



# Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

## Newsletter

[www.sacarcheology.org](http://www.sacarcheology.org)

May/June - 2013

### Mark Your 2013 Calendars

June 15, 2013, Saturday 5:00 – 8:00 – Eclectic Archeological Exchange, McGregor's

August 3, 2013, Saturday - Sierra Rock Art Tour

October 19, 2013, Saturday - Speaker's Forum, Maidu Center

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ECLECTIC ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCHANGE

Saturday, June 15, 2013

**5:00 – 8:00 PM**

at

**Carolyn and Gordon McGregor's home  
1334 Mission Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608**

Join fellow members of Sacramento Archeological Society in an informal exchange of archeological/anthropological travel experiences. Many of our members have recently traveled and been exposed to rich archeological sites and information. This event will provide a forum for discussion of these experiences. After a **potluck** dinner members will give short presentations and lead discussions. The talks will include

- Lydia Peake - **Yaxchilan** in Chiapas state in southern Mexico. Yaxchilan's dynasty describes an origin in the 4th century, but the city seen today is largely the creation of two eighth century kings that dominate its Classic period history: Itzamnaaj B'alam and Bird Jaguar IV. Yaxchilan vigorously pursued monolithic stela-carving but its particular specialty was carved stone lintels. Many span the doorways of major structures. Yaxchilan on the Usamacinta River was part of our Classic Maya tour with the Archaeological Conservancy in February, 2011.
- Roger Peake - **French-Indian War** in North America. He will place the conflict in the geo-political context of the times and relate it as a precursor of the American Revolution. The turbulent decade of the 1760s saw the end of the French-Indian War (1763) and numerous conflicts (uprisings, rebellions and riots) which would culminate in 1776 with the American Revolution. Our tour, also sponsored by the Archaeological Conservancy, occurred in September, 2012 and focused on several archeological sites which have provided important information about the times, battles and ultimate demise of French influence in most of North America.
- John Foster - **Baja - the condors**. John will talk about the reintroduction of California condors to the mountains of northern Baja California. He was part of a team sent to explore this region as a potential biosphere reserve prior to the condor's release and some great archaeological sites were discovered.

- Jan and Tom Johansen – **Northern Norway rock art**. Jan and Tom will talk about the rock art at Alta, Norway viewed in a very recent trip, June 2013. Alta has the largest concentration of rock art in Northern Europe made by people with a hunting-fishing economy. The rock art consists of carvings and paintings made between ca 7000 to 2000 years ago.

The event will be an opportunity to socialize and exchange information. Don't miss it. Bring your friends. Call 916-487-6218 for directions or more information.

## **PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES** **MERLOT, MAMMOTHS AND MIDDENS TOUR**

April 19-21, 2013

The tour of archeological sites on Sonoma Coast began at **Duncan's Landing Rockshelter**, an archaeological site (CA-ISO-348/) on the Sonoma Coast between Bodega Bay and Jenner on Friday, April 19. The era when mammoths, horses, bison, saber tooth cats and short-faced bears roamed the area north of San Francisco came alive with archeologist, Breck Parkman's tour. Before starting the tour Breck counseled us to be aware of mammoth poop while we hiked. Starting at Duncan's Landing over 20 of us were first swept back in time by visiting **Duncan's Landing Rockshelter** also known as Duncan's Point Cave and Coyote Hole. This rock outcropping above Duncan's Cove was used in historic time (1870's) to stack redwood before shipment. The rock outcropping that had once been part of Pangaea continent was eroded, compacted, pushed upward by the Pacific Plate subduction and again eroded to form a cave in the sea stack. Excavation of a three meter deep shell by Breck Parker, John Foster etc. confirmed that this cave had been used by Native Americans for at least 8500 years. To our dismay the cave had recently been the location of recent illegal digging. We found the protective wire pulled away and the sand was disturbed. Site vigilance is never ending.



Overlooking Duncan's Cove



Duncan's Point Cave

From Duncan's Landing the group proceeded to Jasper Rock. There we saw our first evidence of "Mammoth" rubbing (Parkman, 2004). Jasper was polished four meters above ground, higher than current era livestock could comfort themselves. Breck described the present day elephant process of wallowing in the mud and then rubbing off the cakes on the edges of the rocks thereby polishing the rock surface and freeing their skin of insects and parasites. We traversed the wetland that could represent a relic animal wallow and touched the polished blue schist at both Jasper Rock and Mammoth Rocks. When we returned from the hike to Mammoth Rocks, we realized that we had transported ourselves back in time to when the mammoths grazed in the immense coastal grassland that is now submerged by the Pacific Ocean.



Jasper Rock



Breck showing location of Jasper Rock Excavation



Hiking to Mammoth Rocks

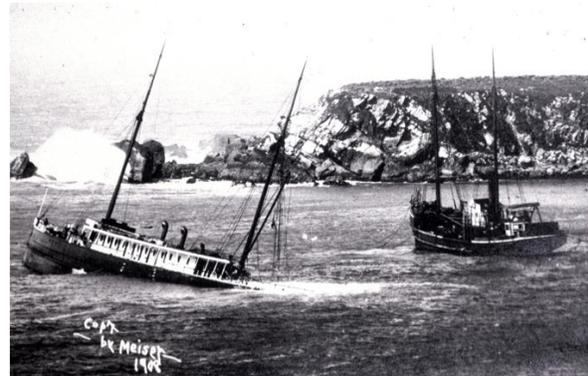


Breck feeling rubbings at Mammoth Rock

It was hard to beat Breck's tour but on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> State Park Ranger, Bill Walton met the challenge at **Fort Ross**. There beyond a grove of huge eucalypts we overlooked the site of the *S. S. Pomona* shipwreck, a passenger steamer lost on March 17, 1908. Bill and John Foster described the event and the underwater excavation. The caption made a valiant attempt to safely beach the ship. Unfortunately the ship didn't make the intended Fort Ross Cove. It caught on a rock in the bay and sunk. We saw the rock.



Above site of *S. S. Pomona* Shipwreck



*S. S. Pomona* Shipwreck

During our visit Fort Ross was bustling with special activities. The recently constructed windmill (a replica of a windmill that was built 200 years ago at the fort made its debut in October) was rotated to catch the wind and it simulated the grinding of grain. Native Americans from Kashaya tribe danced traditional dances in the Fort Ross court yard. For the history buff the visitor center was a goldmine.



Fort Ross Windmill



Fort Ross



Native American Dancers



Fort Ross and Cemetery

In brief the Russian-American Company was chartered in 1799 by Tsar Paul I to use the coastal areas of North America south to 55 degrees north latitude and exploit surface and mineral resources and colonize unoccupied land. Since sea otters were valued highly for their pelts especially by the Chinese, it was the most profitable trade item. The Russians employed the Alaskan natives to catch sea otters and set up a trading headquarters in Sitka in 1808. As the supply of sea otters dwindled and the difficulty keeping the Sitka settlements fed, Russians looked to California for alternative sea otters and food, especially grain. Supplies sent from Saint Petersburg took two years to arrive. In 1811 Bodega Bay became the headquarters for sea otter hunting along the Pacific Coast. It didn't easily accommodate ships; hence another site was needed. On August 30 1812 the Fort Ross became a company outpost. By 1828 sea otters were nearly extinct. Production of food stuff continued to be a priority. Two wind mills had been built for grinding wheat. Between 1826-1833 wheat growing did not meet the needs of Russians in Alaska and the Russian-American Company was not sufficiently profitable. By 1839 the officials in the company decided to abandon the colony. In 1841 Sutter bought the assets of the Russian colony.

Above Fort Ross on the hillside was its orchard. Here, not only did we view old fruit trees we saw the **San Andreas Fault** line. We stood on each side of the line simultaneously. At this site in the 1906 earthquake a stretch of redwood trees lost their tops due to excessive shaking.

At the **Fort Ross Cemetery** it was believed that there were 40 graves. During an excavation after removing the top layer of soil, many more graves were evident. In all 140 graves were found. Finds included a military uniform, beads, glass, and a medallion. Crosses were placed at the head of each

grave. In 2008 a bicentennial celebration was held at Gort Ross. The cemetery was rededicated in a processional ceremony including leaders of the Russian orthodox church.

On Sunday, April 21 the **Cloverdale petroglyph site** was our destination. We climbed onto a deeply incised boulder that was covered, mostly on the 3 x 5 meter top with cupules, vertical and horizontal incised lines and incised notches on the edges of natural raised surfaces. The marks appear at random. There were series of parallel lines, punctate designs and cupules with integrated incised lines. This boulder is in Pomo territory and may have been used in fertility rituals. Powder from “baby rocks” such as this fluorite schist was removed by cutting or grinding. The powder was made into a paste and used ceremonially to encourage pregnancy.

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



Cloverdale Rock Art Site



Cloverdale Rock Art: lines



Cloverdale Rock Art: lines and cupules



Cloverdale Rock Art: lines and cupules



Cloverdale Rock Art: nail cuts



Cloverdale Rock Art: lines

# **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY**

By Carolyn McGregor

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology was held in Berkeley on March 7<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. Familiar faces at the podium were SCA President Michael Newland who was the speaker at our Annual Meeting in December 2012 and SCA President-Elect Richard Fitzgerald who led us on the tour to the Marsh Creek Windmiller site.

As always, there were many symposiums, general sessions, and workshops from which to choose. The poster sessions were outstanding and we were delighted to view one which included work done by students from the Consumes River College Anthropology Department.

We attended as many presentations as we could, often eating lunch in shifts so that we would have full coverage of the information given. Of particular interest was the session entitled "Current Research in the Channel Islands" chaired by Dr. Jennifer Perry who lead our tour to Santa Cruz Island. Another fascinating symposium was "Cached and Found: Descriptions of a Redwood Box Cache Feature from San Nicolas Island." In 2009 archeologists walking on the north coast of the island spotted something sticking out of the side of a cliff. What they found were two redwood boxes and two asphaltum sealed water bottles. The boxes contained over 200 artifacts including hafted and unhafted bifaces, fishhooks, beads, bone whistles, effigies, ornaments, a button . . . . We were left with the intriguing question, "Were the boxes stashed by the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island?"

We concluded the weekend at San Francisco's 18<sup>th</sup> century Mission Delores where curator Andrew Galvan led us on a tour of the Old Mission, Basilica, Museum and Cemetery. Our second stop was El Presidio, the modern-day Presidio and its newly opened archaeology lab. It was a great meeting.

## **MEMBERS**

Welcome new members: Alison Harvey, Tawn Daniel, and Shirley and Conrad Diethelm. Hopefully we can greet you at the next SAS activity.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarship applications are due **May 1, 2013**. Again there has been great interest. Recipients will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

## “Museums Under the Sea”

The 1725 shipwreck in the Dominican Republic that SAS President, John Foster explored for the last 20 years was featured in the “American Archaeology” (the Archaeological Conservancy's magazine). It has good pictures of the site, artifacts and John working underwater. The overall focus is the Living Museums of the Sea program which we have developed to preserve shipwrecks and coral reefs together in a sustainable approach that we hope to expand throughout the Caribbean. American Archeology, spring 2013 V17 no 1, pp.26+.

## “Drying Out the Cradle of Civilization”

New satellite data indicates that humans are draining the Tigris & Euphrates rivers region's meager water resources at an alarming rate. “NASA's twin GRACE satellites have revealed a dramatic loss of about 90 cubic kilometers of ground water”. During the 2007 water uses withdrew water from wells faster than the rain could replenish it. “Drying Out the Cradle of Civilization”, Science, 2013-2-22 page 889.

## “New Whale Species Unearthed in California”

“The Laguna Canyon outcrop contained hundreds of marine mammals that lived 17 to 19 million years ago. Among the finds, were four newly identified but still unnamed species of toothed baleen whale—a type of whale that scientists thought had gone extinct 5 million years earlier. The four new species are the youngest toothed whales yet discovered.”

“New Whale Species Unearthed in California” Science, 2013-2-24 page 890

## “How Sweet It Is: Genes Show How Bacteria Colonized Human Teeth”

With farming 10,000 ago came starches which brought *Streptococcus mutans*, bacteria in the mouth. These bacteria took advantage of the sweet life, and upset the bacterial status quo which had previously evolved in our mouths. “How Sweet It Is: Genes Show How Bacteria Colonized Human Teeth” Science, 2013-2-24 pages 896-7.

## “Let There Be Mammals”

Research concluded that living placental mammals originated after the Cretaceous and reconstructed the phenotype of the ancestral placental mammal.

“Let There Be Mammals”, Science, 2013-2-8, p. 625. “Fossils Versus Clocks”, Science, 2013-2-8, pp. 656-58. “The Placental Mammal Ancestor and the Post-K-Pg Radiation of Placentals”, Maureen A. O’Leary, Science, 2013-2-8, pp. 662-67.