JANUARY PCAS SPEAKER

Nicholas Clapp

*Old Magic: Lives of the Desert Shamans*

Nicholas Clapp’s illustrated lecture recounts how desert shamans of the Far West sought order in the stars and in the mysteries and wonder of their grand if unforgiving landscape. When summoned, they doctored the stricken, be they stoic elders or frightened little children. They conjured rains. Taking leave of reality, they rode whirlwinds and soared in magical flight. They could journey to the land of the dead and (hopefully) return.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

Paiute shaman Bill Kawitch.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

**GENERAL MEETING**

*Free and Open To the Public*

January 14 - 7:30 pm

Speakers: Nicholas Clapp

Topic: *Old Magic: Lives of the Desert Shamans*

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*

January 21 - 7:00 pm

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

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month’s speakers, Nicholas Clapp, for dinner before the January 14 meeting at 6 pm at Mimi’s Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

Happy New Year!

Renew your PCAS membership to receive the *PCAS Quarterly* in early January!
DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

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

By Megan Galway

In 1054 a star near the lower horn of the constellation Taurus exploded into what has become known as the Crab Nebula Supernova. The supernova is believed to have been visible in the daytime sky for 23 days and at night for 653 days. Today the supernova is still visible but only through a telescope. This event would have been a cause of wonder to people around the world. The supernova was documented by the Chinese Song Dynasty and was said to be twice as bright as Venus, first appearing on the 4th of July. Apart from the limited accounts from China and Japan nothing more appears in the written record. The weather in Europe was said to have been cloudy at the time.

In 1955 William C. Miller of Palomar Observatory reported on two sites in Northern Arizona—White Mesa and Navaho Canyon—where he identified two panels which he believed to depict the Crab Nebula Supernova. These became defined as a crescent in association with a star symbol. Little attention was paid to the concept until 1973 when John C. Brandt identified three more sites, two in California and one near Penasco Blanco in Chaco Canyon. In 1975 several more sites were recorded, and by 1979 there were 21 examples.

Dr. Krupp became interested in the phenomena and set out to visit and analyze these sites. He noted that although a variety of circle, star, and sun symbols are common in rock art, the crescent is rare. Ethnographer Florence Ellis believed the star as seen in the Penasco Blanco pictograph to be the planet Venus, and others have suggested the panel relates to a sun watcher shrine. Harry W. Crosby documented sites in Baja in 1971 and identified certain images as supernova depictions. Dr. Krupp notes that one of these sites is a west-facing rock shelter, and the supernova would have been visible in the east—viewing would have entailed a strenuous hike to the top of the hill. Another image in Fern Cave in Northern California has now been discounted based on radiocarbon dating that placed occupation as much more recent. In 1993 Polly Schaufsma stated that a circle and crescent image was actually a depiction of Knifewing/Morning Star, a Pueblo cultural icon which became known a lot later than 1054.

By 2004 Dr. Krupp had located and visited all of these sites except White Mesa and Navaho Canyon.

Pictures of the images from these sites were closely cropped with no context, and the sites had not been visited since the mid-1950s. Enquiries finally led to Helmut Abt at the Museum of Northern Arizona and William Miller’s original reports. In the company of Museum of Northern Arizona research associates Evelyn Billo and Robert Mark, Dr. Krupp embarked on an off-road adventure across the Navajo Reservation. The White Mesa site (NA 5561) is a large rock shelter containing ruins and a variety of rock art images. Some are faded, but a possible shield symbol appears to be of more recent age as does the circle and crescent image. The circle and crescent were noted to bear a resemblance to the Longhorn Katsina of Hopi and Zuni iconography. The site previously known as Navaho Canyon is actually located in Binne Etienne Canyon, and it includes 150 feet of petroglyphs and black and white pictographs. It is located in a deep, narrow canyon so that the supernova would not have been visible from the site, and the image is part of a panel with many other images and does not appear to carry more importance.

Dr. Krupp believes both of these panels that created the Crab Nebula mystique can have strong alternative interpretations as can most of the other panels he visited.

JANUARY CURATION WORKDAY

When: January 16, 2016, 1 pm
Where: Red Car Building

Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary! Please contact Mark Roeder (714-299-4150, curator@pcas.org) or Scott Findlay (714-342-2534, fieldtrips@pcas.org) for directions and to let us know you will be coming.
They’re gone now. But there are telling accounts—and images—of how they epitomized a Native American ability “to relate to the land in ways beyond a Western way of thinking.”

Drawing on the lore of a dozen tribes, Nicholas Clapp’s presentation conjures a shaman’s year-to-year life—a life of service to his people, a life fraught with torment and danger, a life often taking a man or woman to the edge of madness.

Documentary filmmaker and author Nicholas Clapp has explored, filmed, and written about the deserts of the world and their anthropological and archaeological heritage. Notably, he was leader of a team that discovered the lost city of Ubar in the Sultanate of Oman. His publications include articles for NASA and the British Museum and books—The Road to Ubar: Finding the Atlantis of the Sands and Sheba: Through the Desert in Search of the Ancient Queen. Closer to home, he recently researched and wrote Old Magic: Lives of the Desert Shamans.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Megan Galway

Another year comes to an end, and it’s time again to look back on our activities and achievements for the past 12 months. I have enjoyed my time as the society’s president and working with a loyal and effective group of volunteers.

After many years attending the Society for California Archaeology’s annual meetings, we decided this year’s meeting in Redding was just a little too far to drive for the weekend. We did, however, have a presence at the Cooper Center’s “From Dinosaurs to People” event at the Heritage Museum of Orange County in July and at its “Prehistoric OC” in Buena Park in October. In November we took our informational table and PCAS Quarterly issues to the annual Rock Art symposium in San Diego. In June we offered our annual Archaeology Day to fifth grade students at Garfield Elementary Academy in Santa Anna. Each of these events allows us to reach out to the public and fulfill our mission of promoting cultural preservation in Orange County.

This year our PCAS Quarterly Publications Committee brought the Quarterly schedule up to date. A double and single issue in January honored Jay Crawford von Werlhof. In April we published an issue on Alta and Baja California dedicated to Paul Douglas Campbell, a longtime member and supporter of PCAS, and in August a double issue on Baja California honored W. Michael Mathes. The first issue of 2016 will be distributed in January. I continue to be impressed by the way our publication is appreciated in the archaeological community.

A dedicated group of volunteers continues to meet most months at the Red Car building in Santa Ana to work on our collections. No matter how much we do there are still collections waiting to be inventoried. We have occasional requests from students to access the collections and having a searchable inventory will enable us to more easily locate the artifacts they’re hoping to study.

Programs at our monthly meetings have included subjects ranging from the end of the Clovis culture to the anthropology of the historical American ranch house. We have learned about chicken bones, olivella shells, and cobbled stones. We’ve visited prehistoric Armenia, Grand Canyon rock art, the Chuckwalla Valley, and the northern Channel Islands. And he year was completed with another thought provoking analysis of possible depictions of the Crab Nebula Supernova in southwestern rock art by Dr. Ed Krupp. (Continued on p. 5)
HOLIDAY GATHERING

PCAS members and guests enjoyed the annual Holiday Potluck Gathering on December 10th at the Duck Club. Our speaker, Dr. Ed Krupp, discussed the problems with interpreting crescent moon and star rock art panels as representing the 1054 Crab Nebula Supernova.

This evening would not have been possible without the efforts of many people. Joe Hodulik coordinated the reservations for the facility. Bob and Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, Dorothy DeGennaro, Scott Findlay, Megan Galway, and Lynn Miller set up and decorated the Duck Club. Dishes brought by our members and guests were delicious. Everyone pitched in and made clean up fast and easy. Thank you all for making the evening so enjoyable!

Thanks to our Holiday Potluck sponsors for supplying the sandwiches:

Sherri Gust
Cogstone Resource Management

Joe Hodulik
A Source of Pride
From the President (continued from p. 3)

Thanks are due to Joe Hodulik and Brian Steffensen for arranging these programs.

We were able, once again, to award two $1,000 scholarships to archaeology undergraduates. The Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship honoring a PCAS founding member and the Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship generously sponsored by her husband Tom Bogdan were awarded to students from UC San Diego and UC Berkeley. We also awarded grants of $250 and $500 to upper-division students. Funding for one scholarship and the grants comes from member donations and the Donation/Award table at our monthly meeting ably coordinated by Joe Hodulik.

My three-year term on the board will end this month, along with those of Stephen O’Neil and Brian Steffenson. Newly elected members Gail Cochlin, Sherri Gust, and Joe Hodulik will take up their positions in January. I have not named all those who continue to keep this organization running as it does, and many of you may not be aware of the amount of work that’s done “behind the scenes” but be assured the society is in really good hands.

LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!!

PCAS now has a Facebook page. We’ll be using this in addition to our website and newsletter to offer information and breaking news to our members and followers. We will be able to link expanded information for events on our Dig This page and would love to hear from members as to what kind of other posts and links would be of interest. We also hope to use this page to reach out to the academic community.

PCAS FIELD TRIP

January 23–24, 2016
Newberry Springs Area

We will dry camp and plan to visit rock art and other sites. Some moderate off-trail hiking will be required. 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. You may sign-up for this field trip by contacting Stephen Dwyer at fieldtrips@pcas.org or 714-969-1911, or Scott Findlay at fieldtrips@pcas.org or 714-342-2534.
Exhibits


Lectures


*Fayum Oasis, Egypt*, by Willeke Wendrich (Professor Egyptian Archaeology, UCLA ), a lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, January 24, 2–4 pm. Fee: $5; students and members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org.


Classes, Meetings, and Events

*Introduction to Archaeology Class*, by Colorado Desert District Archaeologist Robin Connor, will make course graduates eligible to participate in planned archaeology activities in Anza Borrego Desert State Park and other parks in the Colorado District. First class is January 9 and classes continue on Friday evenings and Saturdays for 6 weeks. Free. registration: robin.connors@parks.ca.gov. Information: www.theabf.org and Susan Gilliland, shgil-liland@mac.com.

*Singing the Birds (Wikitmallem Tahmuwhe): Bird Song & Dance Festival* celebrates traditional Cahuilla bird singing and dancing. Palm Springs High School Gymnasium, 2301 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs, February 6, 12:00 pm—7:00 pm. Admission and parking free. Information: www.accmuseum.org.

*The Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology* will be held March 10–13 at the DoubleTree Ontario Airport Hotel. Information and registration: www.seahome.org.

*The 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology* will be held April 6–10 at the Walt Disney World Dolphin, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Information and registration: www.saa.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.*
**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.

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**PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR**

**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

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A grand gathering of shamans.

**Come to the January presentation!**  
*Old Magic: Lives of the Desert Shamans*
2015 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2016 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

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www.pcas.org

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