



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

September/October - 2011

Mark Your Calendars

September 29, 2011 to October 2, 2011 – Humboldt County Archeological/Anthropological Tour
December 3, 2011, Saturday - SAS Annual Meeting

UPCOMING SOCIETY'S EVENTS

HUMBOLDT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL/ANTHROPOLOGICAL TOUR

Thursday, September 29 – Sunday, October 2

Don't miss the archeological/anthropological field trip to Humboldt County, California on Thursday, September 29 to Sunday, October 2. The tour will feature

- Thursday, September 29 – 6:00 p.m. - dining at historic Samoa Cookhouse in Eureka
- Friday, September 30 – 10:00 a.m. - a guided tour of Clarke Historical Museum in Eureka
- Friday, September 30 - 12:00 - visit to Fort Humboldt State Historic Park in Eureka
- Friday, September 30 – 2:00 p.m. - narrated historical Madaket Cruise on Humboldt Bay in Eureka



Fort Humboldt – Surgeon Quarters



Washington Slackline Yarder



Madaket

- Saturday, October 1 – 10:00 a.m. a guided tour of Yontocket near Jedediah Smith State Park and the Smith River by Suntayea Steinruck, Tribal Heritage Preserves Officer
- Sunday, October 2 – 10:00 a.m. - a guided visit to Yurok camp at Patrick's Point State Park and a lecture on Yurok language by **Kathleen Vigil**, a Yurok elder



Recreation at Yurok camp

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend as many of the activities as you are able. Reservations are necessary. Contact Jan Johansen at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net or 707-682-6031 to reserve your spot in this historical, anthropological and archeological tour and receive additional info.

Samoa Cookhouse

Samoa Cookhouse, the last surviving lumberjack camp style cookhouse in the West, has been serving heaping meals since 1893. When you're out there looking for something that offers a taste of real California, this is one of the best bets. Big lumberjack servings, a long checked table setting, and the kitchen overlooking the dining area all make this the hit of the town of Samoa, once a thriving lumber community. With over 100 years of doing something right, there's only good vibes in the big red building with several huge rooms and a smaller dining enclave next to the Lumberjack Museum inside the building.

<http://www.beachcalifornia.com/samoa-cookhouse.html>

Clarke Historical Museum

Located in the heart of Old Town Eureka, at the corner of Third and E Streets, the Clarke Historical Museum is one of the gems of the North Coast. The exhibits in the 1912 bank building show the history of Humboldt County, with emphasis on the late 1800's. The displays include furniture, glassware, clothing, and other items from the Victorian period.

The Native American Wing houses a world recognized collection of local Native American baskets, ceremonial regalia, lithic tools and arrowheads, an authentic dugout canoe, miniature plank house, and much more.

<http://www.clarkemuseum.org/>

Fort Humboldt

Established in 1853, Fort Humboldt was only occupied by the Army for 13 years. Among the fort's early garrison was Captain Ulysses S. Grant --- later to become Civil War general and president of the United States. At its heyday, the fort had 14 buildings all of crude plank construction, though most were plastered inside. Most original buildings are gone, but the hospital and surgeon's quarters have been reconstructed. The fort was abandoned in 1870.

In addition the site highlights the Humboldt County logging history.

<http://redwoods.info/showrecord.asp?id=1720>

Madaket

Madaket is the last remaining vessel of the fleet that once transported workers around Humboldt Bay. Amongst these passengers were hundreds of mill workers and longshoremen employed by timber companies such as Hammond Lumber Company, Dolbeer-Carson, Simpson, Georgia Pacific and others of the era. The ferries would operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, each carrying no less than 1,500 people a day around the shore. They were a vital link to the early day economics.

Now Madaket is a vital part of the tourist industry. She is a reminder of the bays maritime past preserved for the future. The Motor Vessel Madaket is one of 700 historic vessels registered in the United States. She was built for the shallow waters of Humboldt Bay at Fairhaven Ca, in 1909, by shipwright

McDonald. 47.5 feet in length, 12 foot at the beam and draws a mere 3.75 feet. Launched onto its placid waters on June 6th 1910, she continues to be the oldest passenger carrying vessel in continuous service in the United States and boasts the smallest licensed bar in the state of California.

<http://www.humboldtbymaritimemuseum.com/MADAKETHistory.html>

<http://www.humboldtbymaritimemuseum.com/madaketmainpage.html>

Yontocket

From my new THE HIKER'S hip pocket GUIDE to the HUMBOLDT COAST book by Bob Lorentzen:

"The Tolowa and their neighbors considered the Tolowa village of Yontaket, which was located at the north end of this hike, to be the center of the world, the place where the First People created this world. Every year Yurok from the south and Chetco and Tututnu from the north would journey to Yontakit for a ten-day world renewal ceremony, believed essential for the continuance of the cycle of life. During one of these ceremonies in 1853, a tragic slaughter occurred at Yontokit. White vigilantes came at the height of the ceremony, setting the village on fire and massacring hundreds of residents and visitors."

<http://elizabethtool.com/2009/08/18/north-to-yontocket-iii/>

Patrick's Point State Park

Sumeg Village

The recreated Yurok village - "Sumeg" - consists of traditional style family houses, a sweat house, changing houses, a redwood canoe, and a dance house. The village is used by the local Yuroks for education of their youth and to share their culture with the public. Adjacent to Sumeg Village is a native plant garden where you will find native plants that were used for baskets, food and medicine.

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=417

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

FLINTKNAPPING WORKSHOP



John Foster's Creation

On Saturday, July 30th lithic advocate, Gary Alexander who was a 2010 scholarship winner led a flint knapping workshop for Society members. The event was attended by 10 members. Each had a great time toning their skill at working obsidian. John Foster's work is portrayed in the photo.

ARTIFACTS PROCESSING for PAR Environmental Services

PAR Environmental Services has been working on a historic site in Folsom, CA since March and have invited volunteers to assist in washing and sorting the many boxes of artifacts from our 61 features. The majority of the material is from 1860-1900 deposits on the Folsom Railroad block. Lots of bottles, ceramics with maker's marks, ball clay tobacco pipes, railroad related tools and artifacts such as a brass padlock stamped C.P.R.R [Central Pacific Railroad]). Work has been conducted in Folsom at the

parking garage on Reading and Sutter streets. PAR Environmental Services thank the SAS members who have volunteered to help with this project.

SIERRA ROCK ART TOUR

Led by Dan Foster, John Betts, and Michael Baldrica
Saturday, August 20, 2011

Over 30 people attended the Sacramento Archeological Society's sponsored Sierra/Rock Art Field Trip on Saturday, August 20. We were fortunate to have archeologists, Dan Foster lead the field trip to spectacular Meadow Lake rock art site within the high country in the Northern Sierra Nevada. Dan Foster who studied and published an article with Betts and Sandelin on the Style 7 Rock Art and Martis Archaeological Complex, of which Meadow Lake is a world-class Style 7 petro glyph site. We were also blessed to have two other notable Style 7 Rock Arch scholars Michael Baldrica, District Archaeologist on the Tahoe National Forest and John Betts who has recorded more Style 7 sites than anyone joined Dan in his talk to the group and answer questions. Also Nevada Rock Art Society was engaged in a formal petro glyph recording project. We were fortunate to receive a briefing from that group.

The Meadow Lake is a spectacular example of the Style 7 group of Rock Art sites found only in the high country of the Northern Sierra Nevada. About 150 sites of this style are now known. This is one of the largest Style 7 sites containing several hundred petro glyph images concentrated across an area about 3 acres in size. Style 7 Rock Art (first defined by Sam Payen in 1966) is thought to be associated with the **Martis Archaeological Complex**, is some of the oldest forms of rock art found in the area (perhaps about 4000 years old). Although the style exhibits more variability in terms of subject matter depicted than any of the other styles in the area, it is also highly distinctive, and sites of this group are easily recognized as part of a very similar pattern - even sites 75 miles apart. The patterns of site selection, environmental setting, types of rock surfaces utilized, and subject matter, as well as archaeological associations, provide us with a Style 7 signature.



Group at Meadow Lake



Meadow Lake Petro glyph



Meadow Lake Petro glyph

In addition the group visited Kyburz Flat Interpretive Area. **Michael Baldrica**, District Archaeologist on the Tahoe National Forest lead this part of the tour. The area was inhabited by Washoe Indians who lived there perhaps as early as 200 years ago up to the 1850's when emigrants began using the Henness Pass route. We examined a Kyburz petro glyph, Type 2 Rock Art consisting of cupules. These are small round pits that have been ground into the rock surface. Kyburz Flat also included the ruins of an 1860 Stage Stop, More's Station.



Group at Kyburz Flat



Kyburz Fl Petro glyph



More's Station

Here are two on-line articles about Style 7 Rock Art: (courtesy of Dan Foster)

http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology/Abstract_Representational.php

http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/archaeology/downloads/Style7RockArt_and_TheMartisComplex.pdf

The first one is a summary piece with good photos. The second one is Dan's 30-page published article.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS & REFERENCES

“Saudis 'find evidence of early horse domestication' 9,000 years ago” - 24 August 2011 Last updated at 18:19

Saudi officials say archaeologists have begun excavating a site that suggests horses were domesticated 9,000 years ago in the Arabian Peninsula.

The vice-president of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities said the discovery at al-Maqar challenged the theory it first took place 5,500 years ago in Central Asia.

Ali al-Ghabban said it also changed what was known about the evolution of culture in the late Neolithic period.

A number of artifacts were also found.

They included arrowheads, scrapers, grain grinders, tools for spinning and weaving, and other tools that showed the inhabitants were skilled at handicrafts.

Read more here. <http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW>

“Homo erectus traveled the high seas 130,000 years ago”

*Human precursors went to sea, team says
By Helen Chappell / McClatchy Newspapers
Tuesday, August 16, 2011*

RALEIGH, N.C. — Early manlike creatures may have been smarter than we think. Recent archaeological finds from the Mediterranean show that human ancestors traveled the high seas.

A team of researchers that included an North Carolina State University geologist found evidence that our ancestors were crossing open water at least 130,000 years ago. That's more than 100,000 years earlier than scientists had previously thought.

Their evidence is based on stone tools from the island of Crete. Because Crete has been an island for eons, any prehistoric people who left tools behind would have had to cross open water to get there.

The tools the team found are so old that they predate the human species, said Thomas Strasser, an

archaeologist from Providence College who led the team. Instead of being made by our species, Homo sapiens, the tools were made by our ancestors, Homo erectus.

Read more here. <http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW>

“Los Angeles' Southwest Museum is an artifact worth saving” -

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0701-tobar-20110701,0,2281984.column?>

Archaeological Headlines - <http://www.archaeology.org/news/>

Archaeology Expert - An Extensive Guide to Archaeology - <http://archaeologyexpert.co.uk/>

Society for Historical Archaeology Current Project List - <http://www.sha.org/projectstest.cfm>