MARCH PCAS SPEAKER

Gary Stickel

ICE AGE MAN IN MALIBU:
THE CLOVIS CULTURE DISCOVERY AT THE FARPOINT SITE

Dr. Gary Stickel will present his research team's exciting new discovery of a Clovis site located on the Southern California coast at Malibu. The Clovis Culture is the oldest identifiable culture in the New World. The two major competing theories on the origin of Clovis will be discussed, and it is quite possible that the Farpoint Site will yield data to support the correct theory. The site is important to our worldwide understanding of how the planet was originally inhabited by early peoples. The ingenious hunting system with which Clovis hunters brought down the mammoths and other megafauna will also be presented, and Dr. Stickel will discuss the importance of protecting this nationally significant site.

Dr. Gary Stickel received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. (the latter in 1974) all at UCLA. His master's degree was based on the ancient Rincon Cemetery (ancient Chumash Culture between Ventura and Santa Barbara). His doctorate was based on Swiss Neolithic underwater archaeology in Lake Zurich. He has been a faculty member at the CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles and at CSU Northridge, and he has taught archaeology at UCLA. He has lectured at the University of Sheffield in England, the University of the Sorbonne in Paris, the University of Florida, and the University of Georgia. Dr. Stickel has published technical books and professional articles on his research such as his article in the (Continued on p. 2)

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month’s speaker, Dr. Gary Stickel and PCAS members for dinner before the March 11th General Meeting. We will meet at 6 pm at Mimi’s Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING
Free and Open to the Public
March 11 - 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Gary Stickel
Topic: Ice Age Man in Malibu
Location: Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine
(between the I-5 and I-405 freeway)

The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the causes or activities of organizations that use the District’s meeting rooms which are made available for public use.

BOARD MEETING
All Members Welcome
Wednesday, March 17 - 7:00 pm
Note Date Change

Location: Old Orange County Courthouse
PCAS Library, Ground Floor
211 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana

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February Speaker Notes

Dating the Coso Petroglyphs:
Techniques and Implications

Submitted by Megan Galway

The Coso Petroglyph complex is centered within the China Lake Naval Weapons Station and has been very well protected and preserved. Alexander (Sandy) Rogers formerly worked for the Navy at China Lake and, since his retirement, is now Archaeology Curator at Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest. Tours of the petroglyph sites are available through the Museum.

Dr. Rogers has been involved in California archaeology since 1965 and has conducted many major excavations around the state including at the oldest site in the San Francisco Bay area, at the old Spanish Mission San Buenaventura, and most recently at the Farpoint Site, where his team discovered the first Clovis Culture site on the west coast of the Americas.

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The most common motifs in the complex are the Classic Coso Sheep and the Patterned Body Anthropomorph (PBA). Other motifs included in the study were Other Sheep, Archers, Atlatl, and Abstract. The classic Coso sheep has a boat-shaped body and appears to be facing the observer. Recent efforts to date the Coso petroglyphs have been based on a number of different techniques, with the aim of finding a common thread in the results. One of the most reliable dating methods is based on the subject of the motif. Other Sheep and Abstract appear to be the oldest, dating to the Pleistocene-Holocene Transition, prior to 10,000 years BP. PBA and Atlatl motifs fall within the Pinto/Little lake Period of 5,000 to 7,000 years BP, and the Classic Coso sheep are from the Newberry Period from 2,000 to 4,000 years BP. The bow and arrow are known to have reached this area around 1,800 to 1,400 years BP, so the Archer motif can be no older than this.

The rock surfaces in the California desert areas are coated with “desert varnish” that Rogers describes as a process whereby “bacteria eat dust and poop manganese.” Coso petroglyphs are made by pecking, abrading, or scratching the rock surface and removing this varnish. The re-growth of varnish over motifs can be measured by using X-Ray fluorescence (XRF) to measure the amount of manganese in the varnish. With a known rate of growth the petroglyph can then be dated. Cation-ratio (CR) has been used to measure leaching of water-soluble elements from rock varnish. Contextual elements have also been considered, using such methods as obsidian hydration to date associated points. Rogers demonstrated how a combination of these methods had resulted in clustering of elements within specific date ranges.

Based on these results, he offered a chronological summary for the Coso area. At about 20,000 years BP the area was glaciated, later giving way to a cool, moist climate. Megafauna were present, but there is no definite evidence of human occupation. During the Pleistocene-Holocene transition, prior to 12,000 years BP, human occupation is indicated by the presence of Clovis points in association with Abstract and Other Sheep petroglyphs. The Middle (Continued on p. 3)
FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

President Scott Findlay called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm at the Old Orange County Courthouse, Santa Ana, California. Board members present: Scott Findlay, Steve O’Neil, Megan Galway, Rene Brace, Jane Gotthold, Kathleen Shada, and Ivan Strudwick. Members present: Bob Brace and Hank Koerper.

The January 2010 minutes were approved. The treasurer’s report and expenditures were approved, and the 2009 Annual Report was approved for publication.

Scott Findlay has identified additional material for our Procedures Manual and will work with SandyKennedy to incorporate this material. PCAS will have an informational/Quarterly table at the SCA Annual Meeting in Riverside from March 17 to March 20. Bob and Rene Brace and Megan Galway will man the table and Hank Koerper, Steve O’Neil, and Scott Findlay plan to be at the meeting and help out. The Board will welcome assistance from any members that plan to attend the meeting. David Belardes is waiting for the County to approve sites for the return of sensitive materials from LAN-98 and ORA-145. Rene Brace and Sherri Gust are researching options to update our website. Ideally we’d like to find an interested student or web enthusiast to design the site for us. Our current host offers web-building services so Rene Brace will ask them for a quote. The board is also investigating our options for being able to accept Pay Pal or credit card payments.

Members enjoyed the three-day field trip to Anza Borrego State Park in February, and the next trip will be to the Black Lava Butte area the weekend of March 27-28. Joe Hodulik’s donation/award table brought in $60.00 for the scholarship fund at the February meeting. A mailing session prior to the meeting prepared Volume 42, Number 4, and Volume 43, Numbers 1 and 2, for mailing. Hank Koerper reported we have material in the pipeline for up to two years worth of publications. The family of Lavinia Knight donated a large collection of her books to the PCAS library, and Jane Gothold suggested we identify these with a special bookplate. Galway will research our options for having these printed. Joe Hodulik has reported he has speakers scheduled through November 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

PCAS QUARTERLY NEWS

PCAS is pleased to announce the recent publication of the PCAS Quarterly Volume 42, Number 4, and Volume 43, Number 1 & 2. The transition of editorial responsibilities is now complete and progress has already been made in bringing our publication schedule current.

Beth and Chris Padon state the following with respect to the team that supported the Quarterly over the years:

We want to take this opportunity to thank the current PCAS Quarterly committee members, Constance Cameron, Dorothy DeGennaro, Polly Kennison, Jack Lissack, W. Tadlock, for all of their hard work and efforts. Without them, no Quarterly issues would have been published. We also thank previous committee members, and all of the authors and anonymous reviewers who participated in 14 volumes of the Quarterly.

The Quarterly is unique in many ways. We are pleased that we could participate in a publication that’s completely volunteer. All of the committee members, authors, and reviewers gave valuable time to the Quarterly. Because of their efforts, the Quarterly promoted a greater understanding of California prehistory and history. Everyone should be proud of their results.

The Board extends its thanks and appreciation to the Padons and their team for their years of service. As noted, publishing a high-quality journal with an all volunteer staff is not easy.

(February Speaker Notes continued)

Archaic period of around 6,000 years BP is defined by Pinto/Little Lake points in association with Atlatl petroglyphs. PBAs are also present, possibly an indication of developing Shamanism. The Neo-Glacial period of around 4,000 years BP was the Newberry period, identified by Elko and Humboldt points, and an associated indication of intensive hunting. The classic Coso Sheep relates to this period. During the Haiwee period of 1,400 to 1,600 years BP the bow and arrow was introduced along with dogs, and there are indications this resulted in over-hunting. This was also a period of drought, due to the Medieval Climatic Anomaly, and an intensified production of petroglyphs is noted. During the Late Prehistoric of around 600 years BP the area saw a climatic revival. The older rock art techniques of pecking and abrading gave way to scratching, and there are indications that some cultural changes of this time were due to the Numic intrusion/expansion.

JANUARY SPEAKER NOTES CORRECTION

The highest point on Isla Cedros is 1,300 meters not 13,000 meters.
In late December 2009 I returned with Olivia Batchelder to the Swansea Petroglyph site to check for solar event markers during the winter solstice. As described in my report of summer solstice observations at the site (PCAS Newsletter October 2009, pp. 4&7), two evenings of observations brought forth four possible markers with six glyphs involved. These sightings were particularly rewarding given that the article by Alan Gillespie (n.d.) had only mentioned the one spectacular “sun dagger” sunset solstice marker. Though Gillespie did not mention any winter solstice markers, I had already decided to check as I had developed a hypothesis regarding a spiral glyph on Boulder 3.

It was very cold the morning of December 21st. Locals told us that while it had snowed in Bishop the day before it had only rained here at the Swansea site, 65 miles to the south. A few steps from the parking area toward the site I realized something was different. It finally dawned on me that I could not feel the sand shift beneath my feet as I walked along—the ground was frozen solid. When we arrived at the site, only Michael Mideke, a local from Keeler and a semi-professional photographer, was at the site with the archaeologist from the Western Great Basin Pollution Control District and his wife. I had been worried about a possible horde of fringe people coming from the four corners of the country and CSU San Bernardino, as I’d heard of in the past, seeking “the Egg,” communications with extra-terrestrial aliens, or evidence of ghost Arab/Celtic traders who had supposedly left their marks on these rocks.

Clouds in the east made the morning sunlight diffuse, and with no shadows, no observations could be made. Returning in the late afternoon, we arrived at the site before sunset because of the high Sierra Nevada to the west. Mike Mideke was there with his cameras. Mark Campbell and Blake Bufford arrived along with archaeologists working on the LADWP Owens Lake project. I checked all the boulders and glyphs that had yielded markers in the summer and fall, and each was now either in full shade or full sun. The sun was setting along the jagged ridge line of the Sierra Nevada, just south of the head of Ash Creek’s south fork, rather than near Mount Whitney where it had set the previous summer. The rays of the setting sun were far away from lining up with the “keel” rock (Boulder 2), and put full light on the spiral sun element (Boulder 3). Therefore, my hypothesis concerning placement of a wedge-shaped shadow on alternate sides of the spiral, depending on whether it was the summer or winter solstice, was incorrect. (When I observed the site during fall equinox, the setting sun had already progressed so far south that the “keel”s’ wedge shadow was on the spiral’s left and thus already beyond my hopes for a significant winter placement. Now, at actual solstice, there was no shadow in sight.)

I turned my attention to a set of eight vertical bars on the westward facing edges of a boulder in the site’s southeast area where there are many older rock art elements. These vertical bars are framed by horizontal bars at the top and bottom and are set evenly across the leading corner of the boulder, four on one face, four on the other. As the sunset light came and slowly passed, the western face of the boulder was in light and the eastern face was in shadow thus bisecting the glyph’s bars into two sets of four. (Photo 1.) This glyph appears to be the only sunset marker.

I returned to the site before sunrise the next morning, December 22nd. Mike reminded me of a possible glyph/shadow interaction, but I did not observe this interplay until three minutes past sunrise. The glyph faces east and is a circle with a vertical line (Photo 2). Mike had suggested that there was a shadow interaction with the fall equinox sunset. Mike stated that at the moment of winter solstice a shadow hit the bottom point of the line protruding from the bottom of the bisected circle.
This circle and line glyph deserves special attention. When I first saw it last spring, it appeared to be an atlatl representation. This interpretation was the result of too quick a look and seeing it drawn in von Werlhof’s record of Owens Valley rock art (1965:18 & Figure 1). Later visits to the site showed the “stick” to be shaped like a shepherd’s staff, which immediately brought to mind the shaman’s *poro* staff on the cover of Carobeth Laird’s *Mirror and Pattern* (1984), dealing with the Chemehuevi, another Paiute group related to the Natives of Owens Valley. I do not know the time depth of this ritual implement, but would not be surprised if it was ancient, possibly co-existent with the entry of shamanism into North America. As such, it would have been an image available to whomever carved these glyphs.

There are two possible solar interactions with this element, one at the fall equinox sunset and another at winter solstice sunrise. In the autumn the final shadow of the evening appears to fall along the top of the crook above the circle and then suddenly disappears. In the winter, the opening shadow of the morning appears to touch the bottom of the staff, below the circle. It would be marvelous if so, as it might indicate a glyph of very significant design in its own right (*poro*/large bisected circle) was configured to record two solar events—fall equinox and winter solstice. If this proves to be the case, sizing the glyph to utilize the extremities of the staff but not the circle itself could have been an elegant solution. Mike Mideke believes this to be the case, and what I saw within minutes of the sunrise event is consistent with this. Mike has graciously allowed me to use his photograph of the fall event (Photo 2). Of course, these events have to be observed directly and independently. So now there is another hypothesis to be tested, and another reason to return to the Swansea Petroglyph site in 2010.

As is often the case, many glyphs do not appear unless the sun is at the correct angle. Being here in early morning and in winter allowed me to observe many more elements than in the past and obscured a few I knew to be there. Mike wanted me to see rows of circles on the high back wall of the site. I was skeptical of their presence because part of the rock face was roughly eroded and it didn’t seem at all possible that something could be there. But when the first sunlight hit it from the side, two rows of circles were clearly visible. Over the next 10 to 15 minutes, the element expanded to four parallel rows, appearing fully intact both on the white eroded area and on the darker patinated area. Each circle was not complete, but rather the bottommost curve was overlapped by the top curve of the circle below it. The circles somewhat resemble the painted vertical row of circles at Cueva Pintada on Fort Hunter-Liggett, which possibly represents a ceremonial pole or staff (as suggested by Bob Edburg) (this is not to infer any connection in time or culture).

The Swansea Petroglyph site is on record at the Eastern Information Center, UC Riverside. Information only includes mention of Stewart (1929), a sheet by C.P. Baldwin from information via H. Riddell in 1953, and a 1959 update by A. Haenzel. There is neither mention of von Werlhof’s visit and his drawings published in 1965, nor of the published mention by Heizer and Baumhoff in 1962. Furthermore, the trinomial designation has changed over time from that used by von Werlhof and Gillespie (whom I copied in October 2009) to the current CA-INY-432.

**Correction:** In my first article I reversed the position of the two solar glyphs on Boulder 4.

### MARCH CURATION WORKDAY

When: March 13, 1 pm  
Where: Red Car Building

We will continue to inventory and rebag the PCAS CA-ORA-236 (Coyote Canyon Cave), excavated by PCAS in the 1970s.  
Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! Please contact Mark Roeder (714-241-8880, curator@pcas.org) or Rene Brace (714-544-6282, info@pcas.org) for directions and to let us know you will be coming.
Exhibits


The Aztec Pantheon and the Art of Empire will explore monumental art of empire with a comparative approach with Rome. Getty Villa, March 24 through July 5. Free timed tickets required: www.getty.edu or 310-440-7300.

Lectures

The Coachella Valley Archaeological Society will present O’Jay Vanegas, Director of Education of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, as the guest speaker, Cathedral City Community Center, March 2, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.


A View From the Braun: Archaeoastronomy, by Paul Apodaca, Ph.D. (Braun Research Library Lecturer-in-Residence), will discuss how first Americans used the sky as part of their worldview. Southwest Museum of the American Indian, March 20, 1-2 pm. Fee: $10; members free. Information: http://theautry.org/.


(Lectures continued)


In the Realm of the Sun—Religion & Symbolism of Casas Grandes and Aztec Traditions of Ancient Northwest Mexico, by Mike Mathiowitz, (PhD candidate, UC Riverside), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, March 21, 2-4 pm. Fee: $5; students and members free. Information: http://aia-oc.org.


Classes, Meetings, and Events

The City of Laguna Hills will host an opening reception for Council Chamber murals that depict three historic scenes: Portola’s Expedition, Mission San Juan Capistrano neophytes mining limestone for mission construction, and the meeting of Don Juan Avila with General Stephen Kear. Five historic maps with interpretive text are in the hallway. Council Chambers, Laguna Hills Civic Center, 24035 El Toro Rd., March 16, 6 pm. Free. Information: 949-707-2600.

The American Rock Art Research Association Annual Meeting will be held in Del Rio, Texas, March 26-29. Information: www.arara.org.

Website

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.

Editor’s Note: Please check time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@pcas.org.
PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a non-profit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.
2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society’s Board of Directors.
3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.
4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.
6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.
7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.
8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non-renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.
9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.
10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.

MARCH FIELD TRIP

When: March 27-28
Where: Landers/Johnson Valley
(area off Highway 247)

We will investigate and photo record prehistoric Native American habitation, petroglyph, and pictograph sites. This may be a one or two day field trip. PCAS members plan to camp on Saturday night. Camping participants need to be self-reliant with camping gear. Good hiking footwear is a must.

Please sign up for this field trip at the March General Meeting or by contacting Scott Findlay at field.trips@pcas.org or 714-342-2534. If you are unable to attend a field trip for which you have signed up, please contact Scott as soon as possible. For contact the day of the field trip, call cell phone 714-342-2534.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

PCAS members enjoyed beautiful weather in Anza Borrego Desert State Park over Presidents’ Day weekend. Photo above appears to show a giant sloth devouring Scott Findlay’s Jeep. Free standing sculptures by Ricardo Breceda are in Borrego Springs (www.galletameadows.com).
PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2010 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): ______________________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________________ State: _________ Zip Code ___________
Phone: __________________________________ Email: ______________ __________________

I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics ____________________________________

Signature

☐ Yes, I would like to receive my Newsletter by email. Please be sure email above is legible.

☐ Active Member - $45
☐ Family Membership - $50
☐ Supporting Member* - $55
☐ Donor Member* - $75
☐ Lifetime Member* - $1000
* May be individual or family membership

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter) Subscription Only Scholarship Fund

☐ Quarterly - $37 ☐ Newsletter - $18 ☐ Donation $________
☐ Student Associate - $10 (email Newsletter only)

□ Membership
□ Subscription Only
□ Scholarship Fund

Return form with payment to:
PCAS Membership
PO Box 10926
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926

www.pcas.org

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2010 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Office Name Email Phone
*President Scott Findlay president@pcas.org 714-342-2534
*Vice-President Steve O’Neil vicepresident@pcas.org 949-548-7934
*Secretary Megan Galway secretary@pcas.org 714-539-6354
*Treasurer Rene Brace treasurer@pcas.org 714-544-6282
*Historian/Librarian/Archivist Jane Gothold librarian-archivist@pcas.org 562-947-6506
*Newsletter Editor Sherri Gust newsletter@pcas.org 714-245-0264
*Refreshments Gail Cochlin refreshments@pcas.org 714-997-0852
*Voting member Kathleen Shada kshada@pcas.org 714-381-8182
Curator Mark Roeder curator@pcas.org 714-299-4150
Donation-Awards Coordinator Joe Hodulik donation-awards@pcas.org 949-300-1864
Field Trips Scott Findlay fieldtrips@pcas.org 714-342-2534
Membership Megan Galway membership@pcas.org 714-539-6354
Programs Joe Hodulik programs@pcas.org 949-300-1864
Publicist Sandy Kennedy publicity@pcas.org 714-915-7726
Quarterly Editor Henry Koerper publications@pcas.org 714-633-9287
Scholarship Megan Galway scholarship@pcas.org 714-539-6354
Website Rene Brace info@pcas.org 714-544-6282

*May be individual or family membership

*Denotes PCAS Board Member