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PCAS NEWSLETTER

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APRIL PCAS SPEAKER

Dr. Keith Meldahl

Hard Road West: History and Geology along the Gold Rush Trail

In 1849 news of the discovery of gold in California triggered an enormous wave of emigration toward the Pacific. Lured by the promise of riches, thousands of settlers left behind the forests, rain, and fertile soil of the eastern United States in favor of the rough-hewn lands of the American West. Dr. Keith Meldahl uses the diaries and letters of the settlers themselves—as well as the countless hours he has spent following the 2000-mile California Trail trail—to reveal how the geology and geography of the West directly affected our nation's westward expansion.

Dr. Meldahl received his undergraduate degree in Geology from the University of Chicago and his MS and PhD from the University of Arizona in Geosciences. He teaches geology and oceanography at Mira Costa College. For his sabbatical during the 2004-2005 academic year, he followed the 2000-mile overland route of the historic California Trail - the route used by the forty-niners during the California gold rush. His book, *Hard Road West – History and Geology along the Gold Rush Trail*, is the result of that effort. The book will be available for purchase and signing.

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speaker, Dr. Keith Meldahl, and PCAS members for dinner before the April 9th General Meeting. We will meet at 6 pm at Knowlwood Restaurant, 14952 Sand Canyon, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

Free and Open to the Public

April 9th - 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Keith Meldahl

Topic: *Hard Road West: History and Geology along the Gold Rush Trail*

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

April 16th - 7:00 pm

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

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MARCH SPEAKER NOTES

The Ozymandias Effect: Archaeologies of Destruction

Submitted by Megan Galway

Our March speaker was Southwestern archaeologist, James E. Snead. A number of PCAS members had previously heard Dr. Snead speak at various Pecos conferences and accompanied him on a field trip to the pueblo ruin discussed in his lecture - Burnt Corn Pueblo in the Galisteo Basin area of northern New Mexico.

Raised in Santa Fe, Dr. Snead completed his graduate research at UCLA, focusing on Andean South America and the U.S. Southwest. He told us he hoped to continue working in South America, but political issues became a safety concern. He returned home to New Mexico and began what became a long-term study of cultural landscapes.

The original lecture title, "The Archaeology of Annihilation: Place, Meaning and Destruction," had changed prior to the presentation to "The Ozymandias Effect: Archaeologies of Destruction." Dr. Snead explained how his ongoing research sometimes creates rapid changes of thought and viewpoints.

He began the presentation by giving an overview of the archaeology of warfare and conflict. In the past warfare was seen simply as a way to capture resources. However, studies now show that war does not just kill people, but targets the cultural resources and monuments that define them. Beginning with a quote from Percy Shelley's Ozymandias,

Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Dr. Snead led us through a short history of cultural destruction, including such recent events as the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas by the Taliban and of the Old Bridge of Mostar. He referred to these events as "desecratory termination."

In 2002 Dr. Snead turned his attention to Burnt Corn Pueblo. Tree-ring data indicates the pueblo was occupied between approximately 1288 and 1302 AD, at which time the complete pueblo burned. Because the fire damage was widespread and drying corncobs were found on the collapsed roof, it was believed the fire was an act of war. When Dr. Snead's team returned for further inves-



March speaker Dr. James Snead with PCAS Program Chair Joe Hodulik.

tigation in 2005 and cleared the roof debris, they were surprised to find the rooms completely clean and the hearths sealed. They were now dealing with a ruin that was apparently abandoned by its inhabitants and then burned.

Excavation reports from other sites in the area were studied, and neither Arrowhead (Pecos) Ruin nor Cholla House produced any artifacts, but artifacts were found at the Wheeler site (which burned 100 years later). Dr. Snead believes the evidence points to "ritual decommissioning" when the inhabitants abandon a settlement in an orderly manner, for unknown reasons. The reason that corn was left on the pueblo roof may have been because it was not yet dried and the pueblo inhabitants had sufficient supplies of dried corn to take with them. One of the empty rooms showed evidence of being a corn storage room.

Later settlement patterns avoided the location of Burnt Corn and the adjacent drainage, further indication that the area had a bad history. Whether this was due to illness, witchcraft, or other reasons, is impossible to say. We look forward to Dr. Snead's further studies as he tries to make sense of the Galisteo Basin.

Gloria Bogdan Memorial

Tom Bogdan is inviting friends to gather to remember Gloria at the Old Orange County Courthouse (Third Floor) on Saturday, March 28, at 2 pm.

APRIL CURATION WORKDAY

April 4, 1 pm

We plan to continue inventorying, rebagging, and reboxing the PCAS ORA-236 (Coyote Canyon Cave) collection. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Absolutely no experience is necessary! Please contact **Mark Roeder** (714-241-8880, curator@pcas.org) or **Rene Brace** (714-544-6282, info@pcas.org) for directions to the Red Car Building and to let us know you will be coming.

BEGOLE RESEARCH GRANT

The Begole Archaeological Research Grant (BARG) Program, administered by the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute, has announced the 2009 BARG round of research funding opportunities. The application deadline is May 31, 2009, and awards will be made by July 6, 2009.

The BARG is funded through an endowment created by pioneering Anza-Borrego Desert State Park archaeologist, Robert S. Begole. This year, the BARG committee voted to expand the research area to include the Mojave Desert with the view that proposals for research would increase our knowledge of both of our southern deserts. \$10,000 in grants will be awarded. Usually, two grants are made each year, but more grants may be awarded depending on the amount of funding requested and how many requests are made.

Applicants should be aware that proposals will be reviewed by a committee of professional and avocational archaeologists. The committee will adhere strictly to the guidelines and the specific format outlined in the application form in making its decision and the award.

All information and the application form are available on the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute website at www.theabf.org. Go to "Research," then "Grants and Scholarships," then "Begole Archaeological Research Grant." You will find the BARG Guidelines, map, application forms, and the winners of the 2008 grants. Sample successful grant applications will be posted on the web page in the near future.

PCAS Scholarship Deadline

Applications for the PCAS Scholarship are due April 30. Go to www.pcas.org for complete guidelines and application form.

PCAS PRESENTATION GRANT AWARD

The PCAS Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce a presentation award of \$250 to Amy Tupa of Huntington Beach. Amy, a student at CSULB, presented her paper "San Clemente Island Steatite Sourcing" at the March SCA Annual Meeting in Modesto.

Amy was able to test artifacts from San Clemente Island with LA-ICP-MS (laser-ablation time-of-flight technology) to determine elemental concentrations. Since there are no steatite sources on San Clemente, test results were compared to those obtained from known steatite quarries on Santa Catalina Island and the mainland. The results confirmed the long-held assumption that steatite on San Clemente was traded from Santa Catalina and not from the mainland.

Amy visited with members at the book table later in the day, and all were impressed by her enthusiasm for her research. We hope she'll keep us informed of her progress.

Presentation grants are just one facet of our commitment to encourage archaeological study in California. We still have funding available for research and presentation grants, and applications for these are accepted year-round. The application deadline for our annual under-graduate scholarship is April 30th. Application guidelines and forms are available on our website www.pcas.org.



PCAS Presentation Grant recipient Amy Tupa with PCAS Scholarship Committee member Megan Galway

2009 SCA ANNUAL MEETING

The Society for California Archaeology Annual Meeting was held in Modesto, March 12-15. The meeting started on Thursday night with a public lecture, "World Heritage: A Bridge Between Past and Future", by Maurizio Forte (UC Merced). Dr. Forte uses archaeological data and digital technology to reconstruct archaeological landscapes, which allows him to create an archive of what he calls "virtual heritage."

As is usual for SCA Meetings, there was a wealth of presentations in various sessions that ran simultaneously. Many PCAS members were among the presenters. The very interesting Plenary Session was "Eventful" Archaeology: Considering the Concept in California." A session titled "Over 10,000 Years, Two Minutes at a Time" with very short presentations was held again this year. Dr. Lynn Gamble, who will be PCAS's May speaker, held a book signing for her new book, *The Chumash World at European Contact*.

The Reception and Silent Auction was held at the McHenry Museum, within easy walking distance



Bob Brace and Megan Galway at the PCAS table at the SCA Meeting in Modesto.

from the hotel - no bus rides to a distant site. Saturday night's Awards Banquet speaker was Dr. Patrick Kirch (UC Berkeley) who spoke on "Archaeology and Biocomplexity: A Millennium of Human Ecodynamics in Hawai'i."

PCAS members Bob and Rene Brace, Megan Galway, and Hank Koerper manned the PCAS table in the book room. The new PCAS index was definitely a hit - not only did it sell well, but it assisted us in finding the issues with subjects or authors wanted by our

customers. We were also able to make contact with potential Quarterly authors and encourage their submissions.

We thank the meeting organizers for a job well done. The meeting rooms were large and close to each other for easy access. The book room was spacious. The Doubletree Hotel's outside area was plaza-like, and the hotel was in easy walking distance of a variety of restaurants.

We look forward to the 2010 SCA Annual Meeting which will be held in Riverside, March 17-20, 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS, BETH AND CHRIS PADON!

Beth and Chris Paden were presented the 2009 Harrington Award at the SCA Meeting. The Harrington Award recognizes contributions to site preservation and public archaeology, and the Padons were honored for their coordination of the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP), an SCA program.

The presentation was a surprise and was appropriately announced on Thursday night at the Public Lecture before which the Padons had presented a poster session on CASSP. In accepting the award, Beth Padon stated that the award should be given to all the CASSP volunteers. For information about CASSP, visit www.cassp.org.



California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program volunteers at the SCA Meeting. Photo courtesy Trudy Haversat.

FIELD TRIPS

March Field Trip

PCAS members returned to the equinox site (CA-RIV-902) at Joshua Tree National Park on March 20 and 21. The Red Lady pictograph (top right photo) directly overlooks the equinox mortar rock and is a part of the Chemehuevi's "Ancient Telling," or sacred stories, dealing with the sun and fertility as discussed in Carobeth Laird's *Mirror and Pattern*. The site is described in "Sun and the Lone Woman of the Cave" by John Rafter (*Rock Art Papers*, Volume 12, San Diego Museum Papers 33, 1995).

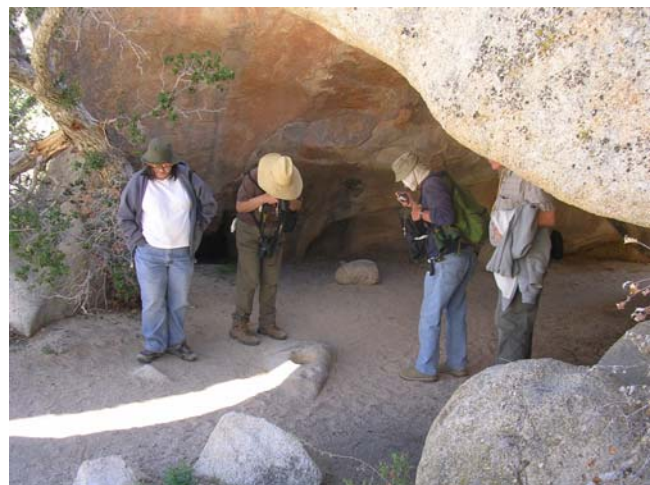
We also hiked about one mile into an area north of Yucca Valley and found pictographs, petroglyphs, and cupules. Another red pictograph (bottom right photo) was observed in this area and was similar in size to the Red Lady at the CA-RIV-902.

On Sunday, the weather turned very cold and windy as a front approached. We left the area by noon, but hope to return in the near future.

Members attending: Don Bertrand, Bob and Rene Brace, Linda Christison, Gail Cochlin, Scott Findlay, Paula Reynosa, and Kathleen Shada.



Red Lady pictograph at the Joshua Tree National Park equinox site.



PCAS members at the equinox site.

April Field Trip

When: April 11-12

Where: Malki Museum Agave Roast and rock art area north of Yucca Valley

We will meet at Malki Museum by 12 noon on April 11. You will need to make your individual reservation for lunch and agave tasting (\$10 donation per plate) by contacting the museum at 951-849-7289 or malkimuseummail@gmail.com. Malki Museum will be open by 10:30 am and will have displays and activities.

We plan to dry camp on Saturday night and visit rock art areas north of Yucca Valley.

Sign up for this field trip at the April General Meeting or by contacting Scott Findlay at 714-342-2534 or fieldtrips@pcas.org. Please be aware that you will be required to sign a code of ethics and waiver of liability, which acknowledges that some areas we plan to visit have inherent natural dangers. 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 714-342-2534.



Red pictograph located north of Yucca Valley.

DIG THIS...



Exhibits

Art of the Samurai: Selections from the Tokyo National Museum, Bowers Museum, April 18 through June 14. Fee: \$9-\$12. Information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3600.

Lectures

A Journey through Upper Coyote Canyon, by Harry Quinn and Britt Wilson, Coachella Valley Archaeological Society lecture meeting, Cathedral City Community Center, 37-171 West Buddy Rogers, April 7, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.

Return to the Holy Land: Investigating a Forgotten Past, by Dr. Aaron Burke, will discuss an excavation of a 300 BC villa at Jaffa, Israel. Bowers Museum, April 11, 1:30 pm. Free with museum admission. Information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3600.

The Discovery of the Nimrud Treasures, by Donny George Youkhanna, PhD (Visiting Professor at Stony Brook University and Former Director General of Baghdad's National Museum), a Public Lecture of the Cotsen Institute. Lenart Auditorium, Fowler Building, UCLA, April 16, 7:30 pm, Fee: Free (parking \$8). Information: www.ioa.ucla.edu.

Tour Historic Cary Ranch (La Puerta), by Reena Deutsch. April 18, 9:15 am-4 pm. Fee: \$23-30. Sponsored by the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association. Reservations and information: www.abdnha.org or 760-767-3098.

Hidden Thebes, by Dr. Edwin "Ted" Brock, an ARCE lecture. Bowers Museum, April 18, 1:30 pm. Free. Information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3600.

Changing Views of the Self and the Built Environment at Kition, Cyprus, by Joanna S. Smith (Columbia University), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. Santiago Canyon College, April 19, 2 pm. Fee: \$5; students and members free. Information: www.geocities.com/aiaoc.

Prehistory & History of the Coachella Valley, by Harry Quinn. Old Firehouse Lecture, 45-480 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, April 27, 7 pm. Fee: \$5. Information: <http://desertinstitute.homestead.com>.

(lectures continued)

Paleoindian Lithic Industry of Cerro Pinto, Baja California, Mexico, by Bill Eckhardt, a lecture of the San Diego County Archaeological Society. Los Peñasquitos Ranch adobe, April 28, 7:30 pm. Free. Information: www.sandiegoarchaeologicalsociety.com

Towards Articulating Rock Art with Archaeology: Interior Chumash Landscapes and the Enculturating Environments Project, by David W. Robinson (University of Central Lancashire), Fraser Sturt (University of Southampton), and Julie Bernard (UCLA). Fowler A222, UCLA, April 27, noon-1 pm. Free (parking \$8). Information: www.ioa.ucla.edu.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Malki Museum's Agave Harvest and Roast. Harvest: Cahuilla Tewanet Overlook, April 4, 10 am, \$10 donation. Roast: Malki Museum, April 11, opens 10:30 am (food served at noon), \$10 per plate. Reservations necessary for both events: 951-849-7289 or malkimuseum-mail@gmail.com. Information: www.malkimuseum.org.

Annual Southwest Museum Open House, Mount Washington, April 4, 1-4 pm, free; **Navajo Rug Auction**, Griffith Park, April 4, 10 am-5 pm, and April 5, 9 am-5 pm, free with museum admission; **lecture by trader Bruce Burnham**, Griffith Park, April 5, noon-1 pm, free with museum admission. Autry National Center, Southwest Museum of the American Indian, Information: 323-667-2000 or www.autrynationalcenter.org.

7th Annual Flint Knapping Day, with Tim Gross, a class of the San Diego Archaeological Center, is open to ages 12 and up. April 11, 10 am-2 pm. Fee: \$35, members \$10. Reservations: acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org or 760-291-0370. Information: www.sandiegoarchaeology.org.

The **UCLA Archaeology Field Program** is offering three summer 2009 field schools in California: Pimu Island Archaeological Project-Catalina, San Bernardino National Forest Applied Archaeology, and Wind Wolves Preserve. Fees vary, 12 quarter unit credit. Information: www.archaeology.ucla.edu.

Editor's Note: Please check time and place of listing prior to the event.

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.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

May 14, 2009

Dr. Lynn Gamble

The Chumash World at European Contact: Power, Trade, and Feasting Among Complex Hunter-Gatherers

June 11, 2009

John Collins

Introduction to Southwest Pueblo Indian Pottery



PCAS Vice President Ivan Strudwick honors 2008 PCAS President Scott Findlay for his Service last year on behalf of the Board and the PCAS membership. Scott continues to serve as Field Trips Chair.

2008 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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*Denotes PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2009 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

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

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

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

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- Family Membership - \$50
- Supporting Member * - \$55
- Donor Member* - \$75
- Lifetime Member * - \$1000

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* - \$37
- Newsletter* - \$18
- Both Publications - \$55

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

Return form with payment to:

**PCAS Membership
PO Box 10926
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926**

* May be individual or family membership

www.pcas.org