



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

March/April - 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

(SAS-sponsored events highlighted in blue)

March 4, 2017 - Eclectic Archeological Exchange, Paul K. Davis, "Age Measurement Techniques" and Gerrit Fenenga, "Oregon 'Older than Clovis' Archaeology"

March 9-12, 2017 - Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting at Tenaya Lodge, Fish Camp, CA <https://scahome.org/sca-annual-meeting/2017-annual-meeting/>

March 24, 2017, Friday –Rock Art and Native American Culture Tour in Mexico

March 25-26, 2017 - Anza Borrego Archeological Symposium, "Celebrating 21st Birthday of CDAS"

May 1, 2017 - Scholarship Applications due

May 8, 2017, Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Vasco Caves Rock Art Tour, led by Naturalist Eddie Willis

May 8, 2017, Monday –Board Meeting following Vasco Caves Rock Art Tour

June 24, 2017 - Eclectic Archeological Exchange, Jan and Tom Johansen, "Aboriginal Dream Time Rock Art and Australian Early Homo Sapiens (Mungo Lady and Man)"

Eclectic Archeological Exchange

Saturday, March 4, 2017

12:00 p.m. at

**Carolyn & Gordon McGregor's
1334 Mission Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608**

Please note that the Eclectic Archeological Exchange that had been scheduled for March 11th has been rescheduled to **March 4, 2017**.

Have you ever wondered how artifacts were dated? **Paul K. Davis** will shed light on current techniques and practices. He will provide a brief survey and comparison of many dating methods from radioactive to tree rings etc., with a chart comparing their applicability to different materials and age ranges. In addition **Gerrit Fenenga** will review Oregon "Older than Clovis" Archaeology as revealed in the SAS 2016 Oregon Tour.

Program

12:00 p.m. Meet and greet followed by lunch catered by Carolyn McGregor

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Paul K. Davis, "Age Measurement Techniques"

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Gerrit Fenenga, "Oregon 'Older than Clovis' Archaeology"

Please RSVP by February 28th to Carolyn McGregor at sabrina53@earthlink.net. Guests are welcome.

Mexico/Anza-Borrego Archaeology Weekend **March 24- 26, 2017**

Join SAS Members in southern California for a **Rock Art and Cultural Tour in Mexico** and the **14th Annual Archaeological Weekend** at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Borrego Springs Colorado Desert

Rock Art and Native American Cultural Tour

Vallecitos Rock Art and Museums

Friday, March 24, 2017

at Tecate and Rumorosa, Mexico

Sponsored by

Corredor Histórico CAREM, A.C. and Tecate Community Museum

Itinerary

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Arrive in Tecate, CA (U.S. side of Mexican Border), walk across border to access transportation (bus) at Border Mexican side

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Guided tour of Kumiai museum/Tecate Community Museum

11:00 a.m. Travel to Rumorosa

12:00 p.m. Lunch in restaurant near Rock Art Reserve

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Guided (Spanish & English) tour of Rock Art-Vallecitos

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Campo Alaska Museum

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Arrive at border for return

The cost per person is \$75.00. Cost Includes: Transportation, Guide, Entrance fee to Vallecitos and Museums, Lunch, Water, Tips and donation to CAREM.

Attendees must be members in good standings of Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc. Reservations are required. Please make your **reservations** by contacting Jan Johansen at janjohansen@sbcglobal.net.

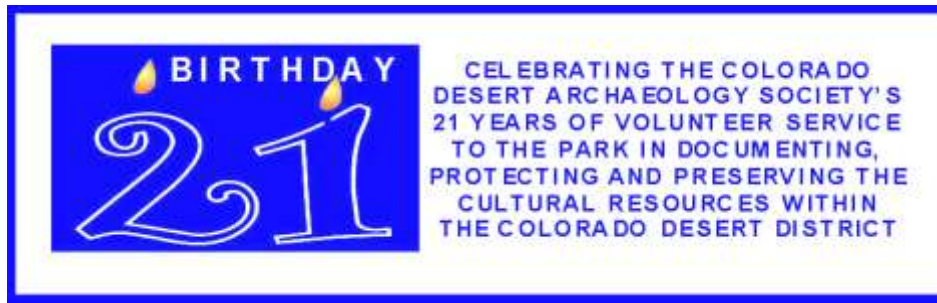
14th Annual Archaeology Weekend **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center** **March 25-26, 2017**

Borrego Springs, California

Sponsored by



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society



Free Admission

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Events - Visitor Center

9:00 - 4:30 **Silent Auction** at the Begole Archaeological Research Center. Bidding closes at 4:30 pm. Winning bids announced at 5:00 pm. (Winners need not be present) Funds raised are used to help preserve and protect the Park's cultural resources.

9:30 – 4:00 **Guided Tours of the Archaeology Lab & Silent Auction** will be conducted by Colorado Desert Archaeology Society volunteers. Groups will depart from the Visitor Center front door approximately every half hour.

10:00 - 4:00 **Native American Basket and Pottery Display** (Craft items are for sale)

Pottery Making Demonstration and Kids' Activities - Includes clay grinding with paddle and anvil construction techniques. By CDAS Archaeology volunteers (Clay will be available for spectator participation)

Demonstration Table on Uses of Native Plants for Food, Medicine and Construction by the Kumeyaay Tribes of San Diego County & Baja California By Suzanne Emery

Pictograph Stories – Students of all ages will look at pictographs and then try to decode the pictograph story. They will then create their own story on a rock to take home. By Ranger LuAnn

4:00 - 5:00 **Free Ice Cream Social** - Ice cream sundaes and root beer floats at the Begole Archaeological Research Center

Presentations – Discovery Room

10:00 – 11:00 **The Genesis of the Colorado Desert Archaeological Society.** The concept of a volunteer archaeology society modeled after the Anza Borrego Desert Paleontology Society came to fruition in the spring of 1996--21 years ago when California State Parks' first volunteer archaeological technicians were certified and began surveying and documenting the rich cultural landscape of the Anza Borrego Desert. By Rae Schwaderer - Associate State Archaeologist, Monterey District

11:00 – 12:00 **We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!** How Colorado Desert Archaeology society' volunteers made 21 years of projects happen. Join retired Colorado Desert District Archaeologist Joan Schneider for a whirlwind tour of the archaeological projects, large and small, made possible by the many, many hours and considerable skills of our trained volunteers from 2001 – 2011+

1:00 – 2:00 **Activities in support of the Park's Cultural Resources mission by Volunteers of the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society.** Site Stewardship Program by Carol Black, Use of UAV

Photography to Record Archaeological Sites by Chuck Bennett, and Cultural Features and Artifact Images by Sam Webb

2:00 – 3:00 **Colorado Desert Archaeology Society: Carrying the Past into the Future.** In CDAS' future we anticipate a recommitment of the values of stewardship, field, lab and data support. We also anticipate growing as true Citizen Scientists by formulating research questions, developing hypotheses, testing theories, and describing results. In this way we place ourselves as participants in the future of CDD archaeology. By Robin Connors – Associate State Archaeologist, Colorado Desert District

3:00 – 4:00 **Adapting Indian Ways to Survive and Thrive.** Marshal and Tanya South lived 17 years on a remote mountain top in Blair Valley after the Great Depression. They adapted a lifestyle based on their knowledge and interpretation of Indian lifeways, romanticizing the experience for their *Desert Magazine* readers. A Pre-Field Trip Presentation by Diana Lindsay – an award-winning author and historian

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Events – Visitor Center

9:00 – 12:00 **Native American Basket and Pottery Display.** (Craft items for sale)

9:30 – 12:00 **Guided Tours of the Archaeology Lab.** Groups depart Visitor Center front door approximately every half hour.

10:00 -12:00 **Pottery Making Demonstration** - Includes clay grinding with paddle and anvil construction techniques. By CDAS Archaeology volunteers (Clay will be available for spectator participation)

Demonstration Table on Uses of Native Plants for Food, Medicine & Construction by the Kumeyaay Tribes of San Diego County & Baja California. By Suzanne Emery

Presentations - Discovery Room

10:00 - 11:00 **From a Ranger's Point of View: Working Together Towards Protecting our Cultural Heritages- A Historical Perspective.** By Ranger Steve Bier (This program is especially for KIDS & their parents)

11:00 - 12:00 **A 21-Year Overview of Colorado Desert Archaeology Society Volunteer Work in Support of the Park's Cultural Resource Management Plan, with posters, photos, and displays.** By CDAS volunteer – Steve Russell

Field Trips

08:30 - 01:00 **Clark Lake Petroglyphs:** This is a moderate hike of approximately 3 miles round trip to visit the Clark Lake Petroglyph Site. The hike across the desert floor crosses the braided wash system which flows out of Rockhouse Canyon. The petroglyphs are associated with the Cahuilla People and were pecked into the heavy desert-varnished boulders at the north end of Clark Lake. The trip will depart from the Pegleg Monument at 8:30 a.m. and will return by 12:30-1:00 p.m. 4WD is necessary for this trip. (Limited to 15 people - \$5.00 fee) Trip led by CDAS volunteer Chuck Bennett.

09:00 - 02:00 **Mine Wash Indian Village** Join CDAS Archaeology Technician and volunteer Site Steward Don Endicott for half day trip back in time to the Mine Wash archaeological site, which was

occupied and used most intensively by the Kumeyaay people around 1100 years ago and again in the 1600s ("Late Prehistoric" Period). During our walk over relatively gentle open desert we will observe a variety of features associated with seasonal habitation, food gathering, and food preparation. Archaeological features we will see including bedrock milling and grinding features and examples of the mysterious pecked cupules found throughout the region. We will meet at the Park Visitor Center's back parking area at 9:00) and carpool to the Mine Wash site. High clearance vehicles are preferred. (Limited to 20 people - \$5.00 fee) There is a primitive restroom a short distance south of the highway junction but no facilities are available at the site. Please be prepared with suitable footwear, hats, sunscreen, your own water, and food for lunch. The field trip will conclude back at the Visitor Center at 2:00 p.m.

09:30 – 02:00 **Ghost Mountain in Blair Valley by Diana Lindsay.** Step back in time as we climb Blair Valley's Ghost Mountain and look at the plant resources found there that the Kumeyaay and Marshal and Tanya South collected and harvested. We will discuss why the Souths retreated to this waterless mountaintop and considered it a spiritual home. It was the inspiration for 9 years of monthly articles for *Desert Magazine* and the creation of two western novels that incorporated local legends and even the use of the sacred *Datura* plant. Meet in the back parking lot of the Visitor Center for a 9:30 departure to Blair Valley. Estimated time of return would be 2:00 p.m.. Car pooling is recommended. (Limited to 25 people - \$5.00 fee) Bring a snack, water, lunch, hat, and sunscreen. Trekking poles are optional. Hill is steep. Total hiking distance is up to 3 miles. There will be possible side trip, depending on time.

Pre-registration required for the field trips

For detailed information and reservations call ABF at 760-767-0446 ext 1003.

During Archaeology Weekend: Check for last-minute field trip openings at the CDAS table in front Visitor's Center. There is a \$5.00 Fee. Wear hiking shoes and bring hat and water.

Vasco Caves Rock Art Day Tour

Monday, May 8, 2017

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Naturalist Eddie Willis will lead a private visit to Vasco Caves Rock Art in East Bay. This Regional Preserve contains Indian rock art, part of a complex that reaches back nearly 10,000 years.

www.cbparcs.org/parks/vasco

Central Valley Yokuts, or perhaps Delta Miwok, or more local Ohlone native people, gather in ceremony to paint ancestral symbols, dance the ritual stories of creation, pray to gods and spirits, and congregate as one to witness the sacred transition of seasons at the longest day of the year.

Life scenarios such as described above have unfolded for thousands of years at this special place in far eastern Contra Costa County, near Byron, northeast of Livermore, and about 40 miles east of Berkeley, in a land that, were it not for a carefully managed resource plan that allows for occasional visits by human beings, has all but been forgotten by time and civilization. Here, you can stand alone on a rocky promontory, lost to the world, eyes closed, and gaze into the infinite beyond, feeling infused with the ancient vibe of timelessness, at one with the eternal ebb and flow of creation, in synch and harmony with the undisturbed, natural rhythms of life.

This is a Members only event and attendance is limited. Contact Tom Johansen at av8r@cloudbear.com for reservations. Make your reservations ASAP.

Ancient Pueblo and Rock Art Tour

SAS is looking at May 2018 for an Ancient Pueblo and Rock Art Tour for the New Mexico area. The planning is preliminary.

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Annual Scholar Symposium

On January 15 University of California and California State University Scholars discussed their involvement in recent archaeological research. **Roshanne Shirley Bakhtiary** a University of California, a Davis graduate student spoke on the field school she directed in Santa Clara County (CA-SCL-330). **Amanda Dobrov** a University of California, Berkeley student talked about her experiences organizing Palatine East Pottery Project, (PEPP).vessels at the American Academy in Rome. **Sarah A. Hall** a California State University, Chico graduate student updated us on the analysis of adult skeletons from the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Cemetery (SCVMCC) collection, housed at California State University, Chico. **Anna Khrustaleva** a University of California Santa Barbara student discussed the six week excavation project on Audrey-North Site, a lower Illinois Mississippian River Valley occupation site. **Jason Miszaniec**, a University of California, Davis, graduate student discussed an excavation project he directed at a Difchahak (NOB-005) site at Shaktoolik, Norton Sound, Alaska. **Jewell Cora Soriano**, a University of California Berkeley student talked on the mapping project at Taraco Peninsula in Bolivia. These varied presentations offered a fascinating glimpse into current archaeological investigation.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Members

We welcome two new recent members to Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.: Mary Gorden and Ann Foster. We look forward to seeing you at our next events. We also thank supporting members for your renewals. Your support allows us to award scholarships. If you have not renewed your membership, read on.

Renewal of Annual Memberships

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 promptly paying your **2017** dues. **Remember your dues make scholarships possible.** We keep overhead low so that the funds can be used to support students. You may now use our web site <http://sacarcheology.org/society-membership/> to renew and make payment using a **credit card or Paypal.**

The annual dues are:

Student/Limited Member	\$15
Individual Membership	\$30
Family Membership	\$40
Sponsor	\$100 - 499 (individual) \$500 - 999 (business)
Patron	\$1000

Alternatively, 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 2017

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

“Solving Australia’s Language Puzzle”

“When Europeans colonized Australia 250 years ago, the continent was home to an estimated half-million to 2 million people who were organized into about 700 different groups and spoke at least 300 languages. Linguists have struggled to work out how these languages were related and when they emerged. Recent studies paint a picture of how people entered and spread across the continent, giving birth to new languages as they went. The 25 Aboriginal languages still being passed to new generations make up one of the last and most diverse great hunter-gatherer linguistic groups left. Using genetic changes as a molecular clock Eske Willerslev from the University of Copenhagen led a team to conclude that Papuan and Aboriginal Australian ancestors diverged perhaps 37,000 years ago, long before Australia and New Guinea were separated by rising seas. The genetic analysis found no evidence of multiple migrations into Australia, suggesting that languages must have diversified on the continent. The data shows that the population expanded from the northeast to the southwest. This migration occurred within the last 10,000 years and likely came in successive waves in which existing languages were overlaid by new ones. This expansion also seems to correspond with a stone tool innovation called a backed edge blade.” (Michael Erard, *Science*, V. 353, 2016-12-2, pp. 1357-1359)

“Farmer-foragers went west”

“Humans began to settle and combine farming with foraging about 12,000 years ago. Over the next 2000 to 3000 years, they moved west from the Fertile Crescent into Anatolia, although it seems, from the distribution of obsidian flints, that the eastern and western populations kept in contact *Kilnç et al*, obtained genome sequence data from nine Neolithic individuals from two ancient village sites in

Anatolia. The settlers from the older site were distinct from their European forager counterparts but, like them, showed little genetic diversity, indicating a small population. The later farmer-settlers, who had acquired pottery-making skills, were genetically more diverse. This data points to an additional wave of migration from the Fertile Crescent or the Levant that brought new genes and promoted further westward expansion before the mobile hunter-gatherers of the northern steppes added their genes to the European mix.” (*Science*, 2016-11-18, p. 845)

“Catching ancient maize domestication in the act”

“It wasn’t easy to make a meal of teosinte, a grass that was the ancient precursor to maize. Each cob was shorter than your little finger and harbored only about 12 kernels encased in rock-hard sheaths. The first glimpses of maize domestication came in the 1960s when U.S. archaeologist, Richard MacNeish excavated caves in Mexico’s Tehucan Valley, center of early Mesoamerican agriculture. In the dry, dark environment there, he found tiny, well-preserved maize cobs dated to roughly 5300 years ago and harboring only 50 kernels each, compared with 1000 on modern cobs. Recently geneticist, Jean Philippe Vielle-Calzada at the Center of Research and Advanced Studies of the National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity in Irapuato, Mexico returned to this cave and discovered several new specimens, dated to about 5000 years ago. The Vielle-Calzada team applied shotgun sequencing to three cobs, extracted DNA and broke it up into short fragments for sequencing. Computer software reassembled these DNA snippets, reconstructing more than 35% of the ancient maize genome. Another team led by Nathan Wales of the University of Copenhagen was able to sequence 21% of the cob’s genome using different specimens. Both teams identified genes that had transformed to modern variants.” (*Science*, V. 354, 2016-11-25, p. 953-4)

“The Wanderers”

“The famous site of Dmanisi, Georgia offers an unparalleled glimpse into a harsh early chapter in human evolution, when primitive members of our genus *Homo* struggled to survive in a new land far north of their ancestors’ African home. The 4-hectare site has yielded closely packed, beautifully preserved fossils that are the oldest hominins known outside of Africa, including five skulls, about 50 skeletal bones, and a yet-unpublished pelvis unearthed two years ago. Until the discovery of the first jawbone at Dmanisi 25 years ago, researchers thought that the first hominins to leave Africa were the classic *H. erectus*. These tall, relatively large-brained ancestors of modern humans arose about 1.9 million years ago and soon afterward invented a sophisticated new tool, the hand ax. They were thought to be the first people to migrate out of Africa as early as 1.6 million years ago. But as the bones and tools from Dmanisi accumulate, a different picture of the earliest migrants is emerging. These people were primitive with small bodies about 1.5 meters tall, simple tools, and brains 1/3 to 1/2 the size of modern humans. They used the ‘Oldowan or Mode 1’ toolkit—the first tools made by hominins, which include simple flakes for scraping and cutting and spherical choppers for pounding. The tools from Dmanisi are dated to 1.85 million years old. The trail of stone tools hopscotched to Asia, where Mode 1 toolkits show up at nearly 1.7 million years ago in China and 1.6 million in Java with *H. erectus* fossils.” (*Science*, V. 354, 2016-11-25, pp. 958-961)