DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month’s speaker, John Rafter, for dinner before the March 8 meeting, 6 pm, Mimi’s Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

MARCH PCAS SPEAKER

John Michael Rafter

Coyote Hole Canyon Surprises

Coyote Hole Canyon is located near Joshua Tree Village, California, near the north entrance to Joshua Tree National Park. The approximately 3,000 foot long canyon stretches from south to north, and rock art can be found on its east and west sides on granitic boulders. Coyote Hole is the name of the natural tank at the south end of the canyon. The rock art was initially recorded in 1975 by Daniel McCarthy and the late Delcie Vuncannon. McCarthy and his team of volunteers accomplished a complete recording in 2016.

John Rafter was first introduced to Coyote Hole Canyon and its rock art in 1990 by the late Wilson G. Turner, although their (Continued on p. 4)

This will be your last Newsletter if you haven’t renewed your membership! Use the membership form in this Newsletter or pay online at www.pcas.org.
February Speaker Notes

First People—A Revised Chronology for San Diego County

By Megan Galway

Dennis Gallegos began his presentation with the question, “How does CRM meld with history?” He then described the archaeological history of San Diego County and what more has been learned from recent CRM projects.

Malcom Rogers began his research in the area in 1919 and excavated over 300 sites before his death from a car accident in 1960 at age 70. Notable discoveries during this period were the Scraper Hill and Harris sites. In 1929 Rogers described the sites on the San Dieguito Plateau as an area of shell middens containing manos, metates, hammerstones, and shell. He named these people “Scraper Maker” (San Dieguito) for their distinctive stone implements and estimated their age as 3,000 to 2,000 years ago. Another period which he named La Jollan was estimated at 2,000 to 500 years ago. Rogers’s work pre-dated carbon dating.

Much more recently we have learned that the Clovis culture existed on our continent 12,000 years ago, and now researchers are dating sites in western North America to at least 15,000 years ago. Although migration across the Beringia land bridge was quite possible, the earlier coastal sites are likely due to the Kelp Highway as described by Jon Erlandson. Coastal conditions were constant for great distances down the coast allowing people to migrate southward without the need to adapt to new climates and resources. They had a ready source of fish, shellfish, and water birds.

Study of these coastal settlements is complicated by fluctuating sea levels which were about 300 feet lower during this period. The Channel Islands were larger, interconnected, and much closer to the mainland. Many of the earlier sites have been found on the islands, and many that existed on the mainland are now likely well underwater. The climate during the Paleolithic was cooler and more forested—Torrey pines are a remnant population from that time. The richest ocean resources are found in submarine canyons, a number of which are found off the San Diego coast, and the earliest San Diego sites are found close to these canyons. Artifacts from the Remington Hills site have been dated to older than 10,000 years ago.

Mr. Gallegos noted radiocarbon dating has improved over time, but sites often produce a range of dates which are then averaged. He described a dating gap in the Batiquitos Lagoon from 3,000 to 1,500 years ago. Cultural material is found before and after these dates but core samples show just sediment during this gap. It seems the lagoon silted up during the period. Conditions were no longer suitable for shellfish, and the people moved on to more productive sites.

Increased development in Southern California has also increased the number and range of CRM projects, and these have produced an extensive range of artifacts and associated dates. Details that Malcom Rogers never could have imagined are now available to us, and UC San Diego is now including marine archaeology in their research in an effort to increase our knowledge of coastal settlements.

Curation Workday

When: March 3, 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.
What Is It? Some Help Please (Part 1)

H. C. Koerper

In 1924 John Buxton moved into his newly built Redondo Beach home with its spacious attic, the perfect storage area for this lapidarist’s collection of natural objects and artifacts. Alan Barstow, the present homeowner, graciously allowed the author to peruse Buxton’s many and varied possessions. From among the testimony to this stone worker’s curiosity and acquisitiveness, the author encountered, for instance, brass knuckles, an Australian aboriginal boomerang, mineral and shell specimens, and the artifact pictured in Figure 1. Neither the function nor provenance of the 83 cm long ethnographic rarity is certain.

![Figure 1](image)

It exhibits palpable resemblance to small animal procurement weaponry used in the Great Basin and Southwest culture areas—simple hunting technology employed to extract prey such as chuckwallas, woodrats, and rabbits from crevices and dens. All are shafts with a barb, which is often a natural part of the stick (Figure 2), but it can also be a separate piece fastened onto the shaft, or stick, and possessing mastic, usually pitch, to secure the binding (Figures 3 and 4). It is asphaltum that secures the barb to the Buxton hunting weapon (Figure 5). An incandescent sewing needle lightly touched to its asphaltum produced a bituminous odor rather than the smell of pine.

![Figure 2](image)

Differences between various capture sticks are familiar through literature searches and examinations of museum collections. A recurrent similarity is that all or nearly all possess a sharply pointed barb, however, the mystery artifact’s termination is roundish. Further, the Buxton specimen is fancy in design and finish in comparison to Great Basin and Southwest hooked implements.

In cross-section the shaft is lenticular, and consequently the edges are somewhat sharp, a feature not observed on other barbed sticks. Speculatively, this feature might have offered effective defense against a poisonous snake angered at being extracted from its home. (to be continued)
March 2018                                                                  PCAS Newsletter                                                                  Vol. 57 No. 3

March Speaker  *(continued from p. 1)*

focus was on the area surrounding the mouth of the canyon. It was Delcie Vuncannon of nearby Yucca Valley who enlisted his help in investigating the rock art throughout the whole canyon from 1993 to 1996. During his study, he encountered several surprises involving the rock art, the likes of which he has not seen elsewhere. Mr. Rafter reported evidence of the canyon’s several rock art alignments with significant solar events at the San Diego Rock Art Symposium in 2016 and 2017. The alignments involved both direct and indirect observations, which include unique sunlight and shadow interactions with rock art. Additional findings made between 2015 and 2017 revealed more solar alignments, and one such alignment appears to have been observed by someone or some group as recently as 2017. The apparent theme of some of the rock art and their alignments with the sun may also have ethnographic support.

John Rafter.

John Rafter has been interested in the study of rock art since 1975 when he was introduced to it by the late Eugene Shepard, an avocational archaeologist for the San Bernardino County Museum, who continued to take him to rock art sites until his passing in 1989. During this time, the late Wilson G. Turner also took Mr. Rafter under his wings to further educate him in the study of rock art. He became Mr. Turner’s assistant field director in the Black Canyon rock art recording project, funded by Earthwatch, and he used his artistic talents to properly record the canyon’s rock art. Other rock art researchers, such as the late Arda Haenszel of San Bernardino and Delcie Vuncannon of Yucca Valley, contributed to Mr. Rafter’s growing knowledge of rock art and geoglyphs. Ultimately, his study of rock art merged with his interest in archaeoastronomy, which then led him to sites he found to have astronomical connections in areas once occupied by the Luiseno and the Chemehuevi. This also led him to a fortuitous meeting with the late Carobeth Laird, author of *The Chemehuevis*. Mrs. Laird, formerly the wife of John Peabody Harrington and later married her Chemehuevi informant, George Laird, took it upon herself to teach Mr. Rafter much of the Chemehuevi language and lore. After her passing in 1983, he inherited over 3,500 pages of her ethnographic notes that contained rare information on the Chemehuevi’s vast knowledge of astronomy. Mr. Rafter has organized these important bits of information into book form which is presently being reviewed by Dr. E. C. Krupp of the Griffith Observatory, one of the foremost researcher in the field of archaeoastronomy. Since 1981, John has been invited by Ken Hedges to be one of the speakers at the San Diego Rock Art symposium, all on the subject of his many archaeoastronomical findings.

John Rafter.

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**FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

President **Scott Findlay** called the meeting to order on February 10, 12:03 pm, at the Red Car Building. Board Members present: **Bob Brace, Gail Cochlin, Megan Galway, Sherri Gust, Steve O’Neil, and Brian Steffensen.** PCAS members present: **Hank Koerper and Kathleen Shada.**

The January 2018 minutes were approved, and the November Treasurer’s report was accepted.

After discussion, long-time member **Ardith Haenszel** was appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy left by resigned Board member **Joe Hodulik.** At this time she joined the Board by speaker phone. Archaeology Day at Garfield Elementary has been scheduled for May 25, and volunteers will be solicited. PCAS will have an information table at the Orange County Historical Commission Jamboree at Irvine Ranch Historic Park on April 21 and the usual information and Quarterly sales table at the SCA Meeting in San Diego in March.

**Joe Hodulik** earned $163 for the PCAS Scholarship fund in February! George Kline, BLM archaeologist, will lead a field trip to Dos Palmas on March 31.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.
FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

By Steve Dwyer

The February 2018 PCAS field trip visited several rock art sites in the Cima volcanic field in the Mojave National Preserve. At least three styles of petroglyphs were seen, plus a few pictographs. Several rockshelters and some rock cairns were also examined. Perhaps due to their remote locations, the sites were pristine—only four mylar balloons were found (and removed) all weekend.

MARCH FIELD TRIP

March 31, 2018
Dos Palmas Preserve with BLM Archaeologist George Kline

The 1,400 acre Dos Palmas Preserve is managed by the BLM and is at the heart of the 20,000 acre Salt Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern. It contains a large oasis with fan palms and wetland habitat, with pools fed by water seeping from the Coachella Canal and several springs.

The field trip will include some hiking. The participants plan to dry camp in the area. Please be aware you will be required to sign a waiver of liability and a code of ethics. For information and to sign-up, contact Steve Dwyer (714-969-1911) or Scott Findlay (714-342-2534) at the March meeting or email fieldtrips@pcas.org.

Visit Us at the SCA Meeting!

PCAS will have an information and Quarterly sales table at the SCA Meeting in San Diego. Please stop by the vendor room! We’ll have current and back issues of the Quarterly available for purchase and free incentive publications included with a minimum purchase.

The PCAS Publications Committee is soliciting articles for the Quarterly. Information for authors is available at www.pcas.org/pdfissues.html. Please contact publications@pcas.org with any questions.

Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to:

Pacific Coast Archaeological Society

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DIG THIS ...

Exhibits

City and Cosmos: The Arts of Teotihuacan will presents recent findings from Mexican national and international archaeological projects excavating at Teotihuacan's three main pyramids—the Sun, Moon, and the Feathered Serpent—and major residential compounds. LACMA, March 25–July 15, 2018. Fee varies. Information: www.lacma.org.

Lectures


Classes, Meetings, and Events

Malki Museum’s Annual Agave Harvest, led by Daniel McCarthy, will be held April 7. Meet at Cuahuilla Tewanet Overlook on the Palms to Pines Hwy 74. Fee: $10 donation. The Agave Roast will be held at the Malki Museum, April 14. 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2018</td>
<td>Don Liponi</td>
<td>La Rumorosa Rock Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10, 2018</td>
<td>Dr. James S. Kus</td>
<td>What's New in Machu Picchu?</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21, 2018</td>
<td>Dr. E. C. Krupp</td>
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</tbody>
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*Come to the March 8th Meeting and hear John Rafter speak on “Coyote Hole Canyon Surprises”!*
2018 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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