



JANUARY 2013

# PCAS NEWSLETTER

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## JANUARY PCAS SPEAKER

**John Bretney**

### Analysis of the Rock Art at Little Lake

The Society's January speaker will be John Bretney, a PCAS member for the last decade, who works as a physicist for Raytheon. He holds a Master's degree in physics from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. For the past 15 years John has dedicated much of his free time to the Rock Art Archive at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA. Among the institute's activities is the recording of petroglyphs and pictographs at Little Lake, California. The results of these efforts are documented in *Rock Art at Little Lake: An Ancient Crossroads in the California Desert*. John also volunteers as a monitor for three rock art sites in the Opal Mountains.

Little Lake is located at the north end of a desert valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Here, water flows to the surface throughout the year. In what can be a harsh and unforgiving environment, desert people placed their symbols on natural rock walls, either by carving/pecking into the medium or by applying pigments onto stone surfaces. The eight large rock art sites at Little Lake are stretched across only a two mile area. All have more or less equal access.

Cotsen researchers apply statistical methods to clusters of rock art in such areas to draw comparisons that might allow inferences about functions of individual sites. Mr. Bretney will share with our members and guests the outcomes of investigations carried out by the Cotsen Institute at Little Lake and will detail his role in the process. (See photo on p. 7.)

## DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speaker, John Bretney, and PCAS members for dinner before the January 13th General Meeting. We will meet at 6 pm at Mimi's Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

## PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

### GENERAL MEETING

*Free and Open to the Public*

**January 10 - 7:30 pm**

**Speaker:** John Bretney

**Topic:** *Analysis of the Rock Art at Little Lake*

**Location:** IRWD Meeting Room  
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine  
**New Location - see p. 3.**

*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*

**January 17 - 7:00 pm**

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 December Speaker Notes
- 3 New PCAS Meeting Location
- 3 A Short History of the PCAS Logo
- 4 Holiday Dinner
- 5 Holiday Dinner Photos
- 6 Dig This - Exhibits, Lectures, and more
- 7 Photograph of Little Lake rock art
- 7 Speaker Schedule

**Happy New Year!**  
**Renew your PCAS Membership!**  
**Use the Form in this Newsletter.**

## DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

### *Idol Pursuits: Local and National Archaeologies in the United States after the Civil War*

*Submitted by Megan Galway*

Dr. James Snead spoke on a subject addressed in his book *Ruins and Rivals: The Making of Southwest Archaeology*—the disconnect between the documented history of archaeology in North America and what he referred to as the “social history” of archaeology. Early expeditions were sponsored by such institutions as the Smithsonian and were primarily interested in collecting artifacts. Meanwhile local landowners and historical societies were developing a curiosity about the cultural history of their surroundings.

Thomas Jefferson was a pioneer of North American archaeology, excavating a mound in Virginia in 1784 and reporting on his findings. The Smithsonian Institution was founded in 1846 and was a driving force in the development of archaeological knowledge. Meanwhile avocational archaeologists were recording and exchanging information at local levels. Charles C. Jones, Jr., a Southern aristocrat, studied Indian mounds in Georgia and in 1864 compared the loss of ancient cultures to current circumstances in the American South. Traveling salesman Horatio Nelson Rust took advantage of his travels to meet with local collectors and to trade in artifacts.

The 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia saw the development of the professionalization of archaeology. This led to the formation of the American Anthropological Association with C. C. Jones as president, but members were unable to settle on a future meeting location, and the association failed to survive. About this time the Smithsonian sent out a request to local societies for information from their areas of interest. Many boxes of documents were received and are still housed at the museum, but Joseph Henry, who was leading the project, died in 1878 and so did the project.

Dr. Snead pointed out that PCAS is one of many archaeological and historical societies throughout the country that maintain a wealth of information about our local cultural history. The fact remains that much of this information is never integrated into the overall cultural history of North America.



PCAS Program Chair Joe Hodulik with Holiday Dinner speaker, Dr. James Snead.

## NEW PCAS MEETING LOCATION

Starting with the January 10, 2013 General Membership meeting, PCAS will be using the Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) new Community Room for our monthly lecture meetings. The Community Room is located at 15500 Sand Canyon and is a few hundred feet across the parking lot from our old meeting location. Access to the Community Room will be through a side door, and we will have signs posted. Meeting time of 7:30 pm remains same, and Dinner-with-the-Speaker will still be held at 6 pm Mimi's Café in Irvine.

The IRWD has been very generous to provide this meeting room and the Duck Club to numerous non-profit organizations free of charge. We are grateful for the District's generosity.

**Caution:** A search of Google Maps produces an incorrect location.

## JANUARY CURATION WORKDAY

**When:** January 12, 2013, 1 pm

**Where:** Red Car Building

Everyone is welcome. Please contact **Mark Roeder** (714-299-4150, [curator@pcas.org](mailto:curator@pcas.org)) or **Scott Findlay** (714-342-2534, [fieldtrips@pcas.org](mailto:fieldtrips@pcas.org)) for directions and to let us know you will be coming.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PCAS LOGO

*Henry C. Koerper*

At the September 1963 PCAS Board meeting, attendees considered several designs proposed for their “club emblem” (*Smoke Signals* Vol. 2, No. 11). By the October Board get-together (*Smoke Signals* Vol. 2, No. 12), only two submissions remained in contention: (1) Jane Gothold’s entry featuring a cogged stone motif and (2) a “porpoise effigy” logo only roughly sketched by Ralph Irwin, who touted the appropriateness of a cetacean symbol by citing Kroeber’s (1925:624) observation that the Gabriellino regarded porpoises as watchful guardians of the world, circling round and round “to see that [all] was safe and in good order.” Irwin’s entry won out, but Gothold artistically reworked his design. Parenthetically, “porpoise” is often employed generically, the referent encompassing both porpoises and dolphins.

At this same October meeting there was mention of a new PCAS member, Joe Cote, well known in the local relic collecting community (see Pond 1968). Irwin and Cote were companions in pothunting ventures along the coast and at inland sites.

The newly adopted logo, a small cetacean leaping among the waves (Figure 1), first appeared on the January-February 1964 issue of *Smoke Signals*. The image appeared front cover with the inaugural issue of the *Quarterly* in early 1965, and it remained unchanged until 1992, when weight loss made for a more svelte animal, and a face-lift elongated the



**Figure 1.**

snout and greatly enlarged the creature’s eye (Figure 2). Symbol design was initially inspired by the steatite representation that appears in a photograph (Figure 3) taken by Joe Cote and given to Bill Ward of Long Beach. The cetacean effigy was supposedly collected by Cote from CA-LAN-98, or the Gabriellino village of *Suangna*, located near the intersection of two boulevards, Sepulveda and Wilmington, in Carson, but this provenance is questionable. Parenthetically, an extensive LAN-98 collection resides with the PCAS curation facility in Santa Ana; unfortunately, the collection is without any field notes.



**Figure 2.**

Cote eventually sold the too cute, frolicking cetacean effigy along with an outsized steatite fish hook mimic (see Figure 3) to a local collector. The objects’ present whereabouts are unknown to any PCAS member or other person queried by the author. *(Continued on p. 4)*



**Figure 3.**

## PCAS Logo (Continued from p. 3)

The oddly shaped proximal end of the sculpture (Figure 3) suggests a beak, more readily recalling certain dolphins, much less so the region's Dall's porpoise or harbor porpoise. In south central coastal California waters there are three species of dolphin displaying markedly distinct creases separating beak and forehead—common, striped, and bottlenose.

It is arguable whether Joe Cote had actually claimed to be the finder of the dolphin-like carving. Perhaps the piece had entered his collection through purchase. A related matter, and the larger issue, involves the artifact's authenticity, since it bears no credible resemblance to any regional, scientifically documented, archaeological or ethnographic specimen. Equally egregious are the "fishhook" effigy and the stone cross on the necklace seen in Figure 3.

An amusing irony attaches to the idea that this "club emblem" was probably modeled on an apocryphal artifact. PCAS founding member Helen Smith may have harbored certain reservations, as her nickname for the symbol, "the ubiquitous fish," sounds somewhat derisive.

### Acknowledgments

The author is grateful for information supplied by Bill Ward and Jane Gothold and for the assistance of Joe Cramer.

### References

- Kroeber, Alfred L.  
1925 *Handbook of the Indians of California*.  
Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin  
78. Smithsonian Institution, Washington,  
D.C.
- Pond, Gordon  
1968 Steatite Tablets from Malaga Cove. *The  
Masterkey* 42(4):124-131.

## HOLIDAY DINNER

PCAS members and guests enjoyed the annual Holiday Potluck Dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Duck Club. Dr. James Snead presented an entertaining and informative lecture.

This enjoyable evening would not have been possible without the efforts of many people. **Joe Hodulik** coordinated the reservations for the facility. **Bob and Rene Brace, Willa Clausen, Gail Cochlin, Dorothy DeGenaro, Scott Findlay, Megan Galway, Ardy Haworth, Joe Hodulik, and Lynn Miller** set up and festively decorated the Duck Club. Dishes brought by our members and guests were delicious. Everyone pitched in and made clean up fast and efficient. Thank you all for making the evening so enjoyable!

**Thanks to A Source of Pride  
and Owner Joe Hodulik  
for the Corporate Sponsorship of  
the PCAS Holiday Dinner!**

## Silent Auction

Congratulations to **Tom Knie**, the high bidder for the Trek 4300 Mountain Bike and Thule bicycle rack. Thank you to **Joe Hodulik** for arranging this donation and auction and for his Donation-Award table at our monthly meetings! The \$450 from this silent auction and \$1215 from Joe's table in 2012 will only be used for PCAS scholarships and grants.



**Joe Hodulik with Tom Knie, the silent auction winner of the mountain bike and rack.**



## DIG THIS...



### Lectures

***An Overview of Rock Art at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, CA***, by Dr. Marie G. Cottrell (Natural and Cultural Resources Officer), a lecture of the Coachella Valley Archaeological Society. Cathedral Center, 37-171 West Buddy Rogers, Cathedral City, January 8, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: [www.cvarch.org](http://www.cvarch.org).

***A Closer Look at the Yonis of San Diego County***, by Heather Thomson. This Second Saturday lecture will discuss ceremonial fertility sites. San Diego Archaeological Center, January 12, 11 am-1 pm. Information: [www.sandiegoarchaeology.org](http://www.sandiegoarchaeology.org) or 760-291-0370.

***Musical Coffins: The Reuse of Elite Coffins in the 31st Dynasty Theban Necropolis***, by Dr. Kara Cooney (UCLA). An ARCE lecture, Bowers Museum, January 12, 1:30 pm. Free. Information: [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org) or 714-567-3677.

***The Statues Walked—What Really Happened on Easter Island***, by Dr. Carl Lipo (CSULB), presented by the AIA, Orange County Society. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, January 27, 2 pm. Fee: \$5; members and students free. Information: <http://aia-oc.org>.

### Classes, Meetings, and Events

***Bird Singing: Indian Social Song and Dance—Panel Discussion***, moderated by Gerald Clarke, Jr., a program of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum. Spa Resort Casino Hotel, 100 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, January 23, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: [www.accmuseum.org](http://www.accmuseum.org).

***Singing the Birds (Wikitmalle Tahmuwhae): Bird Song and Dance Festival*** celebrates traditional Cahuilla bird singing and dancing. Palm Springs High School Gymnasium, 2401 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs, January 26, 11:00 am-8:00 pm.

### (Classes, Meetings, and Events Continued)

Admission and parking free. Information: [www.accmuseum.org](http://www.accmuseum.org).

***Paddle and Anvil Pottery***, by Tony Soares, a class of the Anza Borrego Foundation, will guide participants in creating an olla. February 15 and February 23, 9 am-4 pm. Fee \$160; members \$150. Information and registration: <http://theabf.org>.

***The Art and Science of Flintknapping***, by Jeanne Binning, a UCR Extension class at the Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx, February 22-24. Fee: \$325. Information: [biology.fullerton.edu/dsc](http://biology.fullerton.edu/dsc). Registration: [www.extension.ucr.edu](http://www.extension.ucr.edu) or 951-827-4105.

***Rock Art of Southern California***, by Daniel McCarthy, February 23, 8 am-6 pm, fee \$60 (members \$50); ***Intaglios Along the Colorado River***, by Daniel McCarthy, March 3, 7:30 am-6 pm, fee \$60 (members \$50); ***Native American Plant Uses***, by Daniel McCarthy, March 23, 9 am-4 pm, fee \$60 (members \$50); ***Native American Culture***, by Phil Kasky and Matthew Leivas, Sr. (Chemehuevi tribal leader), March 23 (9 am-4 pm) and March 24 (9 am-3 pm), fee \$110 (members \$100) or \$175 UCR credit fee (1.5 units). All are classes of the Joshua Tree Desert Institute. Information and registration: 760-367-5535 or <http://desertinstitute.homestead.com>.

***The 47th Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology*** will be held March 7-10 at the Doubletree Marina, Berkeley. Information and registration: [www.scahome.org](http://www.scahome.org).

### Websites

Visit [www.pcas.org](http://www.pcas.org) for all the latest news.

***Editor's Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@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.



Little Lake rock art. Come to the January 10th meeting!

## PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

**February 14, 2013**

**Dr. Hector Neff**

*Olmec and the Origins of Mesoamerican Civilization: Evidence from Ceramic Compositional Analysis*

**March 14, 2013**

**Steven Schwartz**

*Sifting Fact from Fiction: The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island*

**April 11, 2013**

**Dr. George Crawford**

*Eighty Years of Paleoindian Research on the Southern Plains: A View from the Clovis Site.*

**May 9, 2013**

**Dr. Edward J. Knell**

## 2012 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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\*Denotes PCAS Board Member

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**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)

- Active Member - \$45
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\* May be individual or family membership

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