SEPTEMBER PCAS SPEAKER

Dr. Michael J. Moratto

People of the Restless Inland Sea: Human Adaptations to Ancient Lake Cahuilla

Any consideration of late prehistoric land-use and settlement patterns in the Coachella Valley and beyond must recognize that ancient Lake Cahuilla is the elephant in the room. The fluctuations of that great body of water, and the multitude of biotic resources that accompanied it, exerted a profound influence on where people lived, how long they could stay, their particular subsistence activities, and when they had to relocate. As the lake was filling, people depending on its bounty needed to (Continued on p. 3)

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING
Free and Open To the Public
September 14 - 7:30 pm
Speaker: Dr. Michael J. Moratto
Topic: People of the Restless Inland Sea: Human Adaptations to Ancient Lake Cahuilla
Location: IRWD Community Room
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

BOARD MEETING
All Members Welcome
September 16 - 12 noon
Location: PCAS Curation Facility
Contact Scott Findlay for directions:
714-342-2534 or fieldtrips@pcas.org.

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DINNER WITH PCAS MEMBERS

Please join PCAS members for dinner before the September 14 meeting at 6 pm, Mimi’s Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine. The speaker will not be joining us.

This is the combined August/September Newsletter.
JUNE SPEAKER NOTES

Reassembling Black Star Canyon Village

By Megan Galway

Stanford Ph.D. candidate Nathan Acebo presented his recent research on Native occupation in Black Star Canyon (CA-ORA-132). While the prehistoric period has been extensively studied in this area and the late historic is well known, Mr. Acebo notes that little attention has been paid to the post-contact period (1600–1850) and much of what we know is somewhat anecdotal. The general public knows that Black Star Canyon is a great place to hike, there was an old Indian village in the canyon, there is a haunted or dangerous ranch, and it was designated California Historical Landmark #217. Most of the early work on Orange County’s cultural history focused on the Newport Bay region, and the foothills and canyons were largely ignored as being of little importance. The overall narrative becomes disjointed after missionization, but Mr. Acebo emphasized this terminal point did not terminate Native culture.

Black Star Canyon is located within the area of Rancho Lomas de Santiago, a Mexican land grant given to Teodosio Yorba in 1846. After changing hands a number of times, the land eventually became part of the Irvine Ranch. A number of archaeological projects have been conducted in the canyon, including those by Herman Strandt between 1910 and 1930, the W.P.A. (1937), the Archaeological Survey Association (1952-1953, 1956), and PCAS (a pedestrian survey in 1971). Over 300 pounds of artifacts are known to exist from these projects and are distributed among a number of museums and institutions including Bowers Museum, CSU Fullerton, and the San Bernardino County Museum.

Mr. Acebo’s project is combining as much data as possible from these collections by locating existing records and cataloging artifacts to create a complete database. He is surveying and remapping the site and re-excavating some areas. The existing collections will be analyzed based on the updated information. In 2015 the site was surveyed, and 122 bedrock mortars were point plotted on the map. The soil was noted to be traditional midden soil, and excavations found glass, pottery, lithics, shell, and faunal remains. Excavation of old backfill revealed that a layer of what was identified by the W.P.A. as fire-affected rock actually consisted of broken manos. Obsidian at the site has been sourced to both Coso and Obsidian Butte, indicating far-reaching trade. The site which was defined by the W.P.A. as a seasonal acorn gathering and hunting site was obviously occupied well into the historic era.

Speaker Nathan Acebo and PCAS Programs Co-Chair Joe Hodulik at the June meeting.

One incident passed down in stories from early settlers is the Black Star Canyon massacre. This occurred when a group of vigilantes tracked a group of Native horse thieves into the canyon. From accounts and records, Mr. Acebo has created a biography of the leader of this group, William Wolfskill, an entrepreneurial adventurer who had failed at a number of activities, most recently as an otter hunter. He and a group of fellow vigilantes were recruited to track down the thieves and recover the stolen horses, which it appears they did.

We look forward to the completion of this study.

PCAS BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee—composed of Bob Brace, Megan Galway, and Brian Steffensen—requests that members interested in serving on the PCAS Board of Directors contact a committee member. The committee is seeking candidates willing to take an active role as a member of a working Board of Directors and who will attend Board Meetings and General Meetings. A biography, not to exceed 125 words, must be submitted to one of the committee members no later than the September General Meeting, September 14, 2017. The submitted biographies will appear in the October PCAS Newsletter.

At the November General Meeting, PCAS members will elect three Board Members who will serve three-year terms. At this election meeting, nominations may be made from the floor by any member with the prior consent of the nominee.

Please contact: Bob Brace (treasurer@pcas.org), Megan Galway (secretary@pcas.org), or Brian Steffensen (programs@pcas.org).
move to higher ground whenever so dictated by the rising waters. Conversely, as the lake fell, economic efficiency required people to follow the retreating shoreline. This meant that a high degree of mobility, not to mention cultural flexibility, was required of those who relied on the resources bestowed by this vast “inland sea.”

It is not surprising, therefore, that prehistoric land-use and settlement practices along the north shore of Lake Cahuilla (in what is now Indio) were correlated with the rising or falling, presence or absence, of the lake. Both the fluctuations of water levels and human responses to ever-changing conditions have been the subjects of a multi-year (2002–2017) program of archaeological investigations at CA-RIV-6896/6897 by Applied EarthWorks, Inc., and much of this research was directed by Michael Moratto. Six high stands of Lake Cahuilla during the past 1,300 years have been identified, and radiocarbon age determinations associated with cultural features have confirmed a strong correlation between human activities at the site and high stands of the lake. These and related topics will be explored in Dr. Moratto’s presentation.

Dr. Michael J. Moratto (RPA; Principal Archaeologist, Applied EarthWorks, Inc.) has directed hundreds of anthropological projects in the western US. Among his interests are peopling the New World, the American West, cultural ecology, California anthropology, and linguistic prehistory. A retired university professor, he is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and past president of local, statewide, and national professional societies. He has also served on the State Historical Resources Commission. Of 200+ publications, Dr. Moratto’s *California Archaeology* (1984, 2004) is perhaps best known. He has received many honors and awards from professional societies, universities, governmental agencies, and civic organizations.

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**JUNE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

President Sherri Gust called the June 10 meeting to order at 12:15 pm at the Red Car Building, Santa Ana. PCAS Board members present: Bob Brace, Gail Cochlin, Steve Dwyer, Megan Galway, Joe Hodulik (via speaker phone), Hank Koerper, Kathleen Shada. PCAS members present: Rene Brace, Scott Findlay, Jane Gothold (via speaker phone), and Mark Roeder.

The May minutes were approved, and the Treasurer’s report was approved with expenditures.

Members are assembling the outreach supplies and equipment for the outreach to Garfield Elementary School which will be held on June 16. The Annual Picnic will be held July 12, and Rene Brace will send out flyers. The October Board Meeting and Curation Workday have been rescheduled to October 7 so as not to conflict with Prehistoric OC.

Bob Brace, Megan Galway, and Brian Stefansen were appointed to the Nomination Committee for Board members. Joe Hodulik received $120 in donations for the Scholarship fund in June! The July field trip to the refurbished Blas Aguilar Adobe in San Juan Capistrano is scheduled for July 22 at 1 pm. *PCAS Quarterly* Editor Hank Koerper reported that Volume 53, Numbers 2 and 3, will be printed in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

**SIGN UP AGAIN FOR RALPHS COMMUNITY REWARDS**

PCAS thanks Ralphs and all our participants for this opportunity to earn a donation of at least 1 percent of your Ralphs purchases. Everyone must sign up again for the new term. **After September 1:**

1. Go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) and create an account or sign in (email and password) to your account.
2. Click on your name at top of screen.
3. Link your card to PCAS by clicking on “Community Rewards.” The PCAS organization number is 90417.
4. Or call 800-443-4438 for assistance. Scan letters are no longer valid.
Two Eskimo Fishing Sinkers

Henry C. Koerper

The last draft for a just published PCAS Quarterly study that focused on southern California fishing sinkers (Koerper 2017) was finalized in near synchrony with a communication from an old UC Davis classmate, asking my assistance in finding a good home (either a museum, interpretive center, or educational outreach program) for several Eskimo ethnographic specimens. The various artifacts had been acquired long ago at an Inupiat village, Shishmaref, on Sarichef Island, located above the Arctic Circle. Global warming, loss of sea ice, and attendant encroachment of sea water recently precipitated an exodus of villagers, now relocated to the mainland.

Within days of assenting to the former classmate’s request, a package arrived at my doorstep. And OMG, among the lot were the subjects of this essay. As an accommodation to the usual Newsletter space limitations, the discourse must necessarily occur in two installments: Part One—descriptions and cursory background information regarding a fossil proboscidean bone net weight; and Part Two—similar treatment for a walrus ivory fish-line sinker, both scheduled for the October Newsletter.

Part One

The 134 g net weight seen in Figures 1 and 2 was shaped from fossil bone, either mastodon or mammoth. It measures 108 mm in length. When set vertically with its two ends flush to a horizontal surface, maximum height reaches 45 mm. Maximum width is 32 mm.

Edward W. Nelson (1899:189) had in mind just this type of Eskimo net weight when he wrote, “Ivory or bone weights frequently alternate with stone sinkers on the nets and serve both as sinkers and handles. They … are more or less curved, and have a hole at each end for fastening them to the net.” Figure 3 reproduces Nelson’s illustration of part of a herring seine net, its stretchers to the left, and up top is one of what would have comprised an array of floats spaced at intervals. The sinker/handle secured at the bottom has a familiar design. Its pleasing symmetry is matched by other styles of weight/handle specimens (e.g., Nelson 1899:Figure 52), but a raft of examples illustrated elsewhere (e.g., Collins 1937:226–227, Plate 75-16; Laguna 1947:Plate XVI, 19, 20) reflect far less attention to craftsmanship. Parenthetically, fossil bone net weights occasionally receive mention in the literature (e.g., Laguna 1947:Plate XVV, 5).

(To be continued in the October Newsletter)

References Cited

Collins, Henry B., Jr.
1937 Archeology of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.
Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections Vol. 96, No. 1. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Koerper, Henry C.

Laguna, Fredericka D.

Nelson, Edward William
ARCHAEOLOGY DAY AT GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The outreach to Garfield Elementary School was held in the Garfield Community Center on June 16. We thank Garfield Principal, Mr. Kasey Klappenback, and all the 5th grade teachers, Mr. Chris Marx, Mrs. Linda Miller, Ms. Cyndi Rhone, and Mrs. Concepcion Sixtos, for welcoming this event. Archaeology Day would not have been possible without our volunteers: Bob and Rene Brace, Gail Cochlin, Dorothy DeGennaro, Scott Findlay, Megan Galway, Hank Koerper, Mark Roeder, Kathleen Shada, and Brian and Emily Steffensen. PCAS volunteers present outreach events to promote the understanding and preservation of our cultural heritage.
DIG THIS...

Exhibits


Lectures


Classes, Meetings, and Events (continued)

Luis Obispo County Archaeological Society Headquarters, Building 1522 O’Conner Way, Camp San Luis Obispo, October 21, 9 am, information—Sarah Nicchitta, SNicchitta@AlbionEnvironmental.com. Information for both meetings: www.scahome.org.

Moompetan: Native American Festival, a celebration of local Native American culture with traditional crafts, storytelling, educational programs, live demonstrations, etc. Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, September 16–17, 9 am–5 pm. Fee: included with aquarium admission. Information: www.aquariumofpacific.org.

Experimental Archaeology: Traditional Pottery Making, by Kurt McLean. San Diego Archaeological Center, September 16 and 23 (10 am–2 pm). Participants will construct a vessel and fire it in an open pit. Information and registration: Stephanie Sandoval, sisandoval@sandiegoarchaeology.org or 760-291-0370.

The First Annual SDAC Student Symposium will allow undergraduate and graduate students to present results of their work. San Diego Archaeological Center, September 30. Information: http://sandiegoarchaeology.org.

Citizen Science: Rock Art Documentation Methods, by Jeremy Freeman, October 13 (7 pm)–October 15 (3 pm); fee $135 (credit $245). Archaeology in Joshua Tree National Park, by Daniel McCarthy, October 28 (9 am)–October 29 (2 pm). Fee: $120. Classes of the Joshua Tree National Park Desert Institute. Information and registration: www.joshuatree.org/desert-institute/field-classes.

Websites

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

October 12, 2017
Dr. Alan P. Gold
*Ghost Dance Rock Art*

November 9, 2017
Dr. Janine Gasco
*Cacao (Chocolate) in Pre columbian and Contemporary Mesoamerica*

December 14, 2017
Dr. Dennis L. Jenkins
*Paisley Caves*

January 11, 2018
Bernie Jones and Dr. Chris Drover
*Flower World Iconography and Metaphor of the Southern Colorado*
2017 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

Signature ____________________________

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

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