



# Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

## Newsletter

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

September/October - 2014

### *UPCOMING EVENTS*

October 4, 2014, Saturday 8:30 – 5:00 pm – SCA Northern California Data Sharing Meeting, Sierra College, Rocklin, CA

October 5, 2014, Sunday 9:30 – SCA Tour of Empire Mine State Historic Park, Grass Valley, led by Steve Hilton & Mark Selverston

October 18, 2014, Saturday 1:00 – 5:00 pm – Archaeology Symposium “Examining Archaeology: Looking In, Looking Back, and Looking Under” to Celebrate California Archaeology Month, at Maidu Museum & Historic Site

- Tour of Maidu Historic Site
- John Berg (Far Western) – “Breaking New Ground: Native Americans in Archaeology” (Film)
- Gerrit Fenenga (Cal Fire) – “Sacramento Junior College and the Beginnings of Archaeology in Central California”
- John Foster (California State Parks) – “Archaeology Underwater: Explorations Beyond the Shores of Time”

December 6, 2014, Saturday – SAS Annual Meeting at Carolyn & Gordon McGregor’s home

## Sacramento Archeological Society and Maidu Museum & Historical Site IN CELEBRATION OF CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

present

### "Examining Archaeology Looking in, Looking back and Looking under"

**Tour and Lectures by  
Distinguished  
Archaeologists**

Saturday, October 18, 2013

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Maidu Museum & Historical Site  
1970 Johnson Ranch Drive  
Roseville, California 95661



Cupules at Maidu Historical Site

- Tour of Maidu Rock Art
- John Berg (Far Western) - “Breaking New Ground: Native American in Archaeology”
- Gerrit Fenenga (Cal Fire) - “Sacramento Junior Colleges Role in the Beginning of Archaeology in California”
- John Foster (California State Parks) - “Archaeology Underwater Explorations: Beyond the Shores of Time”

### **John E. Berg**

John’s archaeological credentials speak for themselves. He has B.A. and M.A. degrees from Sacramento State (1979 & 1986). He spent twenty-five summers working at the site of Tel Dor, Israel as senior staff member; Hebrew University and three winter seasons at Harrapa, Pakistan with U. C. Berkeley. Since 1988, he has been with Far Western and has worked on numerous survey and excavation projects as crew chief and field director. He has authored and co-authored many reports, articles, and books.

He is very qualified to discuss the Ruby Pipeline. His responsibilities included construction coordination of about 200 sites dug with four lead archaeologists; field directing crews; conducting ancillary surveys; and writing and editing site reports for submittal to governing agencies to get construction approvals.

On June 10, 2010, the U. S. Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) signed a Record of Decision (ROD) and Right-of-Way Grant (ROW) for the Ruby Pipeline Project, a 678 mile interstate natural gas pipeline that crosses 368 miles of Federal land beginning near Opal, Wyoming, through northern Utah and northern Nevada, and terminating near Malin, Oregon. The BLM Nevada State Director, as the designated Federal official, signed the ROD and authorized the ROW for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the pipeline and associated facilities across lands under jurisdiction of the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the four states. The Center for Biological Diversity and [Summit Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada](#) petitioned the [Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals](#) for an emergency action blocking the pipeline. Despite not winning the injunction requests, the Court ultimately ruled in their favor, finding that environmental reviews for the pipeline's impacts to endangered fish species and sagebrush habitats did not comply with environmental laws. John will present a film on the project and discuss the impact of the Native Americans on the project.

### **Gerrit L. Fenenga**

Gerrit have been involved in California archaeology since 1967. He worked for the first private archaeological consulting firm in the United States (ARI), as well as with the BLM (Indio Resource Area), USFS (Sequoia NF), and California State Parks (Southern Region). His academic training was at U.C. Berkeley, where he earned his Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degrees. He taught archaeology and biological anthropology for 15 years in the UC and CSU systems. Since 1999, he has been an archaeologist for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) where he teach at the CDF Academy and is involved in both regulating the timber industry and managing cultural resources during wildfire events.

His interests in archaeology are diverse, but most of his current research involves the Pleistocene and early Holocene prehistory of California. He has published articles on a variety of topics in [California Archaeology](#), the [JCGBA](#), the [Proceedings of the SCA](#), the [PCASQ](#), the [Contribution Series of the TULARG](#), and elsewhere. He has spoken to the SAS on two previous occasions, once describing my work with the early sites in the Tulare Lake basin, and most recently on the presence of Clovis blade technology at the Witt Site at Tulare Lake.

## John W. Foster

John is currently President of Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. He received his B.A. at UCLA and M.A. Long Beach State in Anthropology. In 2009 he retired from California State Parks as the "State Archaeologist" and "State Underwater Archaeologist" after a 35 year career. He previously worked for National Park Service and Museum of Northern Arizona and authored and co-authored many papers, reports and articles.

John has worked on numerous underwater archaeology sites in California and the Pacific. Shipwrecks, downed aircraft, submerged prehistoric features and artifacts have much to contribute to our understanding of the past. The sea holds a vast storehouse of cultural sites, and technology is rapidly developing to enable their exploration, study and interpretation. John has been a pioneer in the development of underwater parks in California and across the country. He is an advisor to NOAA in their Marine Protected Areas program.

For the last 20 years, John has been an adjunct faculty member in anthropology at Indiana University. He has worked to record shipwrecks and submerged cave artifacts in the Dominican Republic as part of their Caribbean Studies program. He assisted in the discovery of Captain Kidd's pirate ship *Queddah Merchant* (1699) and its protection as a **Living Museum of the Sea**. His work resulted in the documentation of the first Taino cenote -- an offering site yielding an impressive array of pottery, wood bowls, weapons and ceremonial objects.

## **NORTHERN DATA SHARING MEETING**

Saturday, October 4, 2014,  
*Sierra College, Rocklin*

The Northern and Southern California Data Sharing Meetings for the Society for California Archaeology will be held on the Saturday, October 4th at Sierra College in Rocklin, California in Weaver Hall (W110, first floor). The meeting will start at 8:30 am and will conclude by 5:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees by SCA.

Following the Data Sharing Meeting at Sierra College a very special after party event will be held at Out of Bounds Brewery in Rocklin from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (4480 Yankee Hill Road, Suite 100, Rocklin, CA). A variety of craft beers will be available for purchase and a private area for SCA members will be set up at the back of the brewery. Bella Familia Wood Fire Pizza will be available for purchase.

For more information contact Northern California Vice President, Michelle Cross at [michelle.cross@cardno.com](mailto:michelle.cross@cardno.com) or 916-539-5348.

## **TOUR OF EMPIRE MINE STATE HISTORIC PARK**

Sunday, October 5, 2014,  
*Grass Valley, CA*

On Sunday, October 5, 2014 there will be a behind scenes tour of Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley led by Steve Hilton of State Parks and Mark Selverston of ASC. The tour will start at 9:30 am and last approximately 2 to 3 hours. Empire Mine State Historic Park is located at 10791 East Empire Street in Grass Valley, California. The tour will include an approximately 3 mile hike with

some hills on unpaved trails. All ages are welcome on the tour; however, children under 5 years of age must stay out of the exclusion zone of the mine.

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# **PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES**

## **STATEWIDE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS CENTER TOUR**



Rick Fitzgerald describes the State  
Archaeological Collections Research Facility

The State's Collections Have a Home  
Tuesday, August 19, 2014,  
McClellan Park, CA 95652

John W. Foster, President

On August 19 the Sacramento Archaeological Society toured the California Statewide Museum Collections Center at the former McClellan AFB. It was great to wander around in the cavernous building and see historic and archaeological collections being managed with great care. California State Parks has managed to consolidate collections that were stored in warehouses all over the Sacramento area into a safe and secure complex for their well being. The State Railroad Museum, State Indian Museum, State Archaeological Collections Research Facility, State Parks Capital District, State Parks Photo Archives, and the State Parks Central Records have moved their collections and archives to one location for better security and efficiency. Even more surprising, it was accomplished while Parks was going through budgetary upheaval and scandal. This was one thing it did right!

By way of background, California lacks a state museum. Nevada has one; so does Arizona. Most states do. For some reason California never chose to go that route. Instead, the job of keeping historic, archaeological and archival collection fell to California State Parks. They managed historic parks, maintained house museums and provided interpretive programs in history so it was logical for Parks to take care of the records, fine art, artifacts and other “culture-clutter.” The problem was they did so lacking a statewide museum approach. Having worked for the Arizona State Museum and the Museum of Northern Arizona, I was always puzzled as a state parks employee to see a lack of direction and commitment to a state museum concept. You can argue that California has the richest, most diverse, and most technologically advanced human history in North America. Think of it. Ancient migrants from Asia and elsewhere resulted in diverse languages and cultures on the California landscape – far more so than any comparable area. With European and American contact came the explorers, missionaries, fur trappers, colonization by Spain, Russia and Mexico, independence, the Gold Rush, statehood, and the explosion of industry – agriculture, mining, oil, maritime power, logging, parks, tourism, film making, computers, aerospace, music and engineering. Don’t forget about the social movements – women’s suffrage, Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, Free Speech, Anti-War, Environment, Free Love, Save-the-Whales, and Facebook. The state has seen an endless tapestry of ideas and people that have transformed our landscape and thinking.

In the 1970’s there was a proposal to develop a Smithsonian West in Sacramento. This would capture some of the unique themes from California and western history. People wouldn’t have to travel all the way to Washington to see the priceless art and artifacts from the west. Great idea, I thought, but Gov. Jerry Brown disagreed. His advisors couldn’t see the value and feared the costs. Besides, the Proposition 13 movement was gaining strength.

So on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of State Parks in California we can celebrate the fact that the state's collections have found a home. They now reside in a massive Cold-War era concrete structure with excellent temperature and humidity controls. The Center is now a state-of-the-art LEED Silver certified facility. It contains 12 linear miles of shelving and 3.5 miles of pallet racks. There's even room for expansion. Perhaps most importantly, for the first time, there's a unified management approach to their care. From the basket collection to the Gold-Rush anchors, from the McClellan saddles to the toy trains, there's a new dedication to preserving these touchstones of California history. It was great to see.

## **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](mailto:janjohansen@sbcglobal.net) for publishing.

Welcome Richard Fitzgerald and Roy Safanda as a new members. Hope to see you at our next event.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES**

### **“Two Atlatl Engaging Spurs from CA-CCLO-18/548: A Critical Examination of Atlatl Spur Taxonomy”**

“The atlatl is one of the oldest and perhaps most universally used weapons in the New World. Evidence for its use in California is found in nearly every region of the state in the form of engaging spurs. Attachable spurs tend to be the least perishable component of this ancient weapon system. Despite their ubiquity in the archaeological record little has been published on these artifacts since Riddell and McGeein's 1969 article in American Antiquity. In this paper, we report on a pair of recently excavated bone atlatl engaging spurs recovered from a site in central California. Using these stylistically very different, yet almost contemporaneously dated spurs, we critically examine the application of the existing taxonomic system and present a refinement of White's 1989 classification of California atlatl spurs.”

Candice E. Ralston & Richard T. Fitzgerald, Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, Vol. 34 No. 1, 2014, page 101-108

### **“Neanderthal roots: Cranial and chronological evidence from Sima de los Huesos”**

“Seventeen Middle Pleistocene crania from the Sima de los Huesos site (Atapuera, Spain) are analyzed, including seven new specimens. This sample makes it possible to thoroughly characterize a Middle Pleistocene hominin paleodeme and to address hypotheses about the origin and evolution of the Neanderthals. Using a variety of techniques, the hominin-bearing layer could be reassigned to a period around 430,000 years ago. The sample shows a consistent morphological pattern with derived Neanderthal features present in the face and anterior vault, many of which are related to the masticatory apparatus. This suggests that facial modification was the first step in the evolution of the Neanderthal lineage, pointing to mosaic pattern of evolution, with different anatomical and functional modules evolving at different rates.

J. L. Arsuaga, et. al., 2014-6-20, Vol. 344 Issue 6190, Science, pages 1358-1363.

**”Sailing Sinbad’s seas”** Andrew Lawler, 2014-06-27, Vol. 344 Issue 6101, Science, pages 1440- 1445

Archaeologists are rediscovering the ancient Maritime Silk Road, which once powered more East-West commerce than the famed Central Asian land route.