MAY PCAS SPEAKER

Dr. Amy Gusick

*Paleocoastal Landscapes, Marginality, and Initial Settlement of California’s Islands*

Islands have long been viewed as marginal habitats compared to mainland regions where terrestrial resources are generally more abundant and diverse. Yet researchers working on the Northern Channel Islands of California have identified over 50 archeological sites that date to the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene. These sites show a diversity of (Continued on p. 3)
April Speaker Notes

Kumeyaay on the Coast: Overlooked Aspects of Native Fishing and Maritime Technology

By Megan Galway

Richard Carrico described the early record of the Kumeyaay people which portrayed them as “an inland people.” Then he asked the question: “Why no talk about Kumeyaay on the coast?” He went on to explain how early anthropologists from Berkeley reported on coastal archaeology at a time when the Kumeyaay people had been pushed inland, had no reservation within 30 miles of the coast, and offered no personal memories. During the Mission period, Native American people were given names relating to the local mission, so the people living on the southern coast of California were given the name Diegueno for the nearby Mission San Diego. In the 1970s this group regained their tradition name, Kumeyaay, meaning “Coastal People.”

The cosmos of the Kumeyaay people is represented by land, water, and sky reflecting their coastal environment where these three elements meet and interact. Their local legends also describe the snake as positive and powerful. Kumeyaay mythology tells of a serpent on San Clemente Island who was the Keeper of Knowledge. Birds were sent to bring him to the mainland. During this journey, his tail dragged and created veins and grooves in the rocks which can still be seen today. An alternate version attributes the grooves and veins to a tail-dragging Coyote.

Southern California’s wide coastal plain and nearby mountains provided an environment for both coastal and mountain villages for the estimated 20,000 Kumeyaay people. Contrary to earlier impressions which reported the Kumeyaay as having no established settlements, we now know they had both coastal and mountain villages. They traveled between these villages seasonally to take advantage of different resources; Mr. Carrico drew a parallel with some Southern Californians who today have both mountain and beach homes.

While fishing in the salt water bays and lagoons, the people used both tule rafts and dugout pine canoes. Their fishing implements included shell fishhooks, bone gorgets, and nets. From the coastal environments, the Kumeyaay were known to use salt (used locally and for trade), kelp, medicinal plants, and shells for ornaments and tools. Asphaltum was extremely important as a sealer and faster and has been identified on a 9,000 year-old blade. Burials found during excavations at Mission San Diego contained olivella shell beads.

The ocean influence is seen as far inland as La Rumorosa in Baja California, known as a place where “rocks move.” One rock formation gives the appearance of a shark from one angle, but the shark’s eye becomes a vulva symbol from another angle. Another rock appears to be a turtle that moves. Mr. Carrico emphasized that the mythology doesn’t claim that these were real creatures that had been turned to stone but that they had always been stone animals.

In 1769 the coming of the missions also brought diseases to the local coastal population. Records indicate that in 1778 when Mission San Diego was short of rations the local Indians provided food in exchange for trade beads. Later records indicate the coastal villages were abandoned by 1820 although the census of 1833 records Pescadores, or fishermen, who were likely Kumeyaay. These were replaced by Chinese fishermen by 1870.

Mr. Carrico has recorded 450 place names but has not been able to identify the locations of 20 of these. He is working on placing these on an interactive map for use in schools. He also offered translations of some of these names, which closely relate to the names we use today. Tiquan in Kumeyaay is knife, and today that is known by the Spanish translation of Tecate. Hamil, or sweet water, today is Aqua Dulce. The identified villages were placed 5 to 6 miles apart. Southern California Kumeyaay people are actively working to import elements of their traditional knowledge from Baja California.
MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY  
Submitted by Gail Cochlin

President Sherri Gust called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Old Courthouse in Santa Ana, California. Board members present: Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, Steve Dwyer, Scott Findlay, Jane Gothold, Joe Hodulik, Hank Koerper, and Kathleen Shada. Members present: Bob Brace and Megan Galway.

The February 2016 minutes were approved with corrections, and the Treasurer’s report was approved.

Old Business

Sherri Gust reported on the status of the Old Courthouse space. Her report included a description of her contacts with OC Parks staff and a visit to the Cooper Center to review additional offered space. She noted that there have been no repairs or upgrades to the original space as promised. The space offered is contingent on PCAS acquiring liability insurance and a lease agreement with the cost of $1 per year. She confirmed the OC Parks offer to move the contents of the current space to the new space. Following a discussion among Board members, it was agreed that the current space being offered (though inadequate) will not be rejected, and Sherri Gust will continue to negotiate.

Scott Findlay reported on the progress of sorting and boxing books, the contents of file cabinets, etc. The Board discussed the best way to box and store our PCAS Quarterly inventory. It was agreed that Bob Brace would lead this activity and determine what assistance he will require.

Joe Hodulik’s Donation-Award table earned $167 at the April meeting! Steve Dwyer will lead an April 29–May 1 trip to the Mojave Preserve. Megan Galway reported that the PCAS Facebook page is operating and receiving more hits. Hank Koerper stated the next PCAS Quarterly issue will be delayed until May.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

CURATION WORKDAYS

May 14
June 11

Contact Mark Roeder, curator@pcas.org, or Scott Findlay, fieldtrips@pcas.org, for information.

May Speaker (continued from p. 1)

habitat use, extensive site complexes, and a 13,000 year-long history of habitation that is one of the longest in the New World. Throughout this habitation history, the island populations had to adapt to a shifting environment with various periods of climatic instability. The most dramatic of these periods may have occurred during the Early Holocene, when Paleocoastal people experienced extensive sea level rise and rapidly changing habitats. Unfortunately, this sea level rise has hindered research into the earliest habitation on California’s islands as it submerged hundreds of square kilometers of landmass that had been subaerial at the time of initial island occupation. Evidence that has been collected, however, suggests that early island populations not only survived in this shifting environment, but thrived on the ample available resources that sustained a growing population. This presentation will consider the Paleocoastal settlement of the Northern Channel Islands, with a focus on the Early Holocene, to show a trajectory of adaptation within a changing, but optimal, habitat for a culture with a maritime focused economy.

Dr. Gussick earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she fostered her research interests in human-environmental dynamics, the development of maritime societies, peopling of the Americas, and hunter-gatherer subsistence and settlement. She recently accepted an Assistant Professor position at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB), where her current research projects focus on early human coastal migration and settlement and the effect of environmental stress on Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene human groups along the Pacific Rim. Dr. Gussick uses both terrestrial and underwater archaeological methods in her research, which has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Geographic Society, and the American Philosophical Society. Dr. Gussick is also currently the Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Applied Archaeology at CSUSB. Her cultural resource management experience includes the design, implementation, and direction of projects for federal clients, utility companies, and state agencies. This experience stems mainly from her former position as a Cultural Resources Program Manager at a multinational engineering firm located in San Diego.
A recurrent scenario in the author’s capacity as a committed PCAS member assumes the following pattern: (1) feigned politeness to a request to provide filler (text with figures) that might replace currently blank pages of a Newsletter in progress; (2) begging-off tactics, sincere to disingenuous; (3) requester’s arm twisting; (4) ambivalent acceptance of the opportunity to pad a resume. Most recently, at Step 4, the decision to proceed was enabled with the requester’s imprimatur for a piece that could be short on words and with but a single figure, a good fit, I thought, to an earlier contemplated presentation of a certain extremely rare, 1856 Hutchings’ letter sheet acquired at an Anaheim paper ephemera expo.

Varied kinds of letter sheets were popular with California Gold Rush miners, whose missives home often recounted the trials and travails of prospecting the Mother Lode. With scenes rendered, for instance, of life in the mines, or as with the Figure 1 example, Indians engaged in several activities, letter sheets were forerunners of picture postcards.

The mint condition, double letter sheet featured here shows eight vignettes, all drawn by Charles Nahal (see Kruska 2009:186–187). The eight panels printed on the 11 3/8 inch x 9 1/16 inch, gray laid paper together frame a block of text that addresses the behaviors occurring in each scene.

Readers curious about James Mason Hutchings and Hutchings’ California Magazine are referred to Olmsted (1962).

References Cited

Kruska, Dennis

Olmsted, R. R.
Figure 1. “Hutching’s [sic] California Scenes” letter sheet, 1856. Excelsior Print, operated by James Towne. Opposite side of sheet was for correspondence and an address.
DID THIS...

Lectures


Not All the Mummies Are Created Equal, by W. Benson Harer, MD, May 8, 2–3 pm; Mummies Unwrapped; the Art of CT Scanning, by Dr. Linda Sutherland, May 22, 2–3 pm; The Magic of Death, by Dr. Kara Cooney and Dr. Liv Nilsson Stutz, June 4, 1:30–3:30 pm; Mummification: Resurrection of a Lost Art, by Dr. Bob Brier, June 26, 7:30 pm. Parts of Mummy Mania Speaker Series, Bowers Museum. Fee varies. Information: www.bowers.org.


California Channel Islands, by Dr. René Vellanoweth (CSU Los Angeles). A lecture of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, May 15, 2 pm. Fee: $5; students and members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org.


Classes, Meetings, and Events


Malki Fiesta, a day-long celebration will honor Native American veterans. Food, entertainment (Cahuilla Bird Singers), and demonstrations will be held at the Malki Museum, May 29, 10 am–4 pm. Free. Information: 951-849-7289 or www.malkimuseum.org.

Applied Archaeology Field School, offered by the San Bernardino National Forest and the Hamilton Museum & Ranch, will be taught by Daniel McCarthy and Bill Sapp and will be located in the Garner Valley near Idyllwild, July 18–August 19. Fee: $2950 includes meals. Enrollment deadline July 1. Information: Bill Sapp, Forest Service Archaeologist, billsapp@fs.fed.us.

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.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

June 9, 2016
Richard Fitzgerald
Ten Years After: The Archaeology of the Marsh Creek Site (CA-CCO-18/548)

No meetings in July and August

September 8, 2016
Dr. Jennifer Perry
The Archaeology of Interior Landscapes on the Channel Islands

October 13, 2016
Desireé Renée Martinez
A Donation to the Museum (documentary film)

November 10, 2016
Dr. Adolfo Muniz

Come to the May 12 meeting and learn about Northern Channel Island archaeology!
2016 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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