



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

March/April - 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10-16, 2014 – Arizona Archaeological Field Trip

May 1, 2014 Scholarship Applications due

June 20, 2014 - Eclectic Archeological Exchange

ARIZONA ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP

April 10 - 16, 2014

at

Flagstaff and Sedona, Arizona

This tour for Sacramento Archeological Society Members only will explore notable archeological sites in the Flagstaff and Sedona area. Archaeologists and guides who have investigated this area will lead us. If you haven't already registered for the field trip and make your motel reservations, do so now. To register and be on the distribution for detailed tour plans, please contact **Roger Peake** at 916-371-6391 or rapeake@att.net. Roger will provide a list of motels in Flagstaff and Sedona area.

ITINERARY

Thursday, April 10 - Travel Day and **Overnight in Flagstaff**

P.M. Meet at motel for travel briefing

Friday, April 11 - Flagstaff area

A.M. **Museum of Northern Arizona**

The Anthropology Collection is subdivided into *Ethnographic* (historic Native American) and *Prehistoric* Collections. The *Ethnographic* Collections contain significant holdings of baskets, katsina dolls, jewelry, and Hopi and Navajo textiles. Smaller collections represent the material culture of the Apache, Zuni, and Pai. The *Prehistoric* Collections focus on the ancient Puebloan cultures and include sandals, arrow points, ceramic vessels, and many other types of artifacts of the Colorado Plateau.

www.musnaz.org

Lunch in Flagstaff

P.M. **Walnut Canyon National Monument**. Archaic peoples probably occupied the canyon seasonally for thousands of years followed by the Sinagua starting about 1400years ago. Cliff dwelling development continued from about A.D. 1125 to 1250.

Overnight in Flagstaff

Saturday, April 12 - Flagstaff area (Bring your own lunch)

A.M. **Wupatki National Monument and Wukoki Pueblo.** Before about A.D. 1150, this area remained a frontier between established groups of Sinagua, Cohonia, and Kayenta peoples. In a warm and dry period, dense populations flourished in the Wupatki area. A ball court, which is rare in northern Arizona, is located at the site.

P.M. Lowell Observatory <http://www.lowell.edu/news/?s> Due to the difficulty getting to **Sunset Crater.** Lowell Observatory is a target alternate destination. The new exhibit, “Black Holes Space Warps & Time Twists” opened January 18 and is on display through May 4. The exhibit is designed like a space mission; visitors are first briefed then sent out to search for evidence of real black holes in our universe. Through a number of stations, a visitor will observe the peculiar properties of black holes, their amazing journey from theory to fact, and some common—and entertaining—misconceptions. A variety of interactive components will give visitors an in-depth experience of how black holes behave, shape our universe, and influence our lives.

Overnight in Sedona

Sunday, April 13 - Sedona area

(Bring your lunch or dine in Sedona)

A.M. **Palatki Heritage Site.** Cliff dwellings of the Sinagua were built between A.D. 1100 and 1400. The exceptional rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs) includes art created over 6000 years. A sister site, **Honaki** is nearby.

P.M. **Sedona area.** Enjoy a hike in the outdoor beauty of Sedona or an afternoon of relaxation which could include the Tlaquepaque shopping area.

Overnight in Sedona

Monday, April 14 - Sedona area

(Bring your own lunch)

A.M. **V-Bar-V Heritage Site.** This well-preserved site includes more than a thousand individual petroglyphs (Beaver Creek style) on 13 panels. Unlike many rock art sites, petroglyphs here comprise only one style and do not include early Archaic Period or later Yavapai and Apache art.

P.M. **Montezuma Castle.** The Sinagua are credited with above-ground masonry dwellings when they moved south into the Verde Valley around A.D. 1100. The Castle was constructed and occupied from about A.D. 1200 to 1450 and has been fully reconstructed. Starting around A.D. 1100, the Sinagua built the large, multi-room complexes in the Verde Valley, including Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, Tuzigoot, the cliff dwellings around Sedona, and Walnut Canyon (near Flagstaff). After about 300 years of habitation, the sites were abandoned between A.D. 1400 and 1450, a period that marks the collapse of major civilizations in the American southwest.

If time allows, we could visit the **Montezuma Well** (part of the national monument). The “well” is a cenote (sinkhole) that is replenished with natural water flow of 1.5 million gallons per day. On the rim of the “well” are cliff dwellings; the “well” is habitat for five unique species found nowhere else on earth. The “well” area includes a pit house.

Overnight in Sedona

Tuesday, April 15 - Sedona area. We can consider this an extended-day or optional day. Suggestions include:

- **Tuzigoot National Monument** (this Apache name means “crooked water”). It consists of 90-100 rooms (reconstructed in the 1930s) on top of a small hill in an oxbow of the Verde River. It is outside the old mining town of Clarkdale - another possible visit.
- **Sacred Mountain.** There are habitation sites (60 rooms) on top of the 300-foot mesa with evidence of farming below; and include remains of an early Hohokam ball court at the base of the mesa. The ruins are highly eroded.

- **Jerome State Historic Park** and the **Douglas Mansion**. Includes a rich mining (copper) history starting in 1876. By the early 20th century, United Verde was the largest producing copper mine in the Arizona Territory. Production peaked in 1929 and ended in 1953.

Wednesday, April 16 - Travel Day or ?

For additional information: Lydia or Roger Peake (916 371-6391) or rapeake@att.net

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

SCHOLARS' SYMPOSIUM

2013 Scholarship Recipients



Cassandra Brainard
Heather Benham
Allison Wolfe
Kyle Lee-Crossett
Antonietta Catanzariti

On January 19, 2014 Sacramento Archeological Society was pleased to hear five 2014 scholarship winners speaking on the experiences made possible by the scholarships.

- Heather Benham, California State University described the culture and pottery finds from the **76 Draw Site Field School** near Deming, New Mexico.
- Cassandra Brainard, California State University, Sacramento told her, not without incident story about attending the **Ravenscroft Field School** in Oklahoma. She related her experience finding “bone dust” as 9000 year-old bones were uncovered in the Paleo-indian bison kill site
- Antonietta Catanzariti, University of California, Berkeley gave two presentations. In the first she told about her doctoral dissertation project. She has been analyzing ceramic vessels of Kamid el-Loz in Lebanon to determine middle Bronze Age trading routes in the central Levant. In the second presentation she described her own excavation project in the western area of Sulemaniya in the Khurmil region in Iraq that she is developing. In her project she plans to revisit sites from a 1940 survey of the region.
- Kyle Lee-Crossett, Stanford University described his experiences at the **Catalhoyuk Research Project** in Turkey. This World Heritage site excavated since 1993 has identified 18 levels of occupation.
- Allison Wolfe, University of California, Berkeley participated in **Zooarchaeology and Field Ecology Field School** at Eagle Lake, CA. She described their exploration of the fauna of the region and did an independent study evaluating skeletons and living aquatic birds at Eagle Lake.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Many of our members enjoy their own archaeological adventures. Please share them with us. Document your experiences and send them to Jan Johansen at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net for publishing. In addition, we plan another **Eclectic Archeological Exchange** on June 20, 2014. If you want to be on the agenda, please contact Jan.

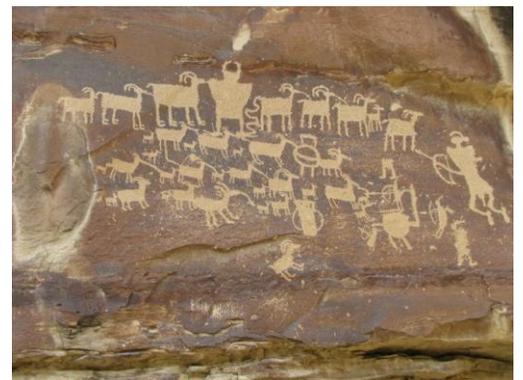
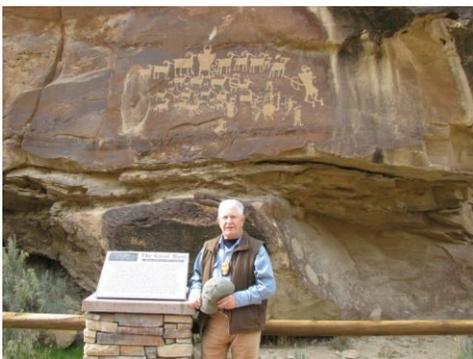
NINE MILE CANYON - PRICE, UTAH
By Diane Sangster and Michael Barham

What a neat trip this was. First we traveled Northeast of Price, Utah to Nine Mile Canyon. Then on to Santa Fe, New Mexico for the four-day Paleo-American Odyssey Conference and lastly to Cortez, Colorado to assist in some excavating at Mitchell Springs Ruins (owned by archaeologist David Dove). We'll concentrate this paper on Nine Mile Canyon! Someone asked us recently how the canyon got its name, as the canyon is actually over 40 miles of a 78-mile back-country byway. According to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website, explorer John Wesley Power led an expedition into Nine Mile Canyon in 1869. His cartographer used a nine-mile transect for mapping the canyon.

The petroglyphs at Nine Mile Canyon defy description...so many and so amazing. Here's a few of the many to give you a feel for what we saw.

This was named The Great Hunt and was described as classic Fremont style rock art (circa AD 950 - 1200). It is a scene likely depicting herds of big horn sheep during mating season...usually the November, December timeframe. Also, it's the only time of year rams, ewes and lambs are all together in the same place. This is a very large panel, was very well-preserved and was jaw-dropping!

Below is Michael in front of the panel to give some perspective.



Below are just a few more petroglyphs we saw:



The last one is in color which was quite interesting. Not entirely sure it was from the same period.

The canyon is quite spectacular. There were a few granaries used to store corn still sitting above on the rock cliffs. Incredibly some are still there...no doubt stabilized as it has been hundreds of years since they were used.



Granary high on cliff



Closer view

Here I am on a hike above the canyon where some rock caves were...possibly Fremont Indian caves?



There are also working ranches in the canyon and so we encountered steer everywhere roaming free. The cowboys do round them up when it's time to go to market but apparently there are some steer not found as we came across two piles of bone and fur. We're guessing they froze in the canyon over the last winter. My feeling is either way they were going to perish. Here are a few pictures we found interesting:



Some views of spectacular Nine Mile Canyon in October



We highly recommend visiting Nine Mile Canyon and also Range Creek preferably before October. We were not able to tour Range Creek in October as there is often snow and storms that can occur suddenly. Range Creek is described as a national treasure because of the high density of prehistoric undisturbed ruins also from the Fremont culture. Day permits are required if you want to hike there on your own. We hope to make it back there on a future trip.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“Old Dogs Teach a New Lesson About Canine Origins”

Elizabeth Pennisi, 2013-11-15 Science pages 785-6.

Complete Mitochondrial Genomes of Ancient Canids Suggest a European Origin of Domestic Dogs”

O. Thalmann, et al, 2013-11-15 Science pages 871-4.

“The geographic and temporal origins of the domestic dog remain controversial, as genetic data suggest a domestication process in East Asia beginning 15,000 years ago, whereas the oldest doglike fossils are found in Europe and Siberia and date to >30,000 years ago. We analyzed the mitochondrial genomes of 18 prehistoric canids from Eurasia and the New World, along with a comprehensive panel of modern dogs and wolves. The mitochondrial genomes of all modern dogs are phylogenetically most closely related to either ancient or modern canids of Europe. Molecular dating suggests an onset of domestication there 18,800 to 32,100 years ago. These findings imply that domestic dogs are the culmination of a process that initiated with European hunter-gatherers and the canids with whom they interacted.”

“Elusive Denisovans Sighted in Oldest Human DNA”

Ann Gibbons, 2013-12-06 Science page 1156.

“For 4 years, paleogeneticist **Svante Paabo** has been chasing a ghost species of ancient human. Known only by its DNA and three scrappy fossils from Denisova Cave in Siberia, this extinct lineage has left genetic traces in living Southeast Asians, so Paabo expected to find its DNA in bones from across Asia. He had come up empty. Now, his team at the **Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany**, has finally found part of the broken Denisovan trail—not in some mysterious Asian fossil, but in a **proto-Neanderthal from Spain**.

“In a technical feat, the team sequenced the oldest human DNA yet, an **almost complete mitochondrial genome from a sliver of thighbone 300,000 to 400,000 years old**. The bone, with its Denisovan signature, came from **Sima de los Huesos**, or “Pit of the Bones,” in **Spain's Atapuerca Mountains**. “I would have guessed we'd find Denisova DNA somewhere in China, but not in Western Europe,” Paabo says. Paleogeneticist Matthias Meyer, who actually did the sequencing, agrees: “Nobody believed it. Even I was skeptical at first.””

“Monumental Roots”

Michael Balter 2014-01-03 Science pages 18-23.

“The great stone monuments of prehistoric Britain, including Stonehenge, were born in a wave of innovation that apparently began on a remote Scottish island.” The following are some quotations from the article:

In Scotland's far north “on Mainland Island, the largest of Orkney's 70 islands,” “5000 years ago was a center of Britain's new stone age what we now call the Neolithic. Thousands of people gathered in the shadow of one of the world's most spectacular clusters of stone monuments,” where “... hundreds of people labored to construct a complex of elaborate stone buildings covering at least 10,000 square meters ...” located at the Ness of Brodgar. It contains “thick stone walls, richly adorned with mysterious engravings ...” “A few hundred years later, on the south end of the isthmus, the Orkney people erected the Stones of Stenness, a dozen stone pillars up to 6 meters tall, arranged in a circle. A much larger monument, the 104-meter-diameter Ring of Brodgar, rose soon after at the isthmus's northern end. Teams of laborers dragged 60 monoliths, up to 4.5 meters tall, from quarries as far as 15 kilometers away.”

“Mega-Eruptions Drove the Mother of Mass Extinctions”

Richard Kerr 2013-12-20 Science page 1424.

“... researchers have finally convicted massive volcanic eruptions in Siberia [Traps] as the culprit in the greatest of all mass extinctions, one that destroyed 90% of marine species on the planet. The key evidence ... came from geochronologists applying the latest dating techniques to both the basalt from the eruptions and the rock encasing fossils of creatures that went extinct about 252 million years ago.”

“... these eruptions carpeted a Western Europe-sized area of Siberia with several million cubic kilometers of basalt.”

“...the eruptions lasted about 2 million years and took place roughly at the time of the mass extinction: the Permian-Triassic (P-T) boundary, when the Permian period ended and the Triassic period began.”

“They dated the beginning of the extinction at 251.941 million years ago and its end at 251. 880 million years ago. Uncertainties ranged from 0.031 million to 0.110 million years. That puts the volcanic and extinction events in the proper order and close enough to be cause and effect.”

“Neanderthals and Moderns Made Imperfect Mates”

2014-1-31, Science pages 471-2.

“... small groups of Neanderthals and moderns humans met after the moderns swept out of Africa in the past 90,000 years, Non-Africans carry the genetic legacy of those encounters.” “Neanderthals and moderns came from such different genetic backgrounds that the descendents of their unions became less fertile over time, purging many Neanderthal genes from modern genomes.”

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal of Annual Memberships

If you haven't renewed your membership, now is the time. All memberships are renewable on January 1 annually except for those who join recently (after September of the previous year). Please support the society by paying your 2014 dues. **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 2014

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

Email: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

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

Total enclosed \$_____