APRIL PCAS SPEAKER

Don Liponi

*La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border*

The book *La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border* surveys Kumeyaay and related rock art in southern California, western Arizona, and Baja California. The survey area has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years, occupation dated from recent archaeological excavation, and is currently home to the Kumeyaay. In the areas first studied by Malcolm Rogers and Julian Hayden, the prehistoric culture, especially rock art, has been scarcely examined and photographed. The La Rumorosa tradition of rock art is characterized by striking red, black and white pictographs which were painted in caves and on rocks and is named after a site (Continued on p. 4)

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month’s speaker, Don Liponi, for dinner before the April 19 meeting, 6 pm, Mimi’s Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

**General Meeting**

*Free and Open To the Public*

April 19 - 7:30 pm Date Change

Speaker: Don Liponi

Topic: *La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border*

Location: IRWD Community Room 15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

*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*

April 14 - 12 noon

Location: PCAS Curation Facility For directions: 714-342-2534

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PCAS Scholarship applications are due by April 30. See [www.pcas.org](http://www.pcas.org).
Coyote Hole Canyon Surprises

By Megan Galway

John Rafter described and illustrated a number of apparent solar alignments and markers in Coyote Hole Canyon. The canyon is approximately 3,000 feet long, extending south from the area of Highway 62 and Joshua Tree Village. There is a natural tank at the southern end.

Daniel McCarthy, Delcie Vuncannon, and Wilson G. Turner had all previously studied the rock art in the canyon, and it was in 1993 that Vuncannon asked Rafter to assist in a study of the whole canyon, a project that took three years to complete. During this study, a number of apparent solar markers were recorded, and Rafter has since recorded solar interactions with many of them.

Prior to these studies, Rafter’s interest in local ethnographies had led him to an association with Carobeth Laird. He learned of the sophisticated calendar used by local cultural groups, in which the most important date was the beginning of spring. With observation and experimentation he realized that many rock art images in the canyon interacted with the spring equinox sunrise. The Chemehuevi, Cupéñö, and Luiseno all tell of a spring beginning when the Lone Lady of the Cave or Earth Woman is impregnated by Father Sun. A number of rock art images throughout the canyon depict a segmented oval or rectangle believed to symbolize an abstract female figure in association with a sun symbol. Similar images are seen at Black Canyon, Joshua Tree National Park, and Halloran Springs. These images are often found in the vicinity of a cave or womb-like feature in the rocks.

Rafter described the first site he illustrated as a “throne-like” feature in the rocks looking across the canyon to the eastern skyline. On the first day of spring, the sun rises between the rock face and a hook-like projection and interacts with the vulva of the female depiction. Other areas of this feature interact with the equinox sunset and summer solstice. At the north entrance of the canyon, Rafter recorded a spoke-wheel image but wondered why the lower portion of the wheel had been left unfinished. His observation of the panel during winter solstice showed the first sunlight casting a shadow across the unfinished portion and gradually shading the whole image. A boulder at the site appears modified to interact with spring and fall equinox and summer solstice sunsets. No other rock art is seen in that area.

Another vulva symbol is located across a rock cleft from a grinding slick. A slab of rock resting against the rock face may have originally been placed upright to cast a shadow into the cleft. Rafter noted that on various visits to the site it appeared that attempts have been made to right the rock or place other slabs in its place, indicating possible ongoing use of the site. Another site had a large sun symbol with enhanced radiating grooves which is visible across the wash on the first day of spring. In this area there are two stacked boulders that do not appear to be a natural feature, and three cupules are on the upper one. Nearby is a phallic-shaped rock. Rafter discussed the mystery of grinding slicks found at many of these sites in areas where actual food grinding would have been difficult. He showed one located seven feet up a rock face on an 18 inch ledge, and these often

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What Is It? Some Help Please (Part 2)

H. C. Koerper

The very fancy handle of Buxton’s specimen (Figure 6) includes an attachment crafted of two ovate-shaped shells glued together with asphaltum. The shell could be from a west coast pelecypod, such as *Gari californica* or perhaps *Tresus nuttalli*. Descending 6.4 cm away from the attachment, there is ample asphaltum to indicate that some covering had once wrapped around the far proximal end.

If one of the cited species is correct, the provenance could have been in or near coastal southern California or at least within the trading orbits of coastal tribes. That said, there is no ethnographic documentation attributing barbed procurement sticks to the Chumash, Fernandeño, Tongva (Gabrielino), Luiseño, or Diegueño. The same goes for Native American barbed harvest poles, which are very much longer than hunting sticks (Figure 7).

Buxton’s hooked implement was carved of a dark hardwood. The closest match is to Mexican Royal Ebony. Does provenance then lie south of our border with Mexico? Any reasonable hypotheses addressing cultural origin and/or function are welcome. The mystery, once solved, will help direct the artifact to a proper venue for curation and display.

Contact: Hkoerper@aol.com.

Figure Notes: Fig. 2, after McGuire (1983:32); Figs. 3 and 4, after Fowler (1986:83); Fig. 7, after Fontana (1983:129).

References Cited

Fontana, Bernard L.

Fowler, Catherine S.

McGuire, Thomas R.
April Speaker (continued from p. 1)

La Rumorosa pictograph after DStretch enhancement.

in northeastern Baja California. Beginning about 5 years ago, a group of about 50 Native Americans, professionals, and avocationalists began meticulously searching for pictographs, the vast majority of which had not been seen in historic times. Few of these sites had ever been photographed because they are either totally or essentially faded to invisibility. With the advent of DStretch, many of these pictographs can be brought out and made visible through digital photography. This technology requires alterations in color and composition, and often there are multiple layers of pictographs. The highlights of the first part of our study have recently been published in a 2017 book—La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border. The book, edited by Don Liponi, contains over 200 color photographs in full and half page. It also contains several related articles by leading archaeologists and interviews with Native Americans. Five of the 15 or so contributors are Native Americans.

Don Liponi, Ph.D. (chemistry), has photographed and studied the Southwest with such figures as Fran Barnes and Bob Begole. He volunteers with the BLM and Anza Borrego Desert State Park, among other organizations.

March Board Meeting Summary

President Scott Findlay called the meeting to order on March 3, 12 pm, at the Red Car Building, Santa Ana. Board Members present: Bob Brace, Gail Cochlin, Megan Galway, Jane Goalth (by speaker phone), Ardith Haworth (by speaker phone), and Steve O’Neil, PCAS members present: Rene Brace, Steve Dwyer, Hank Koerper, and Kathleen Shada.

The February 2018 minutes were approved, and the Treasurer’s report was accepted. The Board approved changing the bank signature cards to reflect current officers.

The Board discussed changing quorum requirements and election methods, but tabled the discussion until state law is researched. PCAS membership categories were also discussed. Outreach to Garfield Elementary School (Archaeology Day) will be May 25.

CA-MNO-611 collection materials will be cleaned and reboxed prior to an attempt to find the collection a permanent home. The materials, field notes, and analyses were in immediate danger of being discarded last fall after the death of a long-time PCAS member. The eastern Sierra site was excavated during multi-season field schools taught through the California State University system.

The April General Meeting will be on the third Thursday, April 19, and the Board Meeting and cura-tion workday will be held on the previous Saturday, April 14, to avoid conflict with the OC Historical Commission/OC Parks event at the Irvine Ranch Historic Park.

George Kline, BLM Archeologist, will lead a field trip on March 31 to the Dos Palmas Preserve. PCAS members will spend additional days in the area. Programs Chair Brian Steffensen is beginning to fill the fall speaker calendar. Steve Freers has agreed to be our December Holiday Dinner speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Irvine Ranch Jamboree

PCAS will have an information table at this free event sponsored by OC Parks and the OC Historical Commission. Irvine Ranch Historic Park, Saturday, April 21, 10 am–2 pm. Information: www.facebook.com/events/2014442758779043/?.
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appear to be points where the solar interaction might be observed.

A site outside Coyote Hole Canyon is the equinox site near Barker Dam in Joshua Tree National Park. At this point the rock walls overhang the trail, and a bedrock outcrop containing a mortar and cupules is in the middle of the trail. Around noon on the first day of spring, a shaft of sunlight moves across the trail and down into the mortar, impregnating Earth Woman. A nearby pictograph is known as the “Red Lady.”

Rafter described the puzzle of finding so many solar interactions in the small area of Coyote Hole Canyon and suggests that a view of the distant skyline from that area may be interpreted as the profile of a face—Earth Woman?

Photos below from PCAS field trip to equinox site near Barker Dam, Joshua Tree NP, mentioned by Mr. Rafter.

SCA ANNUAL MEETING

When: April 14, 2018, 1 pm
Where: PCAS Curation Facility
Red Car Building

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! Please contact Scott Findlay (714-342-2534, president@pcas.org) for directions and to let us know you will be coming.

PCAS Quarterly sales and information table at the SCA Annual Meeting in San Diego. Bob Brace, Megan Galway, and Brian Steffensen sold Quarterly issues, received memberships, and answered many questions about PCAS.

CSUF students Sandra Larsen and our PCAS 2017 Gloria Bogdan Scholarship winner, Robert Baker, presented papers at the Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting.

CURATION WORKDAY

When: April 14, 2018, 1 pm
Where: PCAS Curation Facility
Red Car Building

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! Please contact Scott Findlay (714-342-2534, president@pcas.org) for directions and to let us know you will be coming.
Exhibits


Lectures


The Mysteries of Nefertiti, by Dr. Aidan Dodson (University of Bristol, UK), Bowers Museum, April 14, 1–3:45 pm. Fee: $12; Bowers and ARCE members free. Advanced reservations recommended. Information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3677.


First Americans: Tribal Art of North America Opening Conversation with Dr. Stephen Aron and Bill Mercer, April 7, 1:30 pm; The Swastika Symbol in Navajo Textiles with Dennis J. Aigner, April 28, 1:30 pm. Bowers Museum. Fee $12; member or with paid museum $9. Information: www.bowers.org.

Lectures (continued)

The Coastal Route: North American Migration, by Dr. Matthew Des Lauriers (CSU Northridge), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, April 29, 2–4 pm. Fee: $5; students and members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org.

Classes, Meetings, and Events


The 32nd Annual Desert Symposium and Field Trip theme is Against the Current: The Mojave river from Sink to Source. California State University Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx, April 20–23; Cost varies. Paid reservation due by April 6; No on-site registration. Information: www.desertsymposium.org/.

San Diego Archaeological Center Annual BBQ will be April 28, 12–4 pm; employment seminar 10:30 am. Fee: $10, child $5. Information and ticket purchase: www.sandiegoarchaeology.org/events/annual-bbq/.

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

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.
PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit 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.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

May 10, 2018
Dr. James S. Kus
What's New in Machu Picchu?

June 21, 2018 (Third Thursday of June)
Dr. E. C. Krupp
Uplifted and Transported: Encounters at Burro Flats

Come to the April 14 Meeting and hear Don Liponi speak on “La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border”!
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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2018 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

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Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

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

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)  Subscription Only  Scholarship Fund

☐ Active Member - $45  ☐ Quarterly - $40  ☐ Donation $_______

☐ Family Membership - $50  ☐ Newsletter - $20

☐ Supporting Member* - $55  ☐ Student Associate - $10 (email Newsletter only)

☐ Donor Member* - $75

☐ Lifetime Member* - $1000

* May be individual or family membership

www.pcas.org

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