DECEMBER 2015

PCAS NEWSLETTER
The Monthly Publication of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society
www.pcas.org

DECEMBER PCAS SPEAKER
Dr. E.C. Krupp

Star Trek: The Search for the First Alleged Crab Supernova Rock Art

Since the 1950s, star/crescent combinations in prehistoric rock art in the American Southwest have become broadly accepted as eyewitness records of the Crab supernova explosion, a spectacular event visible in AD 1054. As this interpretation became more fashionable, Griffith Observatory Director Dr. E.C. Krupp began a long-term (Continued on p. 3)

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.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

HOLIDAY GATHERING
December 10 - 6:30 pm
RSVP - see page 4
Lecture: 7:30 pm
(free and open to the public)

Speaker: Dr. E.C. Krupp
Topic: Star Trek: The Search for the First Alleged Crab Supernova Rock Art
Location: The Duck Club, Irvine
See map and directions on page 5

NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH!

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Renew your PCAS membership to receive the PCAS Quarterly in early January! Pay online with PayPal—see page 3.

The Holiday Gathering replaces Dinner with the Speaker this month. See page 4 for information.

Petroglyphs near Penasco Blanco, Chaco Canyon.
Dr. Steven James presented a history of cogged stone studies and offered various theories on the uses of cogged stones. Cogged stones are unique to southern California. They have been found in sites dating from the early Holocene to the middle Holocene (9000–4000 BP). They were manufactured with varying numbers of cogs. Few are perforated. Somewhat similar artifacts have been found in coastal Chile, but they do not appear to be historically related to those in southern California. The function or purpose of cogged stones has long been debated. Since they are of great age, the ethnographic record lacks any mention of them.

A nineteenth-century study by Spencer Baird of the Smithsonian Institution made no mention of the artifact. Henry Yarrow and Henry Henshaw participated in the Wheeler surveys of land west of the 100th meridian and collected artifacts. Frederic Ward Putnam, first director of the Peabody Museum, also collected in southern California and collaborated with Alfred Kroeber. Photographs of artifacts from these expeditions include cogged stones, but they are not specifically mentioned in the reports. WPA project archaeologist John Winterbourne recovered cogged stones in Depression-era excavations in Orange County.

In one of their five volumes on the material culture of the Chumash, Travis Hudson and Thomas C. Blackburn described a sun staff on which a perforated stone represented the sun. Hiram Reid in his *History of Pasadena* described cog-wheel stones which he believed depicted the sun. William Henry Holmes, who became head of the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1902, assembled an album of photographs from the U.S. Geological Survey including some from the collection of Horatio Rust. These photographs appear to depict cogged stones.

Serious attention was focused on the cogged stone by Samuel Cary Evans (1866–1932), four-time mayor of Riverside. His childhood interest in local Native American culture led to collecting artifacts. He spent considerable time, effort, and expense locating and acquiring cogged stones, and by 1930 he had detailed data on over 100 specimens.

Cogged stones have been found at Bolsa Chica, at the Fairview site, in Topanga Canyon, at Cajon Pass, and in the San Diego area. None have been found on the Channel Islands. In 1989 at the Lake Forest site, CA-ORA-950, a number of cogged stones were found during a construction project. Many of these had broken and battered edges consistent with use wear. They appear to be made primarily of El Modena vesicular basalt.

Various comparisons have been made with similar round-shaped artifacts from cultures around the world. Dr. Paul Apodaca suggested they depict slices of cactus and were used in gambling games or in games of skill. Dr. James noted that Polynesian people played a bowling game using round-crafted *maika* stones. People of Cahokia played a game of skill with rounded artifacts (chunky stones). Some people have suggested that perforated cogged stones were used as weapons similar to the stone clubs of New Guinea—a wooden handle with a perforated stone as the club head. Some have compared their form to the sun staff stones from Bowers Cave.

Whatever their purpose—tool, weapon, game stone, or ritual artifact—the cogged stone is a unique piece of southern California prehistory.
December Speaker (continued from p. 1)

effort to inspect each of these sites in person. His field work eventually led him, in 2008, to the two sites in northern Arizona that started this cottage industry in supernova rock art, sites that had been lost and had not been revisited for 50 years. In this program, Dr. Krupp will survey the best known star/crescent sites, describe his efforts to reach them, and report his results.

Dr. E.C. Krupp is an astronomer and Director of Griffith Observatory, which is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. He recently led Griffith Observatory's $93-million renovation and expansion. He majored in physics and astronomy as an undergraduate at Pomona College in Claremont, California. He began working at Griffith Observatory in 1970 as a part-time Planetarium Lecturer when he was still in graduate school in astronomy at UCLA, where he studied the properties of rich clusters of galaxies with the late Dr. George O. Abell. Since 1973, Dr. Krupp has actively studied ancient, prehistoric, and traditional astronomy worldwide. He is the author and editor of five books on ancient, prehistoric, and traditional astronomy and author of four children's books on astronomy. He has published dozens of research papers and hundreds of articles for the general reader. He has visited more than 2000 ancient and prehistoric sites throughout the world and has recently returned from an expedition to the Caucasus, including the Republic of Georgia, Armenia, and northwest Iran. One area of his research is the astronomical connotations of rock art in California and the Southwest.

Come to the Holiday Gathering!

Everyone will have receive a chance to win the above oil-on-canvas, decorative landscape painting donated by George West.

Rock Art 2015

The 40th Annual San Diego Rock Art Symposium, sponsored by the San Diego Rock Art Association, was held on November 7. A new venue—the Educational Cultural Complex Theatre, San Diego Community College District—was spacious and comfortable.

Speaker topics ranged from rock art in Orange County to that of the San Bushman in Africa. Of special interest, PCAS member Don Christensen updated us on east Mojave pictographs, now numbering 146 sites and 5,412 motifs. Steve Freers reported on conservation measures at a graffiti-damaged Rancho Bernardo style site. Allison Jordan, following up on Bernie Jones’ work as reported at a PCAS meeting in 2012, spoke about her research on the grooves at the Santiago Oaks I site and their feudancy associations.

PCAS thanks the San Diego Rock Art Association for allowing us to have a Quarterly sales and information table. The symposium was a great success, and we look forward to Rock Art 2016.

The 40th Annual Rock Art Symposium logo (above) is the Sunwatcher from La Rumorosa.

2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

PCAS memberships expire at the end of the calendar year, and renewals for 2016 are due on January 1st.

In early January we expect to mail PCAS Quarterly, Volume 51, Number 1. Only those members who have renewed for 2016 will be included in the first mailing. All others will receive their copies as they renew.

Memberships can now be renewed online through PayPal with any credit card at www.pcas.org/memirs.html. A PayPal account is not necessary. If your mailing address, phone number, or email for PCAS membership has changed in the past year, please email membership@pcas.org with the correct information. Renewal forms are available in this newsletter or on our website for members and subscribers wishing to renew by mail.

We appreciate your continued support of PCAS and look forward to receiving your renewals for 2016.
PCAS HOLIDAY GATHERING

Thursday, December 10, 2015
6:30 PM
IRWD Duck Club

6th Annual Potluck

Dr. E.C. Krupp will speak on

*Star Trek: The Search for the First Alleged Crab Supernova Rock Art*

Lecture at 7:30 pm – free and open to the public

1. This year’s celebration will be at the Duck Club in Irvine.
2. Bring finger food (appetizer or dessert) to serve 6 people.
3. Bring food that doesn’t require heating.
4. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.

Sign up by contacting Megan Galway, President@PCAS.org or 714-539-6354, and let us know what you are bringing.
DIRECTIONS TO THE DUCK CLUB

Note: The entrance from Campus Drive is right turn only.

Directions from I-405

1. Exit the 405 Freeway on Culver Drive and go south.
2. Turn right on University Drive.
3. Turn right on Campus Drive.
4. Stay in the right lane and immediately turn right onto Riparian View which is marked by a dark green sign identifying it as the entrance to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. Proceed to Duck Club entrance on left. Signs will direct you.

If lost, call 714-290-1845.
DIG THIS...

Lectures


Classes, Meetings, and Events


Rock Art of Southern California, with Daniel McCarthy. A class of the Joshua Tree National Park Desert Institute, February 21, 8:00 am–6:00 pm. Fee: $70; members $60. Information and registration: www.joshuatree.org.

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

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

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Submitted by Brian Steffensen

President Megan Galway called the meeting to order at 7 pm at the Old Courthouse in Santa Ana. PCAS Board Members present: Rene Brace, Stephen Dwyer, Scott Findlay, Jane Gothold, Hank Koerper, Steve O’Neil, Kathleen Shada, and Brian Steffensen. Members present: Bob Brace and Gail Cochlin.

The October minutes were approved with corrections. The treasurer’s report was approved with all expenditures.

The Election Committee reported that Gail Cochlin, Sherri Gust, and Joe Hodulik were unanimously elected by voice vote at the November meeting. The PCAS Quarterly sales and information table at the San Diego Rock Art Symposium received new memberships and sold Quarterly issues. The new venue at the Educational Cultural Complex Theatre, San Diego Community College District, was very spacious and comfortable with close-by, free parking.

The Board discussed preparations for the December Holiday Dinner meeting at the Duck Club. Joe Hodulik and Sherri Gust will be donating platters of catered sandwiches. Megan Galway will create a PCAS Facebook page to promote our activities. Olympia Ojeda, the 2014 recipient of the Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship, sent a digital copy of her senior thesis dealing with research in northern Baja California. Membership Chair Megan Galway will email membership renewals notices at the first of the year and remind members that renewals can be paid online with PayPal and any credit card.

Joe Hodulik’s Donation-Award table earned $207 at the November meeting for the PCAS Scholarship fund! Brian Steffensen reported that speakers have been scheduled through April. Scott Findlay stated that the field trip to Mule Tank is this coming weekend. BLM archeologist George Kline will lead PCAS members. There are no field trips planned over the holidays, but winter field trips will be announced in the near future. There will be no curation workday in December. Hank Koerper reported that PCAS Quarterly, Volume 52, Number 1, will be published in early January and should be available at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.
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

January 14, 2016
Nicholas Clapp
Old Magic: Lives of the Desert Shamans

February 11, 2016
Ken Hedges

March 10, 2016
Dr. James S. Kus
Sex and Human Sacrifice at the Moche Huacas

April 14, 2016
Richard L. Carrico

“Supernova” petroglyph, White Mesa, Arizona.

Come to the PCAS Holiday Gathering on December to hear Dr. E.C. Krupp speaking on Star Trek: The Search for the First Alleged Crab Supernova Rock Art. Potluck: 6:30 pm; Lecture: 7:30 pm.
PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2016 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

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

Signature

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

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

Return form with payment to:
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