Dinner with the Speaker

Please join this month’s speaker, John Bretney, for dinner before the April 11 meeting, 6 pm, Mimi’s Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

APRIL PCAS Speaker

John Bretney

Rock Art of the Rodman Mountains

The Rodman Mountains contain some of the most well known and popular rock art sites in the Mojave Desert. Just Google “Surprise Tank” and see the number of sites that link to that inquiry. The Kane Spring petroglyph site is a second well-known area. In spite of the popularity of this area, surprising little has been written or reported about its rock art.

The large rock art sites are located in a lava field bounded by a number of large washes or canyons. In Bill Mann’s book about the Mojave Desert, he calls a canyon on the north side of this lava field the “Grand...

(Continued on p. 5)

Rodman Mountains petroglyph.

PCAS Meetings Calendar

General Meeting

Free and Open to the Public

April 11 - 7:30 pm

Speaker: John Bretney

Topic: Rock Art of the Rodman Mountains

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 Meeting

Location: For date and location: contact Scott Findlay, president@pcas.org or 714-342-2534.

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PCAS Scholarship applications are due by April 30. See www.pcas.org.
MARCH SPEAKER NOTES

Trans-Holocene and Inter-Island Approaches to Human-Coastal Interactions: A Case Study from the Channel Islands of California

By Megan Galway

Dr. Amy Gusick’s focus on the peopling of the New World has led to her current efforts to synthesize the extensive studies of the California Channel Islands. These studies have focused on individual sites or islands but have not considered the area as a whole. Dr. Gusick believes the concept of islands as isolated places with their cultures developing separately may be wrong, and there was much more interaction than previously thought. Islands are much more valuable in studying change over time because evidence of mainland cultures is often destroyed by development. She noted island studies from other parts of the world have provided information on early cultural development. Paleoshoreline reconstruction in Fiji has helped determine why some islands were settled before others. Long-term effects of agriculture have been studied in the Hawaiian Archipelago, and settlement in Australia has been pushed back well beyond 50,000 years and indicates the existence of very effective marine travel in early times.

The California Channel Archipelago currently consists of eight islands, which have generally been defined as the northern and southern Channel Islands. The northern islands—San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and Anacapa—include National Park and privately held land and are more accessible. The southern group—Santa Barbara, San Nicolas, Santa Catalina, and San Clemente—are military and private land. Thousands of archaeological sites have been identified, but most research has focused on individual islands. Evidence of human activity covers over 13,000 years, and early occupants of the islands were maritime hunter gatherers and ancestors of the Chumash and Tongva people. In the early 1800s they were removed from the islands and taken to the missions at Santa Ynez, San Buenaventura, Santa Barbara, and San Gabriel. (See the October 2018 PCAS Newsletter for updated information on the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island.)

Dr. Gusick will be considering the archipelago as a whole using old collections along with new material. She believes there is a good framework for a regional study and will compare and contrast various sites, try to determine if change over time was environmental or cultural, and identify islands that have unique features or resources. Three sites are currently being studies in detail—Eel Point on San Clemente, Little Harbor on Catalina, and Punta Arena on Santa Cruz.

The Eel Point site is on a volcanic headland close to one of the few water sources on the island, with a submarine canyon offshore. Many studies have been made in the area including one large excavation that was never backfilled. The site has a deep shell midden indicating an extensive habitation period. No real overview has been undertaken, and the site has received little attention.

Eel Point midden, San Clemente Island.

(Continued on p. 3)
March Speaker Notes (continued from p. 2)

Little Harbor on Catalina Island is on private land. It has a similar environment to Eel Point—water source and submarine canyon—and is unique in that it has the only steatite source on the islands. It also appears to be the source of Olivella grooved rectangular beads. Punta Arena on Santa Cruz Island again has a similar environment. The only excavations of this site were in 1997 and 2010, and artifacts included Santa Barbara barbed points and a single obsidian flake. All sites had deep shell middens indicating extensive use of tidal shellfish, and dolphin remains were found at all three sites. Fewer pinnipeds were seen at Little Harbor than at the other two sites.

Dr. Gusick says good collections exist except for sites on naval land which were studied without collecting. A master catalog of excavations for these three sites is being created, and items not previously considered will be included. Little research was previously conducted on groundstone likely because studies focused on marine resources rather than botanicals. Plant foods were not considered important, but collections include donut stones believed to be digging stick weights and a variety of groundstone implements. The Eel Point site alone produced over 400 pieces of groundstone. Blue dick corms are an important resource on the islands and have been identified in the collections, and paleobotanical analysis is being undertaken to identify other potential terrestrial resources.

The study is designed to identify cultural interactions between various islands—whether use of resources such as steatite, Olivella beads, and lithics was a local specialized function or were these regional activities? Did the various communities develop from the same base population at the same time or at different times but influenced by similar environment?.
PCAS CURATION

PCAS members are working to organize our curation storage containers. The containers have been placed next to the Heritage Museum of Orange County on the grounds of Mitchell Elementary School in Santa Ana.

Amazing progress has been made. When we began work at the containers, 1300 boxes of artificial material were in one container and broken-down shelving was in the other. Scott Findlay must be commended for his incredible effort in organizing our collections. He has spent many hours before volunteers arrived and alone on other days to speed this process.

MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

By Megan Galway

President Scott Findlay called the March 16, 2019 meeting to order at 12:10 pm at the PCAS curation facility (the two containers), at 3001 W. Harvard, Santa Ana. Directors present: Bob Brace, Steve Dwyer, Megan Galway, Jane Gothold (by speaker phone), Hank Koerper, and Steve O’Neill. PCAS members present: Rene Brace and Gail Cochlin.

The February 2019 minutes were approved with corrections. The March Treasurer’s report and expenditures were approved.

The Red Car Building has been completely vacated, and the collections and shelving moved to two storage containers on the grounds of Mitchell School. A storage unit has been rented for all paperwork associated with our collections.

Scott Findlay and Rene and Bob Brace met with representatives of the Cooper Center on February 19. OC Parks is in the process of hiring a manager for the center, so many decisions are on hold until that position is filled. OC Parks is discussing demolishing a Cooper Center building, in which PCAS Quarterly issues and other PCAS materials are stored, and constructing a new one.

Joe Hodulik raised $90 in February and $150 in March for the Scholarship fund! The March field trip to the lower Colorado River Desert area was postponed because of inclement weather and has been rescheduled for April 5-7. Brian Steffensen has speakers arranged through June and is contacting potential speakers to fill the rest of the year. The Publications Committee has a single and a double issue of the PCAS Quarterly in process. Megan Galway has received two scholarship applications to date.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

IN MEMORIAM

Blanche Anna Schmitz
1932-2019

Blanche Schmitz passed away on February 28. She was a long-time member and supporter of PCAS. She earned her Master’s degree in anthropology at California State University, Fullerton, and worked as an archaeologist and college instructor.

A celebration of life will be held on April 5, 3-4 pm, Fairhaven Memorial Services Chapel, 27856 Center Drive, Mission Viejo. A reception will follow at the Fairhaven Memorial Reception Center. In lieu of flowers, her family has requested donations be made to PCAS.

PCAS extends its condolences to her family and many friends.


www.facebook.com/pacificcoastarchaeologicalsoc
APRIL FIELD TRIP

By Steve Dwyer

When:  April 5–7, 2019
Where:  Lower Colorado Desert

The March field trip was canceled because of inclement weather and rescheduled for April 5-7. PCAS members plan to dry camp and visit nearby rock art and habitation sites. Members will need to be prepared to hike over rough terrain. Be aware that all participants are required to sign a code of ethics and waiver of liability. For information or to sign up for this field trip, contact fieldtrips@pcas.org, Scott Findlay (714-342-2534), or Stephen Dwyer (714-969-1911).

We are hopeful that we may still see wildflowers from this year’s super bloom.

April Speaker  (continued from p. 1)

Canyon of the Rodmans.” The area is bordered on the west by a large lava cone used for commercial mining. In spite of the name, the lava field is relatively flat and about 5 miles in length and 2 miles in width. It is just south of the Mojave River flood plain located east of Barstow between the I-15 and I-40. There are dozens of archaeological sites in this area with mostly petroglyphs and some ground figures. This talk will discuss a number of the rock art sites and the geographic relation of the sites in the lava field. Some ideas as to why we find them in this location will be discussed.

The Rodman Mountain area.

John Bretney is a system engineer who has worked at Raytheon for more than 20 years. He has worked on a number of military projects including a targeting pod for the F/A-18, high altitude imaging, and high energy laser projects. John is a volunteer at the Rock Art Archive, which is part of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA. He is the co-author of Rock Art at Little Lake. John has presented papers at ARARA, PCAS, and the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association.

Wildflowers, Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

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John Bretney at the V-Bar-V Ranch petroglyph site in Arizona.
DIG THIS ...

Lectures

Valley of the Kings: A Profane Look at One of the Most Iconic Sites of Ancient Egypt, by Dr. Francesco Tiradritti (Italian Archaeological Mission in Luxor). An ARCE lecture, Bowers Museum, April 6, 1:30–3:30 pm. Fee: $12; Bowers and ARCE members free. Tickets and information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3677.


The Kyrenia Shipwreck Collection Restoration Program, by Dr. Matthew Harpster (Koç University, Instanbul, Turkey), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, 530 Concordia West, Irvine, April 14, 2 pm. Fee: $5; members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org.


Lectures (continued)

In Search of Roman Lisbon (Olisipo): What Lies Beneath Our Feet, by Professor Filomena Limão (Universidade Nova de Lisboa. An AIA Riverside Society lecture, Plymouth Village, Brewster Room, 900 Salem Dr, Redlands, April 27, 3:30 pm. Information: https://aiariverside.ucr.edu/ or aiariverside@gmail.com.


From the Buddhas of Bamiyan to the Temples of Palmyra: Why is the World’s Cultural Heritage Being Erased?, by James Cuno (president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust) and Terence Ward. The Getty Center, April 30, 7 pm. Free, advanced tickets required. Information and tickets: www.getty.edu/visit/cal/events/ev_2567.html or 310-440-7300.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Malki Museum’s Annual Agave Harvest, led by Daniel McCarthy, will be held on two days—April 6 and 7. Meet at Cahuilla Tewanet Overlook on the Palms to Pines Hwy 74. Fee: $10 donation. The Agave Roast will be held at the Malki Museum, April 13. Food tasting will begin at noon. Fee: Free admission, $10 for food plates. Reservations recommended for both events: 951-849-7289. Information: www.malkimuseum.org.

San Diego Archaeological Center Annual BBQ will be April 27, 12–3 pm; employment seminar 10:30 am. Fee: $12 ($15 at the door), members $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.
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 9, 2019
Ivan Strudwick
The Last Remnants of Anaheim’s Chinatown

June 13, 2019
Barbara Tejada
Coming Home to Siutkanga: A Journey of Research and Repatriation of the Lost Village of Encino

Come to the April 11 meeting!
2019 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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