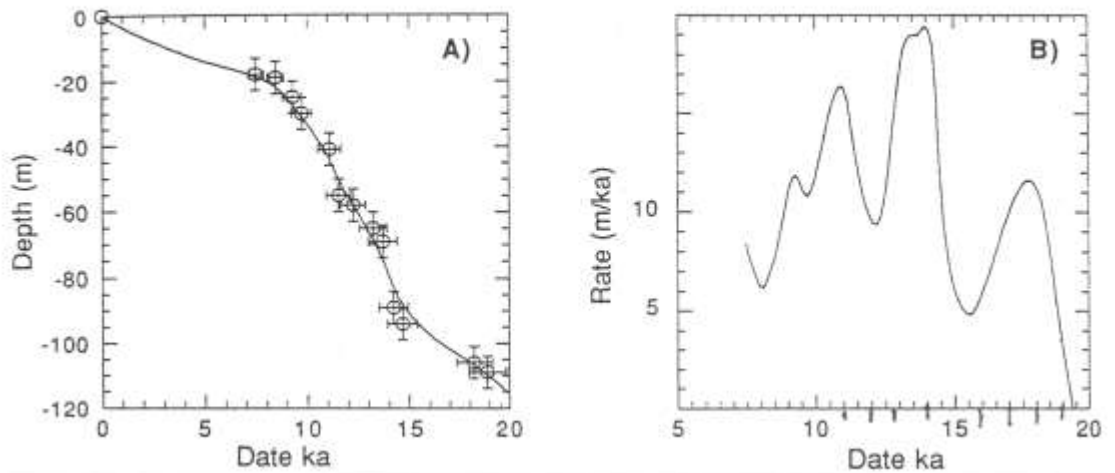


Figure 3: Sealevel Fluctuations During the Wisconsin II Glacial Period. a) Overall sealevel rise in meters as measured at Barbados; b) Rate of change of sealevel fluctuations per thousand years as derived from the Barbados data.

which we now enjoy kicked in. Sealevels would also have adjusted accordingly--so, presumably, would have surface currents, of which more in our final column. What remains clear is that by 14,000-12,000 years BP the polar ice sheets had retreated again to the inner continental shelves in the boreal regions, and world sealevels had risen. But these sealevel changes did not necessarily recur to previously existing

heights, or over regular time periods. The rate of rising or falling could vary from 10-20 vertical meters (30-60 feet) on the average per thousand years. This may not seem like much when your shoreline consists of limestone escarpments such as are found in Cuba and the Antilles, but does take on dramatic new meaning if your shoreline is a broad, gentle decline like some in Florida or Yucatan. A 20 meter rise in sealevels in southwestern Florida, for example, would totally inundate beautiful downtown "Naples-on-the-Gulf," changing its fatuously touristy name to "Naples under the Gulf," and making Highlands County southwestern Florida's new beachfront property. (Figure 3]

With these data in mind let us return now to the Guanahatabey and pose more questions. As noted previously, the Guanahatabey have been postulated as a people who originated from a southern land and migrated northward to eventually wind up in Cuba. Maybe so, but given that we know very little about these now extinct people we might also ask: What if, instead, they first pushed off from Florida and went south? Or Yucatan, and went east? Could they

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have done so? As we shall see later, present-day Gulf of Mexico currents (already in place for tens of thousands of years previously) shout a resounding "yes!" And, if more continental shelf area were exposed by glacially-induced sealevel declines when the "proto-Guanahatabey" departed, say, Florida in the Late Pleistocene, their sea voyage southward and ultimate landfall might have been additionally facilitated. These thoughts also raise at least three more intriguing geopolitical questions. Did the Guanahatabey

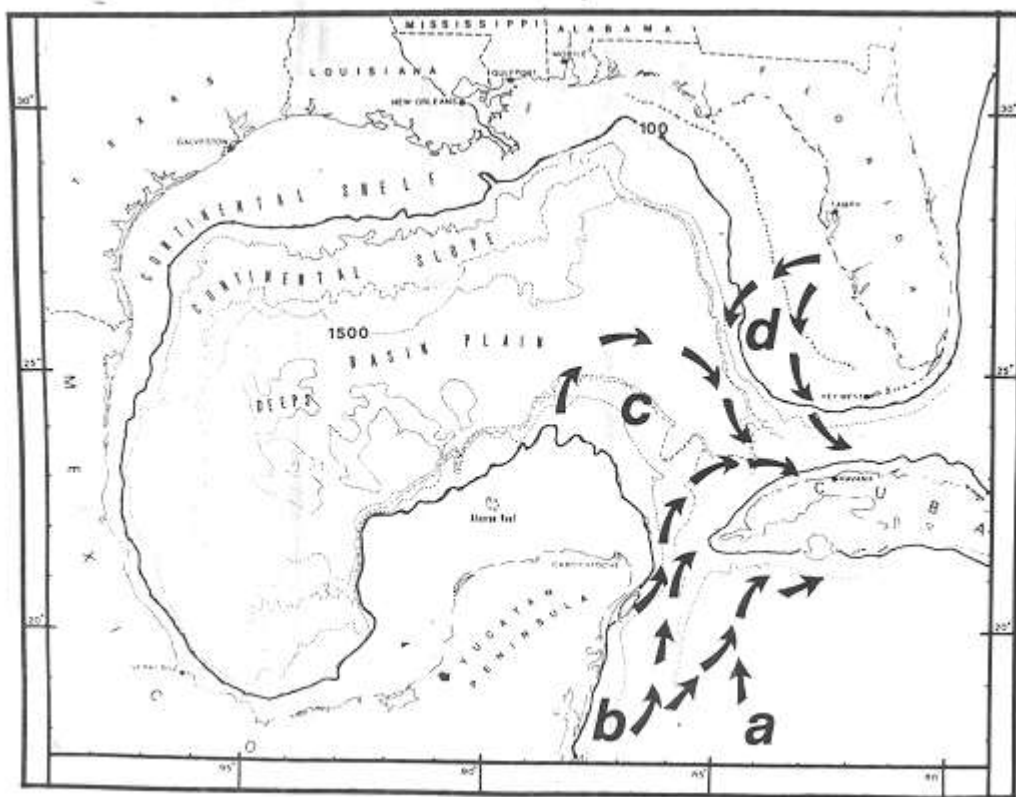


Figure 4: Ancient Sea Routes to Cuba Possibly Used by the Guanahatabey. a) Caribbean; b) Central American; c) Yucatecan; d) Floridan. Suggested routes based on glacially lowered sea levels, in conjunction with present day coastal and offshore currents. Dotted line = Approximate 50 fathom isobath. Compare with Figure 5 (Part 3).

ever populate other islands in the Antilles, either from Cuba or from their putative Middle American, Yucatecan, or Floridan homelands? Did the Tainos or Caribs, both originating far to the south in and around the Orinoco Basin, have previous knowledge of the Guanahatabey? Or vice versa? Were the Taino-Carib exploratory diasporas actually punitive expeditions against the Guanahatabey for whatever culturally-determined reason?

Which leads in turn to two more nagging questions: If the Guanahatabey were successful enough seafarers to get to Cuba, why did they remain there, become isolated, and so culturally undeveloped? Were their primitive cultural levels and attainments, and isolation in a peninsular cul-de-sac, a result of developmental stasis? Or decline? Or a sequestered imposition? To suggest one answer consider the following hypothetical scenario.

Suppose that:

- 1) a proto-Guanahatabeyan settlement was established just in Cuba very early on, say 10,000 years or more BP;
- 2) which eventually became moderately successful and rather aggressively and possessively territorial;
- 3) so that the autochthonous populace decided it was more important to secure the land they had against intruders who had recently begun arriving;

4) than it was to build more seagoing watercraft and make an uncertain return to their homeland; and that suddenly

5) they found themselves sequestered in their western Cuban "ghetto" by the more powerful Taino or Carib invaders; and

6) were subsequently prevented from escaping by a) rising sealevels and b) concomitant changes in the along-shore and nearby offshore current regimes and weather patterns; and c) their encircling enemies?

In this situation geographical and cultural sequestration could then easily have lead to cultural stasis, or vice versa--but whether by indigenous denouement, or by someone else's imposition, remains unknown.

In any case, during the previously mentioned glaciation events, the sea-distances between, say, the Floridan and Yucatecan, or Floridan and Cuban continental shelves, once much shorter, expanded, withdrew, and re-expanded. This then suggests that further exploration and expansion by humans in either direction, may have gradually become less viable, leading perhaps to the ultimate peninsular isolation of the Guanahatabey in western Cuba. And, if

Florida, eastern Cuba, and Yucatan were now under control by the Tainos and Caribs and Maya, even If the Guanahatabay could leave, where could they go? Back to Florida?

It may also be assumed that if seafaring peoples were present In Florida or Yucatan at a major low seastand in the Pleistocene, then any departure point, whether easterly or westerly, would have been somewhere along the recently exposed coastline of the two peninsulas, viz. farther "offshore" than present day shorelines. It may also be surmised that if these people had arrived earlier in either Yucatan or Florida by land, and wanted to eventually take a sea voyage, they would have had between 4,000- 7,000 years to a) get their act together, b) and develop either by their own efforts, or acquire by cultural assimilation, c) the means to build the necessary watercraft and prepare for the departure. But this also implies at the very least a foreknowledge of offshore lands that they wished to visit--or revisit, as the case may be--as well as some knowledge of the complexities of

ocean currents, waves, tides and the like. Which raises yet another conundrum. Was there a cultural memory involved? Or was there an aboriginal Thomas Wolfe whispering "You can't go home again."

Now let's shift gears from possibilities to actualities and ask: What kind of distances are we

talking about? Presuming on the relative accuracy of glacially-induced sealevel declines, and working backward from the present, the closest distances between Florida and Cuba, or Florida and the Yucatan Peninsula actually decrease overall the farther one goes back in time. This is because, as noted earlier, more continental shelf was, in general, being uncovered. In fact, It seems likely that coastal villages (and hence departure points) would have "followed the tides" and become located all along the Increasingly exposed Floridan, Cuban, or Yucatecan conshelves during falling seastands. Cross-sea voyage durations would also have been concomitantly shorter, even without rowing, especially if present-day current regimes were functioning more or less as they had in the past. In other words, drifting and dreaming could still get you a landfall somewhere in and around the Gulf or upper Caribbean--all you had to do was survive long enough to arrive, something that the continent-and-island-hopping Taino, Carib, and Guanahatabey eventually proved then, and many Haitian and Cuban immigrants continue to prove today. [TABLE 2]

One other factor of importance is based on the easily realizable fact that once you determine your destination It is always infinitely more desirable, eminently wiser, and physically easier to let the sea carry you there than to try and row there. This Is where seasurface currents come in, a subject we will briefly address next time.

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## Endowment Fund

You've heard of the TV show *So You Want To Be A Millionaire?* The premise is that most of us wouldn't mind being one. Well, at SWFAS, you don't have to be one to set up an endowment fund. It can be a modest amount, and if it's over \$75.00, you can request a letter from us (as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization) giving you a deduction for your tax situation. You can earmark how or for what you would like your money spent: the Craighead Laboratory, Speakers, General Operations, a specific project or activity such as C-14 dating – you name it. If you are interested, see our treasurer, Charlie Strader, and he will furnish the details and happily accept your contribution. Thanks!

## Carpool Volunteers

It has come to our attention that several SWFAS members are unable to travel to our meetings at Florida Gulf Coast University due to

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inability to see to drive at night, basic lack of transportation, etc. It seems a shame that several of us couldn't offer rides to those folks, as long as it's not too far out of our way and the understanding is that the arrangements can be flexible (i.e. no guarantee we have to do this for every meeting). Here's a chance to get to know each other better and become firm friends!

We will ask for a show of hands – or provide a sign-up sheet at the next two general meetings for those willing to provide a lift. We'll need to know where you live, as to match those needing and those providing rides. This is a kind and neighborly thing for you to do and would be greatly appreciated.

## CRAIGHEAD LAB NOTES

We have acquired two new workers from Americorps, a national community service program. The environmental program is based at Koreshan State Park. Laura Estebrook has a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. Cathi Ridley served four years in the Navy and several years as avocational nurse. She is enrolled at Edison Community College. Both of them grew up in Florida. They are working with

Jean Belknap sorting and analyzing pottery sherds from the Chokoloskee Site.

Laura Dutton came from England to help with our computer work and sorting column samples.

Betsy Mc Carthy came from Michigan for five weeks and not only worked diligently on a project but took it back home to finish it. Jack Thompson is still inputting Strader Site data in the computer. Walt Buschelman is working on the last of column samples from Chokoloskee.

Art Lee is taking two weeks off ( without pay) to get ready for a move to smaller quarters.

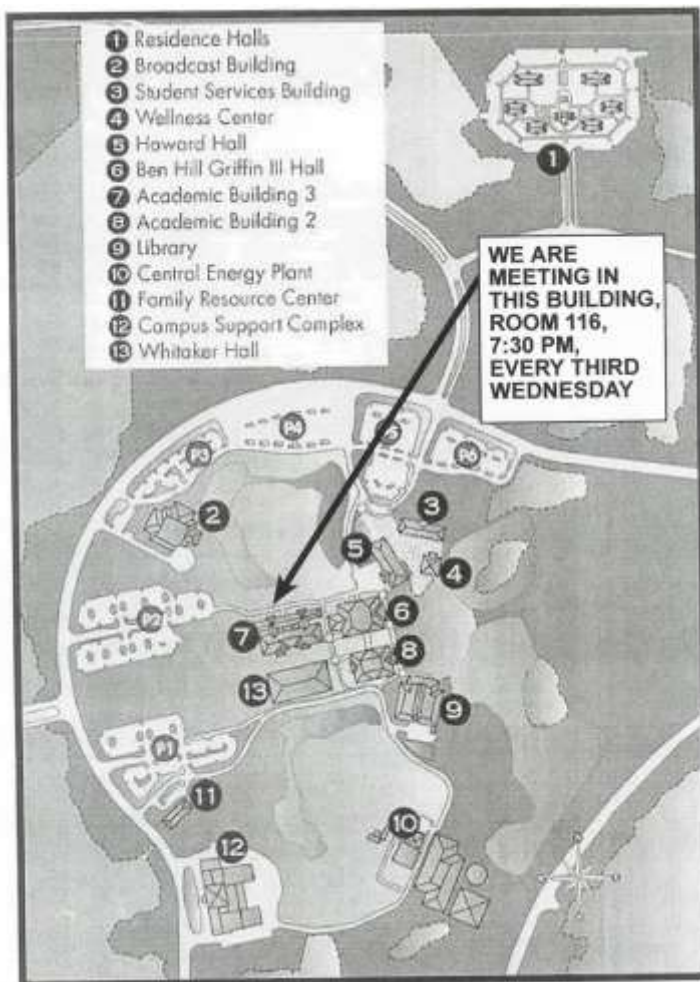
## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Dr. Susan Stans, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at FGCU, will speak about “Healing Plants: Medicine of the Florida Seminole Indians”. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Florida in Archaeology and lived with Alice Snow during her 20 month dissertation residency at the Brighton Seminole Reservation. Alice is a Seminole elder.

They were co-authors of the book with the title of her talk. Dr. Stans is a mentor to the Seminole

students and University liaison to the Seminole education Department.

The meeting will be held in Academic III, room 110,



at 7:30 PM on September 19 at Florida Gulf Coast University.

### SO WHERE IS IT, ALREADY?

I’ve been asked to run again the map and directions where to find our “new” meeting site on the FGCU

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campus. Take I-75 north (or south) till you come to Exits 19 (or if you’re coming from the north) Exit 20. Go east just a few short blocks to Ben Hill Griffin Parkway. Take the Parkway to the FGCU Campus Entrance. Go east about 2 blocks to the cross-street. Turn left (north) and go to the third parking lot (P4 on the map). Follow the elevated boardway/walkway south to where it ends at Building AB3. Go through the front door into the lobby, turn right and the classroom 110 is about the second or third on your left. Look for some of the other members. Sounds tiresome, but finding us is easy, trust me!