



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

May/June - 2009



"Painted Rock Pictograph Tour Carrizo Plain National Monument"

Saturday, May 9, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Meeting place: Overlook Hill off Soda Lake Road, Carrizo Plain

Join SAS on a special hiking tour of Painted Rock in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Painted Rock is one of the more significant examples of Native American rock painting (pictograph) sites in the world. Chumash, Yokut, and other native peoples lived, hunted, and traded in this central region of California for thousands of years and created the pictographs as an expression of ceremonial and religious beliefs. It continues to be recognized as a sacred site.

Tour begins promptly at 10am! A Bureau of Land Management interpretive guide will lead us from Overlook Hill to the boardwalk near Soda Lake, past the Goodwin Education Center, and out ½ mile to Painted Rock. Total trip time is four hours with one hour for lunch and rest near the Painted Rock cave. **Wear layered clothing and sturdy hiking shoes/boots. Bring water and a sack lunch or midday snacks. Gas is not available within Carrizo Plain boundaries, so please fill up your vehicle tank before you enter the Monument.**

Directions & Lodging: Via Hwy. 101, take Hwy 58 east to Santa Margarita. From there travel 52 miles east to California Valley. Turn right on Soda Lake Road and head south 8 miles to the northern boundary of Carrizo Plain National Monument. Via I-5 take Hwy. 58 west 40 miles to California Valley, then turn left on Soda Lake Road, heading south 8 miles to the Monument boundary. Primitive camping sites are available at the Selby and KCL Campgrounds. **Nearest hotels are located in Buttonwillow, 50 minutes to the North of Carrizo Plain, and Taft, 50 min. to the East. Carpooling and an overnight stay at hotels or campsites on Friday, May 8th are strongly encouraged!**

To register for this hike, please send an Email to april_farnham@sbcglobal.net.

This activity is limited to 30 participants so please sign up early!
Individual donation of \$5 suggested to support 2009 SAS scholarship award.
Donations may be in person or sent to Sacramento Archeological Society, P.O. Box 163287,
Sacramento, CA 95816

OPEN EXCLUSIVELY TO CURRENT MEMBERS OF SAS

SAS Archaeology Movie Night

On Saturday, April 4th, approximately 10 members of SAS gathered at Roger and Lydia Peake's home for a fun and relaxing evening of eating and movie-watching! Featured films included "The Obsidian Trail", "Echoes of a Lost Valley", and "Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures."

This event represented SAS's resumption of Archaeology Movie Night and we hope to plan more! Movie nights offer a great opportunity for members to mingle, network, and learn more about archaeology. Oh, and did we mention the wonderful potlucks? Each "Archaeology Movie Night" will feature two films, an educational documentary plus a more light-hearted film with an archaeology bent - think "Raiders of the Lost Ark" or "National Treasure"! As an added incentive, we'll throw in door prizes and/or a raffle drawing featuring unique items with an archaeological theme - all proceeds to be donated to the SAS Scholarship Fund.

Our next "Archaeology Movie Night" is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, June 27th at Roger and Lydia Peake's home**. SAS thanks Roger and Lydia for graciously offering their home for these events. Tell us, what archaeology, anthropology, or history-related films would you like to see? Please email April at april_farnham@sbcglobal.net.

Passport in Time Archaeology Projects

The following two archaeology projects through the USDA Forest Service Passport in Time Projects (PIT) are accepting applications. **The deadline for applying to the Allensworth SP dig is April 13th while the deadline for the Los Padres NF dig is May 11th.** The Los Padres NF Range and Rock Art project will be lead by Pat Likins, a 2008 SAS speaker. The Painted Rock Pictograph Tour at Carrizo Plain, sponsored by SAS, should provide good insight to the types of rock art encountered during Los Padres NF PIT project. For more information, visit <http://www.passportintime.com/>

Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park - California State Park (CSP)

Archaeological Survey of an Historic African-American Town

CA-3821

June 15-19; 22-26, 2009

Must commit to one full session; may participate in both

Founded in 1908 in the ancient Tulare Lake bed, Allensworth was the first all-Black township in California. The Park encompasses over 1000 acres and includes 22 historic house museums, ruins, and an extensive National Register historic district. Volunteers will contribute to the preservation of Allensworth by being part of a complete archaeological survey of the Park. We expect to find previously unidentified historic house foundations, historic trash sites, and prehistoric lithic sites. The first day for each session will include an orientation and tour of the park as well as training in survey techniques, artifact recognition, and documentation of archaeological finds.

Number of openings: 25

Special skills: Volunteers should be physically able to walk a minimum of 1-2 miles per day in hot (90-100 degrees), often dusty weather in nearly flat terrain; previous archaeological survey experience helpful, but not required

Minimum age: 18 years old

Facilities: Camping within the Park in developed spaces; flush toilets, showers, and water; RV spaces, no hookups; volunteers responsible for personal camping equipment and food; nearest motel, shopping, restaurants, etc. in Delano (15 mi.)

Nearest towns: This project will take place in Allensworth; Alpaugh, 7 miles; Delano, 15 miles; Tulare, 30 miles

Applications due: April 13, 2009

Los Padres NF

New! Range and Rock Art

CA-3839

Four Sessions:

July 13-17; August 10-14, 2009: Archaeological survey, site monitoring and record updating

July 24-26; August 28-30, 2009 (including weekends): Site monitoring and record updating

Must commit to one full session; may participate in more

The remote and rugged country of the Los Padres NF, usually closed to vehicle access, was once the home of the Inland Chumash people. This project presents a rare opportunity to see some extraordinary archaeological sites, and to learn more about how these indigenous people used the landscape of the past. Volunteers will experience some beautiful settings, and will work in an area that was the last major stronghold of the country's wild condors and where some have been released back into the wild. We will be analyzing cultural sites and features within three cattle allotments this year. The allotments contain a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) District with over 70 previously recorded sites, including many with pictographs. Study in the allotments will involve two different tasks, and PIT volunteers will be asked to elect which of these they would like to be involved in.

The first task will be to conduct archaeological survey in areas within the allotments where survey has not been done previously. If you choose to help survey, you will work closely with archaeologists to help identify and record the location and types of any cultural resources that may be present. This task will be split into 2 weeklong sessions, and will exclude weekends. Those choosing to do survey should plan to walk long distances each day in potentially rough terrain and changing weather conditions. We hope to cover approximately 40 acres per day per person.

Task two will be to monitor sites and update site records to create a better picture of what cultural resources are present in the area. PIT volunteers and Los Padres staff will study these sites to determine whether there have been any adverse effects from grazing. This task will be split into 2 three-day sessions, and will include weekends. Monitoring and updating will also require periods of walking over moderate to rough terrain, except for during the July 24-26 session where work will take place in more forgiving country.

Please indicate on your applications which task(s) you are interested in, and please also note any experience that you may have.

Number of openings: 32 (8 per session)

Special skills: Volunteers electing survey must be physically able to walk long distances each day over rough terrain in various weather conditions, especially heat. Monitoring and updating may also require walking over rough terrain, except for the days during the indicated session. Experience with mapping, drawing, photography, and/or GPS helpful, but not required; experience in free climbing is a bonus!

Minimum age: 16 years old, under 18 with a responsible adult

Facilities: Primitive camping; outhouses only; volunteers responsible for personal camping equipment, food, and water

Nearest towns: New Cuyama, 25 miles

Applications due: May 11, 2009

Archeo News Bits

“Ancient bones found at UCSD back in dispute”

Skeletal remains unearthed at the University of California San Diego more than 30 years ago have sparked a fresh debate between the interests of science and culture – and the university is caught in the crossfire.

Administrators at the La Jolla campus want federal approval to turn over bones found near the chancellor's seaside home to the region's Kumeyaay tribes. Unearthed in 1976, the nearly 10,000-year-old remains are believed to be among the oldest found in the Western Hemisphere. But to UCSD's chagrin, the request has generated criticism from both major parties in the dispute – the Kumeyaay and UC researchers. For more information visit

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/mar/20/1n20bones002815-ancient-bones-found-ucsd-back-disp/?uniontrib>

“Sensational new Mayan archaeological find at El Mirador in Guatemala”

Guatemala - A new Mayan archaeological discovery of a 2200 year-old carving was found at El Mirador, Guatemala. The archaeological site El Mirador continues to astound the world. A team of archaeologists, mostly Guatemalans, under the coordination of Richard Hansen made the discovery of a carving of the Mayan Pre-Classic Period that dates from 200 BC.

"This finding is impressive as finding the Mona Lisa. It is an impressive example of Mayan art", Hansen stated. The carving is in a structure that was used to store water and shows a Mayan mythological passage, where the twin heroes Ixbalanque and Hunacpú leave the underworld carrying the head of their father, Hun Hunapú.

For more information visit

<http://www.guatemala-times.com/archeology/mirador/875-sensational-new-mayan-archaeological-find-at-el-mirador-in-guatemala.html>

“Biblical Sodom and Gomorrah found”

To date there has been located only evidence for two of the five Cities of the Plain, but they are proposing that the evidence is strong that the two most important cities of Sodom and Gomorrah have been found. That being the evidences found of destruction by fire at each site due to the layers of ash found in the digs by archaeologists.

Bab edh-Dhra (Sodom) is the larger of the two sites, the 7 meter wide (23 feet) city wall enclosed 9-10 acres with gates located at the west and the northeast. The northeast gate had two flanking towers with massive stone and timber foundations, possibly the gate in which Lot sat (Genesis 19:1). Estimated population at the time of the destruction was between 600-1200. There was a large cemetery at Bab edh-Dhra and pottery evidence indicates that some of the residents of Numeira (Gomorrah) buried their dead in this cemetery. It appears that Numeria was in existence for only a short time, possibly less than 100 years. Paleobotany investigations indicated that a rich diversity of crops were grown in the area including barley, wheat, grapes, figs, lentils, flax, chickpeas, peas, broad beans, dates, and olives. For more information visit

<http://www.accuracyingenesis.com/sodom.html>

"13,000 Year Old Tools Unearthed at Colorado Home"

Landscapers were digging a hole for a fishpond in the front yard of a Boulder home last May when they heard a "chink" that didn't sound right. Just some lost tools. Some 13,000-year-old lost tools. They had stumbled onto a cache of more than 83 ancient tools buried by the Clovis people - ice age hunter-gatherers who remain a puzzle to anthropologists. For more information visit

<http://seattletimes.nwsource.com>

SAS Highlights

Scholarship Applications Due

Applications SAS scholarships are due **May 1, 2009**. **The total funds available are about \$1,400**. The scholarships may be in lesser amounts, so that more scholarships may be awarded. For applications and more information reference www.sacarcheology.org.

Membership

As of April we have 64 members. If you would like a copy of the roster, please contact, Jan Johansen @ janjohansen@sbcglobal.net. Renewed memberships and new members are always welcome. Please support the society's effort to continue our scholarships and promote archaeology and anthropology. For membership information visit our web site, www.sacarcheology.org.

BARARA

The **“Rocks of Ages: The Spectacular Diversity of Rock Art in California”** opening exhibit and lecture, on March 7th by Dr. Paul Freeman and Leigh Marymor were well attended by Society members, Bay Area Rock Art Research Association (BARARA) members, and individuals interested in rock art in the area. Dr. Paul Freeman highlighted Contra Costa County: Canyon Trails Park in El Cerrito.

Since SAS is a member of BARARA we may have more opportunity to experience area rock art.

Tour of Peace Valley, Sutter Buttes

A group of a dozen SAS members and Kathie Lindahl and Dionne Gruver, Senior State Archaeologists, both involved with the most recent cultural resource survey of the valley were lead by California State Parks Rangers on a special hiking tour of Peace Valley, a state parks property nestled within the majestic Sutter Buttes. Ranger **Tim Davis** offered knowledge about the geology, prehistory, history, and biology of this remarkable area. Highlighted features included undisturbed archaeological sites such as bedrock mortar stations and rock shelters utilized by Native Americans. Members of SAS who attended this hike truly enjoyed this experience.

Youth Interested in Archaeology

Zachary T. DeMotte, a Sacramento science student, requested information for a science class project on a career in archaeology. The request was forwarded to archaeologists and Dr. Brian Fagan provided a very timely, informative response. Thank you Dr. Fagan.

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Mark Your Calendars

April 18-19, 2009 – Spring Indian Arts and Crafts Fair at the California State Indian Museum

April 26, 2009, Sunday – 10 am to 3 pm **Maidu Spring Celebration** at the Maidu Interpretive Center

May 4, 2009, Monday – 7 to 9 pm Board of Directors' Meeting at April Farnham's home

May 9, 2009, Saturday - Ice Age Arts and Crafts lecture by Chuck Kritzon at the Maidu Interpretive Center

May 9, 2009, Saturday – 10:00 am to 2 pm **SAS Hiking Tour of Painted Rock pictograph site at Carrizo Plain**, overnight campout in Carrizo Plain or stay in nearby hotel , **please RSVP April Farnham by Email**

June 6, 2009, Saturday – Honored Elders' Day at **California State Indian Museum**, Sacramento

June 8, 2009, Monday – 7 to 9 pm Board of Directors' Meeting, location TBD

June 27, 2009, Saturday - 6:00 to 9:00 pm **SAS "Archaeology Movie Night"** (tentatively scheduled), at Roger and Lydia Peake's home

July 11, 2009, Saturday – *Native Art Around the World* lecture by **Stan Padilla** at Maidu Interpretive Center

July 18, 2009, Saturday - 11am to 2 pm **"Seaweed, Salmon, and Manzanita Cider: A California Indian Feast"**
SAS Social Potluck gathering at the **California State Indian Museum**, with **presentation/demonstration by Kimberley Stevenot (Miwok)** and other presenters.

Note: SAS sponsored events are highlighted in blue.



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