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PCAS NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY PCAS SPEAKER

Alexander (Sandy) Rogers

Dating the Coso Petroglyphs

The Coso Rock Art National Historical Landmark in southern Inyo County, California, contains an extensive variety of petroglyph motifs, with representational images predominating. Assigning dates to petroglyph images is notoriously difficult, and there is no guarantee that all motifs have the same age; in fact, it is likely that they do not. This lecture will describe an innovative application of multiple data sources to the problem of dating petroglyphs, using the cation-ratio, X-ray fluorescence, and obsidian hydration techniques. Six motifs are dated: "Classic Coso" Sheep, Other Sheep, Patterned-body Anthropomorph (PBA), Archer, Atlatl, and Abstract. The Other Sheep and Abstract are found to be oldest, dating to the Pleistocene-Holocene Transition, prior to 10,000 years ago; PBA and Atlatl images first appear in the Pinto/Little Lake Period, some 5000 to 7000 years ago. Classic Coso sheep are of early Newberry Period age, circa 2000 to 4000 years ago, and the appearance of Archer scenes is consistent with introduction of the bow and arrow around 1800 to 1400 years ago. None of the images date conclusively to the Marana Period, post 650 years ago. The results obtained are consistent with archaeological insights.

Alexander (Sandy) Rogers, is Archaeology Curator at the Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest, California, close to the Coso petroglyphs. *(Continued on p. 2)*

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speaker, Alexander (Sandy) Rogers, and PCAS members for dinner before the February 11th General Meeting. We will meet at 6 pm at Knowlwood Restaurant, 14952 Sand Canyon, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

Free and Open to the Public

February 11 - 7:30 pm

Speaker: Alexander (Sandy) Rogers

Topic: *Dating the Coso Petroglyphs*

Location: Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine
(between the I-5 and I-405 freeway)

The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the causes or activities of organizations that use the District's meeting rooms which are made available for public use.

BOARD MEETING

All Members Welcome

February 18 - 7:00 pm

Location: Old Orange County Courthouse
PCAS Library, Ground Floor
211 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana

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JANUARY SPEAKER NOTES

Rediscovering Huamalgua: Isle of the Fogs

Submitted by Sherri Gust

Isla Cedros is a small island (25 by 10 miles) rising to peaks over 13,000 meters tall. The island is connected to mainland Baja California but that connection has been submerged below the ocean during the Holocene. The island is very unusual in that freshwater sources are present across the entire island – none more than 2 km apart. Due to its location, marine upwelling occurs just off the coast making a very rich marine environment. The area is home to dolphin, elephant seal, sea lions, seabass, ocean whitefish, sheephead, spiny lobsters and abalone.

Modern boundaries between California and Baja California are artificial in a precontact context as there is demonstrable continuity of language, worldview, ecological zones, etc. The island archaeological sites show Colorado Desert typology.

First contact with aboriginal inhabitants was in 1540. By 1732 the last of these peoples were removed from the island. Historically, the island has been used by pirates, otter hunters, a mining company, Chinese and Japanese abalone fishermen, a fishing cooperative and salt works. In 1972 a hurricane wiped out the shellfish beds, displaced the abalone and damaged the kelp forests. It took approximately 15 years to return to pre-storm productivity. Most modern fish camps are on top of or adjacent to aboriginal fish camps.

The archaeological team has surveyed about 10% of the island to date, mostly the southern end. Over 120 sites have been recorded with radiocarbon dates as old as 9-12 thousand years. Early Holocene sites contain red abalone. Individual shell dumps can be distinguished due to rapid deposition of sediments of the island. Circular shell fish hooks dating more than 9 thousand years old have been recovered. The fish hook dates are bracketed by dates on other shell and charcoal. Other artifacts include unifaces, bifaces and points. About 18% of the artifacts are flaked pismo clam rather than lithic material. Sea grass matting, used for all things tule was used for here, has been dated at more than 10 thousand years.

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January speaker Dr. Matthew Des Lauriers with PCAS Program Chair Joe Hodulik..

February Speaker *(continued from p. 1)*

He had a 37 year career with the Navy at China Lake as a physicist and executive, retiring in 2002. In retirement he returned to graduate school in archaeological anthropology, earning an MA in 2004. His research interests are Great Basin hunter-gatherers, rock art, and obsidian hydration dating, and he has published in all three areas. His paper on dating of the Coso rock art will appear in Vol. 37 of *American Indian Rock Art*, published by the American Rock Art Research Association. He is also co-author of *Land, People, and Rock Art of the Coso Range*, a popular overview of the Coso petroglyphs, published in 2009 by the Maturango Museum.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

March 11, 2010

Dr. Gary Stickel

*Ice Age Man in Malibu? The Clovis Culture
Discovery at Farpoint*

April 8, 2010

Dr. Nancy Desautels-Wiley

Bolsa Chica (Part 1)

May 13, 2010

Dr. Nancy Desautels-Wiley

Bolsa Chica (Part 2)

June 10, 2010

Dr. John Collins

Southwestern Indian Baskets

JANUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

President Sherri Gust called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm at the Old County Courthouse, Santa Ana, California. 2009 Board members present: Gail Cochlin, Megan Galway, Sherri Gust, Steve O'Neil, Tony Sawyer, and Ivan Strudwick. New 2010 Board members: Scott Findlay and Kathleen Shada. Members present: Bob Brace and Hank Koerper.

The November 2009 minutes were approved. There was no board meeting in December 2009. The treasurer's report and expenditures were approved and will be reviewed and summarized for publication.

The new Board elected the following officers to serve in 2010: President, Scott Findlay; Vice President, Steve O'Neil; Secretary, Megan Galway; and Treasurer, Rene Brace. The Board thanked Sandy Kennedy, Mark Roeder, and Tony Sawyer for their service. A Board Minute Action Letter was prepared for signature changes on our bank accounts. All existing Committee members were reappointed with no changes.

Scott Findlay reminded the Board that the Procedures Manual has gaps that need to be filled. The Holiday Dinner potluck was considered to be a success. PCAS participation in the AIA Archaeology Fair was extremely successful. We used 100 lbs of clay and about 600 shells, and all the attendees appeared to enjoy our displays. An email of appreciation from AIA estimated the attendance at about 2,500. The return of sensitive material from ORA-145 is still pending a suitable site and disposition.

Mark Roeder reported that display materials loaned to Fullerton Museum have been returned. A Quarterly/information table at the SCA Meeting in March was approved at a cost of \$50. PCAS will make a donation to the SCA Meeting Silent Auction similar to last year. We'll offer 2 packages consisting of the 40-year Index and 4 Quarterly issues. Winning bidders who pick up their prize at the conference – and save us the postage cost – will receive 5 issues. Bob Brace asked that we approve the reprinting of Quarterly issues before the SCA Meeting. The Board approved an expenditure of up to \$500 for this purpose. The March 2010 Board meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 16, to avoid conflict with the SCA Meeting.

Scott Findlay noted the next field trip will be to Anza-Borrego the weekend of February 13-15. There will be a curation workday on January 23. Quarterly Editor Hank Koerper noted that the Padon's double issue, Vol. 43 (1&2), and Vol. 42(4) should be ready to mail very soon. Megan Galway will promote the 2010 scholarship in the newsletter and consult with Sandy Kennedy to make sure the colleges are notified. Joe Hodulik's donation/award table brought in \$61.00 for the scholarship fund at the January meeting!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

FEBRUARY CURATION WORKDAY

When: February 27, 1 pm

Where: Red Car Building

We will continue to inventory and rebag the PCAS CA-ORA-236 (Coyote Canyon Cave), excavated by PCAS in the 1970s.

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! Please contact Mark Roeder (714-241-8880, curator@pcas.org) or Rene Brace (714-544-6282, info@pcas.org) for directions and to let us know you will be coming.

JANUARY CURATION WORKDAY

The January 23rd workday was very successful and progress was made on the extensive Coyote Canyon Cave collection. Just as at almost every workday, we enjoyed encountering an unusual artifact - a multi-holed tablet fragment. The steatite fragment has one complete hole and four partial holes along the broken edges. Dr. Henry C. Koerper has recently authored two articles for the PCAS Quarterly about multi-holed tablets: *The Case of the Missing Buck Ranch Mortuary Remains: A Mystery Partly Solved*, Vol. 41, Nos. 2 and 3, and (with co-author, Joe Cramer) *Additional Multi-Holed Tablets from the Fred Aldrick Collection, Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, Santa Ana*, Vol. 42, Nos. 2 & 3.

PCAS members participating: Bob Brace, Gail Cochlin, Scott Findlay, Megan Galway, Anne Handberry, Steve O'Neil, Mark Roeder, and Kathleen Shada.



A multi-holed tablet fragment from PCAS's ORA-236 collection.

AIA ARCHAEOLOGY FAIR.

The 2010 Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting was held in Anaheim this January, and PCAS was invited to participate in its Archaeology Fair at the Ocean Institute, Dana Point, on January 9th and 10th. We offered a scaled-down version of our regular outreach program with seed grinding, pottery making, shell drilling, and rock art bookmarks. AIA has estimated attendance at about 2,500 over the two days, and in that time we used 100 lbs of pottery clay and 600 shells, along with quantities of birdseed and blank bookmarks. Our volunteer turnout was one of the best in recent years and our thanks go to Tom Bogdan, Bob and Rene Brace, Linda Christison, Gail Cochlin, Scott Findlay, Megan Galway, Ardith Haworth, Steve O'Neil, and Kathleen Shada. Scott's table was one of the most popular, as he explained the value of marine resources and offered the opportunity for attendees to drill a seashell and make their own necklaces. People were lined up two and three deep for a chance to make their necklace, and a number of parents also made them.

Seventeen participant groups were spread over two rooms of the institute and in an adjoining plaza and included, among others, the Society for California Archaeology and California Archaeology Site Steward Program, the San Diego Archaeological Center, Kern County Archaeological Society, the Cotsen Institute, Bowers Museum, and Getty Villa. On Saturday we had a pipe and drum band performing in the plaza, and an atlatl demonstration took place every hour or so. On both days we had school groups in attendance and one student at our table was heard to declare this was "the best field trip I've ever been on." Volunteers were provided with coffee and donuts each morning and sandwiches, wraps, and salad for lunch. Event organizers were also very obliging when we asked for extra table space beyond the three that we'd originally requested. Overall, we felt it to be an extremely well-organized event.

PCAS has received a very nice letter of appreciation from the AIA along with a link to the O.C. Register's coverage. Their slide show of the event is available here: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/fair-228491-ocean-archaeology.html>.



Ardith Haworth and Linda Christison supervise seed grinding.



Kathleen Shada and Scott Findlay assist with shell drilling and stress the importance of shell to local Native Peoples.



Tom Bogdan teaches pottery making.



Megan Galway discusses pigments and symbols and supervises making rock art bookmarks.



Bob Brace discusses Native foods. Acorns, mesquite beans, choke cherries, native walnuts, and pine nuts were displayed in shell containers.



Scott Findlay assists with shell drilling.

2010 PCAS SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Submitted by Megan Galway

With the beginning of the spring semester, we would again like to remind local college and university students of the availability of PCAS scholarships and grants for the 2010/2011 academic year.

The Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a student entering his/her junior year in the fall. Applicants must be a California resident or attending a California university. The deadline for applications is April 30th.

PCAS Research and Presentation grants are awarded to assist with the cost of research supplies, testing expenses, or conference travel costs. Amounts granted will be at the discretion of the PCAS Board, and priority will be given to applicants willing to incorporate PCAS collections in their study. Grant applications are accepted throughout the year.

Our scholarship and grant program is funded by donations from our members, including funds raised by our monthly donation-award table run by Joe Hodulik.

Should you know any qualified students who have not heard of our program, please direct them to our website, www.pcas.org, for application guidelines and forms. Questions may be directed to scholarship@pcas.org or by telephone to 714-539-6354.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

When: February 13-15

Where: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

PCAS members plan to camp on Saturday and Sunday nights. This may be a one to three day field trip.

Please sign up for this field trip at the February General Meeting or by contacting Scott Findlay at fieldtrips@pcas.org or 714-342-2534. If you are unable to attend a field trip for which you have signed up, please contact Scott as soon as possible. For contact the day of the field trip, call cell phone 714-342-2534.

DIG THIS...



Exhibits

Abraham Lincoln: Self Made in America. Old Orange County Courthouse. Opening reception will be February 1, 11 am-1 pm (RSVP 714-973-6610). Free. Information: www.ocparks.com or 714-973-6605.

Lectures

Update on the Cary Ranch Survey, by Bill Eckhardt, a lecture of the Coachella Valley Archaeological Society. Cathedral City Community Center, February 2, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.

Lincoln in California?, by Don McCue (February 3, 6-7:30 pm); **See Lincoln Come to Life!**, by William Peck (February 11, 6-7:30 pm, RSVP by calling 714-973-6610); **Bicentennial's End, Where Does that Leave Lincoln?**, by Dr. Larry Burgess (February 17, 11:45-1 pm, RSVP or to order lunch [\$7] by calling 714-973-6610); **Lincoln's Last Photograph**, by Dr. Ron Rietveld (February 25, 6-7:30 pm). All lectures in conjunction with the Abraham Lincoln exhibit, Old Orange County Courthouse. Free. Information: www.ocparks.com or 714-973-6605.

Anza-Borrego Desert Park Archaeology Weekend lectures: **Of Shamans & Stars...Mystery Circles of the Desert**, by Nick and Bonnie Clapp, 11 am-noon; **Shamanistic Views of our Skies: Prehistoric Archaeoastronomy**, by Dr. G. Dicken Everson, 1-2 pm; **Archaeoastronomy & Rock Art**, by Ken Hedges, 2:30-3:30 pm. Anza- Borrego Desert Park Visitor Center, February 6. Information: <http://theabf.org>.

Culture and Landscape: The Story of Southern California, by Luz Ramirez de Bryson, Archaeologist. An Old School House Lecture, 6760 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms. February 12, 7 pm. Fee: \$5. Information: <http://desertinstitute.homestead.com>.

Section 14 - Heart of the Reservation, a Spirit Keepers Lecture of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum. Mizell Senior Center, 480 S. Sunrise Way (at Ramon Road), Palm Springs, February 16, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.accmuseum.org.

(Lectures continued)

Life and Death in the Periphery of the Mycenaean World: Late Bronze Age Albania, by Dr. Lorenc Bejko (University of Tirana, Albania). a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, February 21, 2-4 pm. Fee: \$5; students and members free. Information: <http://aia-oc.org>.

Alex Bevil will be the guest speaker at a lecture of the San Diego County Archaeological Society. Los Peñasquitos Ranch Adobe, February 23, 7:30 pm. Free. Information: www.sandiegoarchaeologicalsociety.com.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Archaeology Weekend, February 6-7, at Anza-Borrego State Park will focus on archaeoastronomy - the importance of the sky to historic and prehistoric people. Activities and displays will include tours of the archaeology and paleontology labs, Native American basket and pottery displays and demonstrations (craft items for sale), kids activities, Native plant use. See associated lectures under Lectures. Two field trips are being offered: **Clark Lake Petroglyph Field Trip**, with Chuck Bennett (February 7, 8:30 am-1 pm); and **Indian Hill Rock Art Shelter Field Trip** (February 7, 9:30 am-4 pm), led by Joan Schneider, PhD and/or Ken Hedges and Steve Freers. Fee: \$5. Pre-registration is required - call 760-767-4063. Information: <http://theabf.org>.

Cahuilla Pottery, by Tony Soares, a Living Traditions Class. Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, Palm Springs. February 27, 10:30 am. Fee: \$25; members free. Information: 760-778-1079 or www.accmuseum.org.

Natural and Cultural History of the Mojave National Preserve - The Low Country, by Robert Fulton. Zzyzx Desert Studies Center, April 16-18. Fee \$325 includes lodging and meals. Information: <http://biology.fullerton.edu/dsc/>. Registration through UC Riverside Extension at www.extension.ucr.edu or 951-827-4105.

Editor's Note: Please check time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to news-letter@pcas.org.

PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a non-profit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.
2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.
4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.
6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.
7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.
8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non-renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.
9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.
10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.

January Speaker Notes Continued (from page 2)

Middle Holocene (AD 500-1000) sites also contain shell fish hooks along with fluted points similar to Clovis. Large house floors of 12 m diameter were present. Late Holocene (AD1350-1732) sites are very abundant with one terrace of 3-5 hundred meters showing clear outlines of 481 house floor features (av. 3-4 m diameter). No Younger Dryas period impacts are visible probably due to the fact that freshwater is from springs rather than collected rainwater. Late Holocene sites have no circular shell fish hooks. Circular shell fish hooks were abandoned on Cedros (before use in Alta California) and replaced by cactus spine hooks. These cactus spine hooks, linguistics and ecological factors associate Cedros to Colorado Desert cultures.

The results of archaeological work on Cedros show the value of deconstructing modern/artificial boundaries, speak to the antiquity of humans in the New World, provide new insights into the origin and development of maritime hunter-gatherer sites.

Quarterly News

Forthcoming

PCASQ 43(1&2): Archaeology of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake

Russell L. Kaldenberg, editor

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake covers more than a million acres and has more than 16,000 recorded archaeological sites! In addition, the Coso Hot Springs District and the Coso Rock Art National Historical Landmark are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This double issue contains ten articles by eleven authors.

PCASQ 42(4): Southern California Prehistory

Henry Koerper, editor

The issue contains a major revision of the Encinitas tradition by Mark Sutton and Jill Gardner and a paper on effigies resembling male genitalia.

2010 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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*Denotes PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2010 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yes, I would like to receive my Newsletter by email. Please be sure email above is legible.

I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics _____

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

Subscription Only

Scholarship Fund

Active Member - \$45

Quarterly - \$37

Donation \$ _____

Family Membership - \$50

Newsletter - \$18

Supporting Member* - \$55

Student Associate - \$10 (email Newsletter only)

Donor Member* - \$75

Lifetime Member* - \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

www.pcas.org

Return form with payment to:

PCAS Membership
PO Box 10926
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926