



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

March/April - 2013

Mark Your 2013 Calendars

March 7-10, 2013 SCA

March 27, Wednesday - 7:00 p.m. – Board Meeting, Peake's

April 3-7, 2013 SAA

April 18-21 Merlot, Mammoths and Middens Tour - Sonoma Coast Archeological Exploration

June 7-9 North Central California Archeological Tour

October 19 Speaker's Forum

UPCOMING EVENTS

MERLOT, MAMMOTHS AND MIDDENS TOUR

Breck Parkman et. al.

April 18-21, 2013

at

Sonoma Coast

This tour for Sacramento Archeological Society Members only will explore notable archeological sites on the Sonoma Coast. Archeologists who have investigated this area will lead us.

April 18 (Thursday) - optional day trip from Sacramento to **Bale Grist Mill SHP** including wine tasting etc. Plan to stay in Rohnert Park that night.

Suggested Motel: Good Nite Inn, 5040 Redwood Dr., Rohnert Park, CA 94928 (1-866-599-6674)

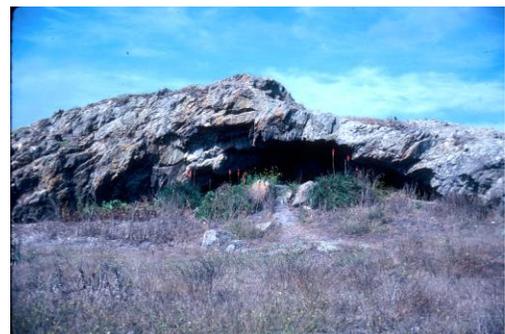
April 19 (Friday) Tour begins with a visit to **Duncan's Landing archaeological site** on the Sonoma Coast between Bodega Bay and Jenner. Next is a coastal hike to the **Mammoth rubbing rocks**. **Breck Parkman** will lead both explorations.

Enjoy a picnic lunch where the mammoths once roamed.

For an article by Breck Parkman on the mammoth rubbing rocks contact John Foster at parkarchy@yahoo.com for the pdf. It's really an interesting site and we are happy to have the expert lead us there.

Photo: Duncan's Landing Rockshelter

Suggested Motel: Cottages On River Road, 14880 River Road,



Guerneville, CA 95446

April 20 (Saturday) Drive to Jenner (mouth of Russian River) and north to **Ft. Ross**. Tour Russian fort and **Pomona shipwreck** site. State Park Ranger, Bill Walton will lead the fort tour.

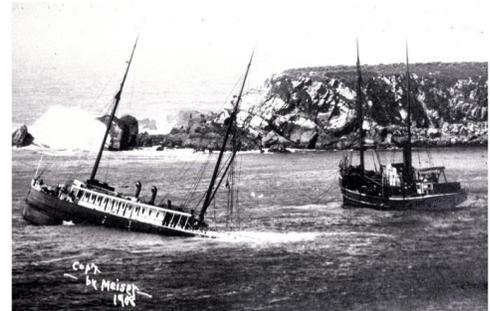
A replica of a windmill that was built 200 years ago at the Fort made its debut in October. The replica was handmade in Kirillov, Russia, then disassembled and shipped to Fort Ross where it was reassembled. Architect Anton Maltsev of the Restoration Center in Moscow and architect Aleksander Popov, the center's director, took four months to build the windmill in Kirillov, a city where windmills had traditionally been built, using designs and techniques that evolved since 1100. The windmill is handmade of pine, spruce and birch, held together with wooden pegs and hand-forged fittings, with the architects using axes, adzes and drawknives just as craftsmen would have 200 years ago. The windmill is a Russian-style "post mill" in which the entire mill house swivels around a central post to keep the vanes facing into the wind. It is fitted with two 200-year old mill stones and the ability to use wind power to grind grain.

John Foster who explored the Pomona shipwreck underwater site will lead discussion. Contact John Foster at parkarchy@yahoo.com for an article he wrote on the *SS Pomona*, a passenger steamer lost at Fort Ross Cove on March 17, 1908. The wreck was listed on the National Register for the 100 year anniversary of its sinking!!

Continue to **Salt Point SP** to review coastal shell middens and historic features.

Picnic lunch in route. Late afternoon -- return via Cazadero to Rohnert Park.

Suggested Motel: Good Nite Inn, 5040 Redwood Dr, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 (1-866-599-6674)



P photo: *SS Pomona*

April 21 (Sunday) Drive north on Hwy 101 to Cloverdale. Visit the **Cloverdale petroglyph site** -- a deeply incised boulder. Gordon will bring a ladder for access.

For more information refer to Ken Hedges' paper on the Cloverdale Petroglyph from 1983. Look at the photos and you can see this is an example of outstanding rock art. It is one of the best examples of the "Pomo Baby Rocks."

<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/98457583/Hedges-Cloverdale%20Rock.docx>

Return to Sacramento via Clear Lake with an optional visit to important prehistoric site near **Clear Lake** with archeologist, **Dan Foster**.

It is best to plan on bringing a cooler with lunch fixings so we don't get bogged down with restaurants for lunch. We will be covering a lot of area, so if you're driving, fill up the tank in Rohnert Park before we head over to the coast. Contact John Foster at parkarchy@yahoo.com if you are interested in this tour and he will provide you with additional information.

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

SCHOLARS' SYMPOSIUM

2012 Scholarship Recipients

Stephanie Chan
Alexandra Levin
Rory Andracek
Jessica Tudor



In 2012 five scholarships were awarded to support archeological/anthropological education. Four of the five students attended field schools. The fifth reanalyzed artifacts from excavations twenty years ago. On February 10th four of the five described their experiences.

Stephanie Chan - graduate student at Stanford University, majoring in Urban Studies (BA) and Anthropology (MA) discussed her experiences attending Amache, the site of Japanese internment during WW II. Her stories related to excavating toys (marbles) and Japanese gardens in the dry plains of southeastern Colorado were particularly interesting. Her presentation also examined aspects of ethnic identity resulting from internment.

Alexandra Levin - senior at UC Berkeley, majoring in Anthropology and Integrative Biology attended a field school at Mono Mills, California. Mono Mills is a historical site in the Eastern Sierras of California that provided wood for Bodie during the Gold Rush era. The effort required to supply Bodie with the raw materials to sustain the ore production was a tribute to ingenuity. The trees that supplied the wood were on the other side of Mono Lake at the tree line. To deliver the wood to Bodie a train would slowly chug up the steep incline to Bodie.

Rory Ondracek – junior at Sacramento State University, majoring in Archaeology attended the IFR Catalina field school. He learned the basics of surveying and excavation on the island. His group's find in a cave on the desolate portion of the island was a major highlight.

Jessica Tudor - a graduate from Sonoma State University, majoring in Cultural Resources Management used the scholarship to perform additional hydration analysis on artifacts collected at CA-LAK-424. In 1984 DPR Archaeologist, Breck Parkman who led the excavation of LAK-424 near Clear Lake gathered extensive artifacts. He interpreted the site as a seasonal camp for prehistoric and emergent period groups as early as 10,763 B.P. with more consistent occupation between 6800 to 1500 B.P. Jessica reviewed the volume of artifacts and organized them in a unique fashion for her thesis. Her work demonstrated that storage of materials for later analysis has great value.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

Terlingua Abajo - Big Bend Ghost Town

By Jan Johansen

Scant information exists on abandoned structures located near the mouth of Terlingua Creek not far from Santa Helena Canyon where the creek empties into the Rio Grande in Big Bend Country, Texas. As related by old Mexicans in the 1920's and 1930's "it had been an Indian camp before 1800. About 1850, scalp hunter John Glanton wiped out the camp. Later, in the 1880's the Marfa and Mariposa Mining Company dug out cinnabar ore for quicksilver at nearby Lajitas. The miners and their families lived in the settlement at Terlingua Abajo. When the mine played out in the early 1900's, the people and the name moved to the present site, where the Chisos Mining Company flourished. Later yet, tales tell of a Mexican Farming community in this location. Most of the Mexicans called the new site Chisos and the old settlement Terlingua Abajo or Terlingua Vieja (Lower Terlingua or Old Terlingua)." (Miles 22)

Terlingua seems to be an Indian name for the area. A name was borrowed from a Uto-Aztecan speaking group. The word is derived from *tezuino*, said to designate an intoxicating plant and the alcoholic drinks made from it. (Miles 26) Sotol, maguey and peyote are such intoxicating plants. Sotol grows in the area in great numbers.

While exploring this area in February 2013 we found the remains of structures and extensive midden. Pottery sherds, glass and rusted cans were prevalent. The area had been looted of apparent valuables but the treasures of archeologists were still there.

"Stray Tales of the Big Bend", Elton Miles, Teas A & M University Press, 1993



Terlingua Abajo mining settlement



Artifacts – solarized glass, porcelain



Santa Helena Canyon and Rio Grande

Begona, Dominican Republic Site Update

By John Foster

The exploration of the **Begona** site on the Dominican Republic continued in December 2012. The exploratory group managed to open up 5 or 6 features and documented many new classes of artifacts. These give us a better handle on the 1725 ship, its cargo and passengers.

New items were: a bronze sword hilt, a musket concretion, several buttons (I think we now have 3 matching ones), a 4 or 8 reale coin (probably from the Mexico City mint), quite a few Taino pottery sherds and artifacts, another silver candlestick base, some flattened silver or pewter cups and a spoon and scoop. We may also have some interesting objects bound up in concretion: cannonballs, deck nails, a rigging hook, and several hardwood pieces that were probably stored in case repairs were needed to various ship timbers. We don't have the ship yet, but we are starting to find a fuller sample of what she carried and what was lost in her salvage.

One really exciting feature was documented and recovered. It is a large complex concretion of materials featuring a cup or chalice on the upper side. Weighing about 50 lbs., the mass is not solid iron, but has elements of perhaps silver and small non-metallic items bound together by concretion. Several pottery sherds and perhaps a large bead are visible attachments. What is it? Well, we speculated that perhaps it may turn out to be a bundle of religious objects from a trunk. There was a Franciscan friar on board the **Begona** and he lost everything!!

All in all, it was a very successful week of excavation.



Underwater Exploration



Artifact display



Concretion Bundle

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“Collapse of Classic Maya Civilization Related to Modest Reduction in Precipitation”

“The disintegration of the Classic Maya civilization in the Yucatan Peninsulas, and Central America was a complex process that occurred over an approximately 200-year interval and involved a catastrophic depopulation of the region. Although it is well established that the civilization collapse coincided with widespread episodes of drought, their nature and severity remain enigmatic. We present a quantitative analysis that offers a coherent interpretation of four of the most detailed paleoclimate records of the event. We conclude that the droughts occurring during the disintegration of the Maya civilization represented up to a 40% reduction in annual precipitation, probably due to a reduction in summer season tropical storm frequency and intensity.” (“Collapse of Classic Maya Civilization Related to Modest Reduction in Precipitation”, Medina-Elizalde and Rohling, Science, 2013-2-24 pages 956- 959)

“Evolution of the Earliest Horses Driven by Climate Change in the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum”

“Body size plays a critical role in mammalian ecology and physiology. Previous research has shown that many mammal became smaller during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal maximum (PETM), but the timing and magnitude of that change relative to climate change have been unclear. A high-resolution record of continental climate and equid body size change shows a directional size decrease of -30% over the first ~130,000 years of the PETM, followed by a ~76% increase in the recovery phase of the PETM. These size changes are negatively correlated with temperature and possibly high atmospheric CO2 concentrations. These findings could be important for understanding mammalian evolutionary responses to future global warming”, Secor et. al, Science, 2013-2-24 pages 959-961.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal of Annual Memberships

If you haven't renewed your membership, it is **overdue**. Please support the society by paying your 2013 dues. All memberships are renewable on January 1 annually except for those who join recently (after September of the previous year). Remember your dues make **scholarships** possible. We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students.

The annual dues are:

Student/Limited Member	\$15
Individual Membership	\$30
Family Membership	\$40
Sponsor	\$100 - 499 (individual) \$500 - 999 (business)
Patron	\$1000

Please make out your check to "**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.**" and mail it to:
Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 163287
Sacramento, CA 95816-9287

Thank you in advance for your prompt payment. We really appreciate your support.

Annual Dues for 2013

Name(s): _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Student/Limited Member	\$15	_____	\$ _____
Individual Membership	\$30	_____	\$ _____
Family Membership	\$40	_____	\$ _____
Sponsor	\$100	_____	\$ _____
Scholarship Donation			\$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____