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PCAS NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY PCAS SPEAKER

Jon Harman

*DStretch on the
Baja California Peninsula*

Zoom Meeting

February 11, 7 pm

Registration required

Please see instructions on p. 3.

Baja California has been a proving ground for DStretch. Dr. Harman has been visiting rock art sites there since 1999. When he created DStretch in 2004, he used photos from his past trips to develop the enhancements. Then, whenever he visited new sites, he tested and refined the enhancements on new photos. In this talk he will show images from the spectacular sites he has visited. These will include well-known sites such as San Borjitas but also previously unknown, yet very important, sites such as Chavalito



Jon Harman.

and Toños. The web pages he created to document these sites demonstrate unique ways of presenting images from a rock art site.

Most people are introduced to Great Mural art by visiting the fantastic sites in Sierra de San Francisco. This gives a “San Francisco” centric viewpoint of Great Mural art. In fact, the Sierra de Guadalupe has many more sites. Great Mural art follows strict conventions which makes style variations useful indicators of the movement of people. Changes in style can be used to document the migration of Great Mural art from Guadalupe north to San Francisco and San Borja.

Jon Harman received his BA in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972, and he completed his PhD in mathematics from Berkeley in 1980. He then worked in the field of medical imaging, designing algorithms used in creating and analyzing medical images.

Rock art has been Dr. Harman’s hobby for over 30 years. In pursuit of rock art sites, he has traveled throughout the United States and the Baja California Peninsula as well as elsewhere in Mexico, North Africa, Tanzania, Bolivia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and France.

In 2004 Dr. Harman created DStretch, a program for the enhancement of rock art images based on the decorrelation stretch algorithm. It is used by rock art researchers and amateurs to enhance paintings and engravings and bring out details that are otherwise invisible to the naked eye. Over the years he has improved the DStretch algorithms based on his extensive rock art experience to the point that DStretch is now the premier rock art enhancement program and is used worldwide.

From 2007 to 2016 Dr. Harman was invited by INAH (the Mexican archaeological institute) to travel to sites in the Sierra de (Continued on p. 4)

***See article about PCAS
Mail Problems on p. 4***

JANUARY SPEAKER NOTES

Tibenuk and Chuji: Status Attainment and Collective Action in Egalitarian Settings

By Megan Galway

Dr. Richard Chacon described the actions of two individuals in very different cultural settings and how they were able to achieve status and direct collective action within their communities.



Tibenuk was a Western Dani man in West Papua, New Guinea, who achieved Big Man status by having others become indebted to him through his actions. A Big Man organized rituals and pig feasts that might require up to 200 or 300 pigs and feed 2,000 participants, and without a form of money, he needed to

acquire these through the debts of others. There were three valuable commodities with which he was able to create these debts: stone axe blanks, salt bundles, and cowrie shells. Each of these involved a trip through often hostile territory.

The worked stone axe blanks would be used for gardening, splitting boards, or shaped into ceremonial axes used in initiation rituals or to honor ancestors. The closest quarry for this stone was 50 km away. Tibenuk had a reputation as a brave and honest man, and so he was able to enlist seven to ten others to join him on his expeditions to the quarry. The trips took two to three weeks, and the men returned carrying about 50 pounds of rock each. Tibenuk distributed this rock among the villagers and thus created debt. The men who joined him on the expeditions also owed him respect and loyalty. He made this journey at least four times, bringing back an estimated total of 2,000 pounds of stone axe blanks.

The salt bundles were gathered from an area 80 km from the village, and again he took a small group of men, and again created more debt. The cowrie shells, which are used for ceremonial exchange and bride price, came from the Ilaga Valley about 48 km distant and were gathered in the same way with the same result.

Over time after many of these trips, Tibenuk's debts were repaid in pigs, and he was able to organize pig feasts and was awarded Big Man status. He was able to do all this because he had a fierce warrior reputation and his supporters felt safe with him. He had the necessary courage, political skills, and a great memory of the debts.



The second incident was observed by Dr. Chacon around the world in the Ecuadorian Amazon in the village of Alto Corrientes where he observed the actions of a man named Chuji. Alto Corrientes was currently in a dispute

with the neighboring village of Conambo. A form of attack in this area was to lie in wait outside a village until the victim left his hut to relieve himself, at which time he would be shot. On the evening of June 29, 1996, an armed man was seen outside the village, and when Chuji's wife cried out in alarm, the villagers gathered together in the center of the village. Dr. Chacon likened this to the behavior of a musk ox herd, which when threatened group together with the young in the center, then the females, and with the mature males forming an outer defensive border.

At this point Chuji, who was already a high-ranking individual, took control and ordered the men of the village to get their weapons. When he saw there were limited shotguns, he paired the men with one weapon between them. He then assigned each of these pairs to go out and patrol and clear the trails and river crossings that accessed the village. Because Chuji had a reputation as a brave and dependable warrior, the men obeyed him without question and the attack was thwarted.

Dr. Chacon relates this as an example of the Status Theory of Collective Action. As a rule, nobody wants to be first, and Chuji's willingness to give orders was a departure from the norm and gained him status within the community. Similar events were likely seen in prehistory, for example when Solomon Islanders gave ritual feasts which generated debts. Failure to repay these debts creates social stigma leading to brawls and warfare.

PCAS Scholarships Available

It's been a long and strange year, and we know many of you are struggling with remote learning and job losses, but PCAS is still able to award \$1,000 scholarships to California undergraduates. This year we have three awards available: **The Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship** is named for a founding member of our society and is fully funded by generous donations from our members; **The Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship**, named for a passed Life Member, is generously funded by her husband, Tom; **The Sherri Gust Memorial Scholarship** is named for a passed Life Member and PCAS Board President and is funded in her memory by Cogstone Resource Management, the company she founded.

PCAS is dedicated to promoting the discipline of archaeology and encouraging its study wherever possible, and we thank all our donors for their generous assistance.

Applicants must achieve junior or senior status by fall 2021, must live in or be attending university in California, and display a proven interest in archaeology. Successful applicants will each receive an award of \$1,000 on enrollment for the fall semester. Complete application guidelines and an application form are available on our website: www.pcas.org/scholarship. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2021.

In addition to our undergraduate scholarship program, PCAS has research and presentation grants available to graduate students. Guidelines for these awards may also be found on our website.

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

PCAS ZOOM MEETING

- Email a registration request by **noon on Thursday, February 11** to membership@pcas.org.
- You will receive an email shortly with a link to the Zoom meeting.
- Guests (non-PCAS members) are welcome with registration.
- When the presentation starts, please **mute your microphone and turn off your webcam**.

PCAS host Steve Dwyer will open the Zoom meeting at 7 pm to allow time to resolve any technical problems prior to the beginning of the PCAS General Meeting and lecture at 7:30 pm.

PCAS 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

Donations	
Scholarship	\$900.00
Other Donations	\$2092.65
Interest	\$12.52
Member Dues	\$2910.00
Quarterly Sales	\$423.50
Subscriptions	\$940.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7278.67

EXPENSES

General Administration	\$623.65
Lecture Program	\$43.28
Newsletter	\$41.15
Quarterly Scholarship	\$65.52
Website	\$3000.00
PayPal Expense	\$124.99
	\$78.69
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3977.28

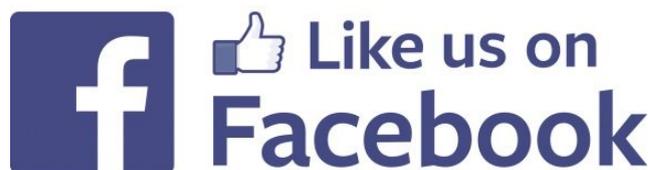
TOTAL (INCOME - EXPENSES) \$3301.39

ASSETS	12/31/19	12/31/20
Checking, CD, PayPal, & Money Market Accounts	\$16,946.53	\$22,368.72
Reserve for Curation	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
C14 Fund	\$4,406.04	\$4,406.04
Scholarship Fund	\$6,786.80	\$4,686.80
Postage Account	\$99.09	\$78.29
TOTAL ASSETS	\$36,238.46	\$39,539.85

LIABILITIES

Paid Subscriptions	\$5640.00	\$9,040.00
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Submitted by Rene Brace, Treasurer.



DIG THIS ...



Lectures

The UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology has virtual Pizza Talks and lectures scheduled: ioa.ucla.edu/events/upcoming. Past events can be viewed on the Cotsen Institute YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/CxT96YAosmk7vP3aNB4SHw.

The Classic Maya Site of El Palmar: Field Season 2019 and the Advancements in Archaeological Documentation Methods, by Alexandra Jonassen and Estevan Ramirez. A Coachella Valley Archaeological Society Zoom lecture, February 12, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org; required registration: cvasnews@dc.rr.com.

The Land of Gold and Nomads: The History and Archaeology of the Atbai Desert of Sudan, by Dr. Julien Cooper (United International College, Zhuhai, China). An ARCE/Bowers Museum online lecture, February 13, 11 am. Fee: \$10; ARCE and Bowers members free. Information and required registration: www.bowers.org.

The Rock Art of the Serranía La Lindosa, Colombia: Amazing Sites and Viral Hyperbole, by Jeff LaFave. An American Rock Art Research Association virtual lecture, February 13, 5:30 pm. Free. Information and required registration: arara.wildapricot.org. Link to previous lectures available on website.

Peopling the Americas: The Channel Islands and the Kelp Highway Hypothesis, by Jon Erlandson (University of Oregon). A Ventura County Archaeological Society Zoom lecture, February 9, 7 pm. Free. To request registration, email vcas.arch@gmail.com.

Living Room Lecture: Ancient Maya Cave Rituals, by Dr. Jon Spenard (CSU San Marcos). A San Diego Archaeological Center Zoom lecture, February 18, 6:30 pm. Free. Information and required registration: <https://sandiegoarchaeology.org>.

“GlyphMo!” Petroglyphs and More Along the Gila River, by Sherry Mitchell; **Art of the Moche and Chimu of Coastal Northern Peru**, by Sandy Zahn. San Diego Rock Art Association Zoom lectures, February 21, 4 pm (meeting opens at 3:30 pm). Required registration: www.sandiegorockart.org.

Lectures (continued)

A Burial's Burden: Occupational Stress in Ancient Egypt, by Dr. Anne Austin (University of Missouri). A Zoom lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. February 21, 2 pm. Free. Information: <http://aia-oc.org>. Registration: <http://aia-oc.org/contact/>.

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

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.

February Speaker (continued from p. 1)

Guadalupe in Baja California Sur to photograph and enhance the incredible Great Mural sites found there. Many of these sites were unknown to the world rock art community and have been documented for the first time by Dr. Harman's presentations and journal articles.

He has given over 50 presentations about DStretch and rock art sites at conferences including the Rock Art Symposium in San Diego, the American Rock Art Research Association, the Society for American Archaeology, the Society for California Archaeology, the Nevada Archaeology Association, and the International Federation of Rock Art Organizations. He has published papers in scientific journals including *Rock Art Papers*, *American Indian Rock Art*, the *Proceedings of the Society of California Archaeology*, and the *International Newsletter of Rock Art*.

In 2016 Dr. Harman created apps based on DStretch which can be used on iPhones (iDStretch) and Android phones (aDStretch). These apps allow users to enhance rock art when at the site.

PCAS MAIL PROBLEMS

We have been having problems receiving PCAS mail. Because of Covid 19, we requested the Post Office to forward PCAS mail instead of holding it in the PCAS PO Box. We have encountered problems involved in that change. USPS is investigating, but the problem has not yet been resolved.

If any correspondence or payments have been returned to you, please contact Membership Chair Megan Galway at membership@pcas.org or 714-539-6354 for the correct forwarding address.

We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to have this problem resolved in the near future.

PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit 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.



Join us for a live PCAS Zoom lecture with Jon Harman speaking on "DStretch on the Baja California Peninsula."

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 7 pm

See p. 3 of this newsletter for registration instructions.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

March 11, 2021

Dr. D. Clark Wernecke

Gault and the Peopling of the Americas

April 8, 2021

Dr. Thomas Deméré

The 130 ka (MIS 6-5) Cerutti Mastodon Site: History of Investigations, Present Status of Research, and the Debate

May 13, 2021

Dr. Jon Erlandson

Peopling the Americas: The Channel Islands and the Kelp Highway Hypothesis

June 10, 2021

Dr. Donn R. Grenda

A Railroad Runs Through It: Historical-Period Ethnic Chinese and Mexican Communities in Downtown Redlands, California

2021 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Historian/Librarian	Jane Gothold	historian-librarian@pcas.org	562-947-6506
Membership	Megan Galway	membership@pcas.org	714-539-6354
Native American Liaison	Steve O'Neil	nativeamericanliaison@pcas.org	949-677-2391
Newsletter Editor	Rene Brace	newsletter@pcas.org	714-544-6282
Programs	Joe Hodulik	programs@pcas.org	949-300-1864
Publicist	Joe Hodulik	publicity@pcas.org	949-300-1864
<i>Quarterly</i> Co-Editor	Alan Garfinkel	publications@pcas.org	805-312-2261
<i>Quarterly</i> Co-Editor	Steve O'Neil	publications@pcas.org	949-677-2391
Refreshments	Gail Cochlin	refreshments@pcas.org	714-745-0815
Scholarship	Megan Galway	scholarship@pcas.org	714-539-6354
Website	Rene Brace	info@pcas.org	714-544-6282

*PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2021 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

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

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member – \$45
- Family Membership – \$50
- Supporting Member* – \$55
- Donor Member* – \$75
- Lifetime Member* – \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* – \$40
- Newsletter* – \$20

www.pcas.org

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

Join online:

www.pcas.org/membrs.html

or

**Contact Membership Chair
Megan Galway at [member-ship@pcas.org](mailto:membership@pcas.org) or 714-539-6354 for mailing address.**