



# Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

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

March/April - 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March, 12- 15, 2015** - Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting, Redding, CA

**March 21, 2015, Saturday, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.** - Eclectic Archeological Exchange, “Hittites”, Paul K. Davis at Roger and Lydia Peake’s home

**April 15- 19, 2015** – Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

**May 1, 2015** – Scholarship applications due

**June 27, 2015, Saturday, 4:00 – 8:30 p.m.** – Eclectic Archeological Exchange, “Easter Island”, Martie Fenwick at Carolyn McGregor’s home

**Aug 10-15, 2015** -- Orkney Islands Tour

**September 25-27, 2015** - Sierra Rock Art tour, Advanced lodging reservations at Rainbow Lodge

**October, 2015** – Paleo-American and Clovis Tour, Texas, contact Dennis Fenwick, [dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com](mailto:dennis.t.fenwick@msn.com) for more information

**November 7, 2015** - Archaeology Event at Maidu Museum

**December 5, 2015** – SAS Annual Meeting

## ECLECTIC ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCHANGE

Saturday, March 21, 2015

1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Roger & Lydia Peake’s home

2951 Redwood Ave. West Sacramento, CA 95691

### Paul K. Davis

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. member

#### “HITTITES”

From about four thousand years ago until about three thousand years ago, peoples and nations called “Hittite” were a major force in the Middle East, based in what is now Turkey, extending into northern Syria, with interactions from Iraq to Greece and Egypt. When the first Hittite kingdom was founded, only the Egyptians, Mesopotamians, and Indus people had writing systems. The Hittites were next to learn to write. By the end of the last Hittite kingdom, the Chinese, Phoenicians, Greeks, Olmec and Maya could. We only learned much of the Hittites in the last century and a half. Thanks to archaeology our knowledge is still growing. The Hittites made significant contributions to ancient civilizations, such as how to smelt iron and how to train horses, and their influence affected many later civilizations including our own.



Example of Hittite sculpture

This late Hittite relief of a creature part lion, part bird, part man, is sometimes taken as symbolic of the Hittites. (credit: [Tayfun Bilgin](#) – “Karkamis”)

Bring your favorite dish for a **pot luck luncheon**. Invite your friends.

Questions? Please contact Jan Johansen at [janjohansen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janjohansen@sbcglobal.net)

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## **PAST ARCHÆOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES**

### **ANNUAL SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM**

On January 18<sup>th</sup> the annual scholar symposium was held. We were inspired by presentations by three of the 2014 scholarship recipients: **Kasey Cole**, CSU, Chico; **Jesica Jayd Lewis**, North Carolina State University; and **Heather MacInnies**, CSU, Chico. **Julia Prince**, CSU, Chico attended but she will present later this year.

Kasey attended the **Zooarchaeology and Field Ecology Field School** at Eagle Lake in Northern California. After relating her experiences exploring wildlife in the Oregon Basin she discussed her project: "Resource Depression and Processing Intensity".



Heather gave us a historical overview of northwestern Spain and related her experiences with bones at the **Aditu Servicios Arquelogicos Mortuary Archaeology Field School** in Uharte-Arakil, Navarre, Spain.

Jayd continued the excursion to Europe by discussing first the **Palatine East Potter Project** (PEPP; Rome, Italy) which she reconstructed and studied Roman amphorae pottery. She also was to participate in the **Najerilla Valley Research Project** (NVRP; Camprovin, Spain). Unfortunately, this project was delayed until hopefully 2015 because of permit problems.

## **MEMBER'S CORNER**

### **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	_____	\$_____
Scholarship Donation		_____	\$_____

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

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES**

### “Human skeleton became lighter over time”

“Chimp bones are packed with microscopic structures known as spongy bone; modern human bones aren’t, increasing risk of fractures and osteoporosis. Two studies propose an explanation for this change: Chirchir et al. found that skeletons from modern chimpanzees. *Australopithecus africanus*, Neandertals, and early Homo sapiens all had higher densities of spongy bone than modern humans, suggesting that our sedentary lifestyle is to blame. Ryan and Shaw also found lower spongy bone density in the hip joints of ancient farmers compared with hips from non human primates and ancient hunter-gather” (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 10.1073/pnas1411696112 (2014),10.0073/PNAS.1418646112(2014)) (2015-01-02 *Science*, p 40)

### “Colonizing the roof of the world”

“Humans only settled permanently on the Tibetan plateau about 3600 years ago. Chen et al. examined archaeological crop remains unearthed in northeastern Tibet, which elucidate the timing of agricultural settlement. Although much earlier traces of humans in Tibet have been dated to 20,000 years ago, year round presence at the highest altitudes appears to have been impossible until the advent of suitable crops, such as barley. Surprisingly, these prehistoric farming communities expanded onto the plateau at the same time as climate was cooling.” (2015-01-16 *Science*, p. 248-250)

## “Meetup with Neandertals?”

“Most Europeans and Asians have up to 2% Neandertal DNA in their genomes, but when and where did any matches between Neandertals and modern humans take place? The discovery of a 5,000-year-old partial skull in Israel’s Manot Cave, not far from previously excavated Neandertal fossils of similar age, shores up the suggestion from ancient DNA that these two human lineages engaged in at least some limited mating in the Middle East between about 50,000 and 60,000 years ago.” (2015-01-30 *Science*, p.461-462)