



# Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

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

July/August - 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 10-15, 2015 -- Orkney Islands Tour

September 25-27, 2015 - Sierra Rock Art tour beginning at Rainbow Lodge, contact John Foster, [parkarky@yahoo.com](mailto:parkarky@yahoo.com)

October 11- 26, 2015 – Texas Archaeological Tour of Pre-Clovis, Clovis and Paleo-American Sites, contact Dennis Fenwick, [dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com](mailto:dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com)

November 7, 2015 - Archaeology Event at Maidu Museum

December 5, 2015 – SAS Annual Meeting

### *Sierra Rock Art Tour*

Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27, 2015

9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sierra Rock Art near Soda Springs, CA

Sacramento Archeological Society and Friends of Sierra Rock Art have teamed up to offer a two day field tour of rock art sites in the Soda Springs area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Archaeologist, Dan Foster, a rock art specialist and Kate Harper, President of Friends of Sierra Rock Art have made site selection. The following is a list of target sites to visit:

Day 1

1. Spaulding Ridge Style 7 Site
2. Bear Valley Style 7 Site
3. Bear Valley Cupules/BRMs/ Late Prehistoric Village Site

Day 2

1. Donner Pass Style 7 Site
2. Chickering (Soda Springs) Style 7 Site
3. Wabena Style 7 Site

The tour will launch from Rainbow Tavern & Lodge at 50080 Hampshire Rocks Road, Soda Springs, CA 95728. If you are interested to stay at the lodge, make a reservation through <http://www.therainbowlodge.com/>. The phone contact number is 530-562-5061 but reservation through the web is preferred. When making reservations, "FOSTER", all caps, is the keyword to include for a discount. When you have made your reservations, please notify John Foster at [parkarky@yahoo.com](mailto:parkarky@yahoo.com) of your attendance. If you do not stay at Rainbow Tavern & Lodge and want to join the tour, make your reservation for the tour with John Foster at [parkarky@yahoo.com](mailto:parkarky@yahoo.com).

**Occupancy and space on tour is limited.**

Provide your own lunch to be enjoyed in the field. Attendees will group for dinner and a rock art lecture/discussion on Saturday evening at the lodge.

Invite your friends for a fun weekend in the mountains.

Questions? Please contact John Foster at [parkarky@yahoo.com](mailto:parkarky@yahoo.com)

# Texas Archaeological Tour of Pre-Clovis/Clovis/Paleoamerican Sites

Sunday, Oct. 11, 2015 to Monday, Oct. 26, 2015

Starting at Austin, TX concluding at Houston, TX with variable ending points depending on your schedule  
Archaeologist, Mike Collins, PhD, tour host

Sacramento Archeological Society is pleased to offer an extensive archaeological tour of pre-Clovis, Clovis and late Paleoindian sites in mainly Texas but venturing into New Mexico. The tour will visit three Pre-Clovis sites, 10 Clovis sites and 6 Late Paleoindian sites. These date from 15,500 to 500 B.P. The tour is organized and hosted by Mike Collins, PhD (Research Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Texas State University and director of Gault School of Archeological Research (GSAR)).



“Compelling archaeological evidence of an occupation older than Clovis (~12.8 to 13.1 thousand years ago) in North America is present at only a few sites, and the stone tool assemblages from these sites are small and varied. The **Debra L. Friedkin** site at Buttermilk Creek, Texas, contains an assemblage of 15,528 artifacts that define the **Buttermilk Creek Complex**, which stratigraphically underlies a Clovis assemblage and dates between ~13.2 and 15.5 thousand years ago. The **Buttermilk Creek Complex** confirms the emerging view that people occupied the Americas before Clovis and provides a large artifact assemblage to explore Clovis origins.”  
(*Science* Vol 331 p 1599-1603, 25 March 2011.)

Target sites in Texas hill country in and near Austin include

- **Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL)**, University of Texas at Austin, TX
- **Innerspace Cavern** at Georgetown, TX. Several skeletons of prehistoric Ice-Age animals have been found in the caverns.
- **Buttermilk Creek Complex, Debra L Friedkin site** with *Michael Waters, PhD*, Director, Center for the Study of First Americans (CSFA), Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, 4352 TAMU, College Station, TX
- **Buttermilk Creek Complex, Gault site** owned by The Archeological Conservancy (TAC) with *Mike Collins*.
- **Friedkin labs** at the **Center for the Study of First Americans** at Texas A&M with *Michael Water*.
- **Lab at Gault School of Archeological Research** with *Clark Wernecke, Mike Collins, Nancy Velchoff, Tom Williams, and Robert Lassen*.
- **Wilson-Leonard site** evidences a succession of ancient peoples—from early Paleoindian Clovis cultures to Late Prehistoric Toyah folk—practiced a hunting and gathering life way throughout nearly 13,500 years. For the last 8,500 years of that time, campers at the site also used earth-oven cooking technology to cook bulbs from tuberous plants as well as other foods.  
<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/plateaus/images/ap5.html>
- **Knibbe Ranch Test excavations** (privately owned). As far back as 8,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers used the Knibbe Ranch as a base to hunt buffalo. Several sites of prehistoric nomadic Indian campgrounds from the Paleolithic to Late Archaic periods have been found on the ranch.

- **Richard Beene Site** contained deeply layered archaeological deposits that preserved a record of human occupation during the late Pleistocene and throughout the Holocene epoch at the northern edge of the South Texas Plains.

The Lower Pecos Canyonland near the Rio Grande in Big Bend Country, with its remarkable concentration of rock shelters and polychrome rock paintings, offers unique opportunities to study how hunter-gatherers adapted to a semi-arid environment. The archaeology of the region provides one of the best preserved and longest records of hunter-gatherer life-ways in North America.

Target sites to visit in this area include:

- **Seminole Canyon** - It is estimated that human habitation of the area began 10,000 years ago, during the [Holocene](#) era when [mammoth](#) animals would have also inhabited the area.
- **Eagle Nest Canyon** (privately owned). The Department of Anthropology, Texas State University field school worked there. <http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/undergrad-program/field-schools/archaeology-eagle-nest-canyon.html>
- **Lower Pecos Canyonlands near Amistad Reservoir** <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/before.html>
- **Panther Cave Pictograph site at Seminole Canyon State Park**, P.O. Box 820, Comstock, TX 78837, (432) 292-4464, <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/seminole-canyon>
- **Bonfire Shelter pre-Clovis & 2500 BP mass bison jumps** in Mile Creek Canyon 3 miles East of Langtry in SW TX on private land with Mike Collins. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonfire\\_Shelter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonfire_Shelter)

The tour moves north into the Panhandle Plains and to eastern New Mexico. For 14,000 years, people have lived in the Texas Panhandle. The eastern New Mexico region was home to the prehistoric [Clovis culture](#), an anthropologically significant early group of Native Americans.

Target sites in this area include:

- **Midland** and/or Scharbauer sites (41MDI) with unfluted Midland Point Type 13,400 +/- 1,200 BP (Texas State Historical Association)
- **Lubbock Lake** site near Lubbock, Texas with 336 acres at 12,000 BP and Lubbock Lake Landmark with mammoth, bison, armadillo. Clovis 11,500 to 11,000 BP. <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/> and <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/prehistoric/index.html>
- **Black Water Draw and Museum** near Clovis, New Mexico - Several remains have been found at the [Blackwater Draw](#) site. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackwater\\_Draw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackwater_Draw)
- **Alibates Flint Quarries** near Amarillo, Texas. For thousands of years, people came to the red bluffs above the Canadian River for flint, vital to their existence.

The tour continues into the Prairie and Lake region and then onto the Texas Gulf Coast.

Target sites include:

- **Bosque Museum** in Clifton, TX houses a replica of the Paleoamerican site found in Bosque County and called the Horn Shelter. <http://www.bosquemuseum.org/default.htm>
- **Horn Shelter** - Working within the dark recesses of a rock shelter overlooking the Brazos River, avocational archeologists uncovered a deeply buried human grave. Dated to more than 11,000 years ago, the grave held the remains of a man and a child who had been buried with a cache of special offerings crafted of shell, bone, and stone. <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/horn/>
- **Maborn/Stecker Museum** at Baylor University in Waco, TX
- **McFaddin Beach** is a 32-kilometer long stretch of sandy beach in Jefferson County on the upper Texas Gulf coast. Although this public beachfront parcel has been assigned a trinomial archeological site designation (41 JF 50), it is not really an archeological site, but rather a place

where artifacts and animal bones have been washing ashore for many years. Archeologists use the terms *redeposited* or *secondary context* to refer to accumulations like this.

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/mcfaddin>

**Reservations:** If you are interested in joining us for this tour, contact **Dennis Fenwick** at [dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com](mailto:dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com) or **916-281-7237** (cell).

**Itinerary:** The itinerary is not yet final but preliminary information is available from Dennis.

**Participants may the leave tour** or leave and rejoin, at their convenience

MAJOR AIRPORTS providing DEPARTURE OPTIONS				
AUSTIN			Oct 13, 14	
MIDLAND			Oct 16, 17	
LUBBOCK			Oct 17, 18	
AMARILLO			Oct 20, 21	
HOUSTON			Oct 23	

**Limit of Participants:** A tentative limit of participants may be about 25. To date 16 persons have signed up. We have room for approximately 12 more persons.

**Contributions:** Participants are requested to make tax exempt contributions to both the **Center for the Study of First Americans** and the **Gault School of Archeological Research, Inc.**

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## PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

### Flint Knapping Workshop

On Saturday, May 2, 2015, a group of SAS members learned techniques for flint knapping with obsidian. Dr. Susan Gleason, archaeologist and principal in Phoenix Obsidian Designs taught the class. We used primitive tools (rocks) and percussion techniques to split the obsidian rocks. The forming continued with sticks. We discovered that experience and patience were essential to create useable products. We thank Dr. Gleason for her personalized training and Roger and Lydia Peake for hosting the event.



# *Eclectic Archeological Exchange*

## **“EASTER ISLAND”**

On Saturday, June 27, 2015 Martha Lewis, SAS member and traveler, presented a talk on “Easter Island”. This event which is part of the Eclectic Archeological Exchange related her experience and the known history of the famous island in the South Pacific. We thank Martie for sharing the fascinating information and the McGregors for hosting and catering the event.



The mysteries of Easter Island have captivated scholars for several centuries. The image of eerie, gigantic stone statues standing guard over a wind-swept speck of volcanic rock in the South Pacific thousands of miles from the nearest land has fueled speculation from Captain Cook to Thor Heyerdahl to Jared Diamond. Martie commented on the history of Easter Island from the first people arriving on Rapa Nui, the Polynesian name for Easter Island to the arrival of current adventurers, us tourists. Modern archaeology by probing lake segments has identified two grasses and five palms that were native before European contact. A cold snap from about 1350 to 1600 B.P. and sheep grazing for a century did not promote the scant vegetation on the island. The famous “Moai” statues are still a mystery. They may have been slid from their mountain quarry on the vast number of volcanic peddles or “walked” upright to their display positions on Ahi, platforms and how were gigantic the red volcanic hats placed on top of the statues. These and other mysteries still surround the windy, cool, low lying, triangular-shaped island.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **2015 Scholars**

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. is pleased to announce our 2015 scholarship recipients. The candidates were exceptional. Thanks to the SAS members who contributed funds we were able to provide financial support to five scholars. A presentation by the scholars will be scheduled for early 2016.

#### **Allison Blair**

Allison is currently a junior at University of Nevada, Reno. She is majoring in Anthropology and holds a 4.0 GPA. This summer she plans to attend the Spike Island Field School in Cobh, Ireland. The bioarchaeology field school will focus on the island’s prison from 1800’s. It will continue searching for the convict burial ground and will excavate a walled cemetery. Also the project will begin renovating a punishment block to a museum about Spike Island. Finally the school will excavate the site of the original stockades. This field school will initiate Allison’s hands on archaeological experience. We look forward to a full report in 2016.

#### **Derek Boyd**

Derek is a graduate student at California State University, Chico. This summer he is traveling to London, England to collect data at the Museum of London Centre for Human Bioarchaeology and at the Royal College of Surgeons for his master’s thesis research. He will be analyzing patterns of trauma on human skeletal remains from two socioeconomically disparate post-Medieval communities. Unlike most bioarchaeological research projects that focus on warfare and occupation, his research objective is

to make inferences about differences in the prevalence and quality of treatment for traumatic injuries between the two communities. The SAS scholarship will support this research and we will be interested in hearing about it at the scholars' symposium in 2016.

### **Rachel Davies**

Rachel is a senior at California State University, Sacramento. She intends a career in California/Great Basin Zooarcheology. To that end she proposes to attend University of Oregon's field school at Rimrock Draw Rockshelter this summer. Excavation will begin at 7600 year old Mazama Volcano ash layer and proceed lower to 15,000 B.P. levels where ancient camel teeth, artifacts, and plant remains are expected to be found. The scholarship will support Rachel's attendance and the field school. We will be interested in the results of the excavation at her presentation in 2016.

### **Leah Hansard**

Leah is a graduate student at University of California, Davis. Her goal is to obtain a doctorate degree in classical archaeology and lead excavations. She was a field student in 2011 at Nemea, Greece and at Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project in Murlo, Greece in 2013. This summer she intends to participate at Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project as a Trench Master-in-Training. Our funding will support this training. We look forward to an update on the Poggio Civitate Project in 2016.

### **Naomi Martisius**

Naomi is PhD student at University of California, Davis. She has worked on seven archaeological sites and lab projects in France, Germany, South Africa and Israel. As part of her dissertation she plans to locate and study bone tools made by Neandertals. To this end she needs to complete her initial assessment of Middle Paleolithic French faunal assemblages for her dissertation. She will study screened materials from three recently excavated Paleolithic sites which are housed in Bordeaux and Les Eyzies. The scholarship funds will be used to perform this research. We are excited to hear about her discoveries next year.

## **MEMBER CORNER**

### **Member Donations**

We thank sponsoring and patron members who have donated at or above the \$100 mark to support scholarships. These include W. James and Carol Barry, John and Kathy Foster, and Carolyn and Gordon McGregor. We also give special recognition to Carolyn and Gordon McGregor for their additional donation to honor Roger and Lydia Peake's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

### **Renewal of Annual Memberships**

Have you renewed your membership? 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 **2015** 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.

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**Annual Dues for 2015**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES**

### **“Chronicling modern human’s arrival in Europe”**

“The Protoaurignacian culture is pivotal to the debate about the timing of the arrival of modern humans in western Europe and the demise of Neandertal. However, which group is responsible for this culture remains uncertain. We investigated dental remains associated with the Protoaurignacian. The lower deciduous incisor from Riparo Bombrini is modern human, based on its morphology. The upper deciduous incisor from Grotta di Fumane contains ancient mitochondrial DNA of a modern human type. These teeth are the oldest human remains in a Aurignacian-related archaeological context, confirming that by 41,000calendar years before present, modern humans bearing Protoaurignacian culture spread into southern Europe. Because the last Neandertals date to 41,030 to 39,260 calendar years before the present, we suggest that the Protoaurignacian triggered the demise of Neandertals in this area.

(Benazzi et. al. and Conard, Nicholar and Michael Bolus, 2015-5-15, *Science*, pp. 754-756, 769, 793-795)

### “‘Little Foot’ lived in same era as Lucy”

“Lucy’s species, an East African hominid line call *Australopithecus afarensis*, had a South African counterpart, a new study coauthored by Ronald Clarke of University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg finds. A nearly complete fossil skeleton from South Africa’s Sterkfontein Caves, dubbed Little Foot, dates to 3.67 million years ago, making it roughly 1 million years older than any other South African hominid.. If the new date is correct, Little Foot would be contemporary with Lucy’s species, which lived in East Africa from about 4 million to 3 million years ago” (May 2, 2015, *Science News*, pp. 8-9.)

### “Early arrival for hominids in Greece”

“New geologic evidence from a Greek archaeological site, Kokkinopilos, indicates that hand axes and other stone artifacts date to about 206,000 years ago. Stone implements from a higher sediment layer date to about 172,000 years ago, a time when Neandertals inhabited Europe.” (May 2, 2015, *Science News*, p. 17)

### “Kennewick Man’s bones reveal an ancient taste for seafood”

“Kennewick Man almost exclusively ate seafood despite access to land animals. Proportions of certain forms of carbon and nitrogen in the bones of the 9,000-year-old skeleton denotes a diet dominated by seafood, Henry Schwarz of McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, reported March 28<sup>th</sup> at American Association of Physical Anthropologist, St. Louis.” (May 2, 2015, *Science News*, p. 17)

### “Reading the Stones- There is more than one way to tell the story of hominid evolution via ancient tools”

Bruce Bower reviews the maybe not so scientific methods for analyzing stone artifacts and offers a conclusion that “meaningful ways of connecting stone tools to hominid evolution are desperately needed”. (Bruce Bower, April 4, 2015, *Science News*, pp. 16-21)