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PCAS NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER PCAS SPEAKER

William D. Hyder

*Revisiting the Santa Barbara Museum of
Natural History 1935 Hurricane Deck
Expedition*

Zoom Meeting

December 10, 7 pm

Free registration required

Please see instructions on p. 3.

When informed of artifact-rich caves and spectacular paintings in the backcountry, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History mounted a research expedition in 1935 to survey and document the sites, as well as to rescue the artifacts that



**Pool Rock
shaman.**

were being systematically looted from the many cache caves in the area. Time intervened, and the results of the expedition were never published as originally intended. The current study takes a small step toward realizing some of the goals of the 1935 project.

After 85 years of continued interest in Chumash rock art and archaeology, new methods and insights facilitate a fresh look at the region, its rock art, and its largely overlooked archaeological record. This presentation focuses on the role of women in rock art production, the role of rock art sites and medicine, and possible depictions of the Milky Way and its importance to the annual harvest rituals of the Chumash.

Bill Hyder retired from the University of California Santa Cruz in 2010 after 30 years of academic and information technology management. He earned MAs in political science and anthropology. His interest in rock art began in 1970 after reading Campbell Grant's *Rock Paintings of the Chumash*. As an independent researcher, he conducted studies for the California State Parks and the National Park Service. Mr. Hyder is a past president of the American Rock Art Research Association and a Research Associate with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Anthropology Department, and he currently serves on the board of the California Rock Art Foundation. His retirement years have been devoted to research, writing, and designing and producing publications covering prehistoric art and his other passion, numismatics.

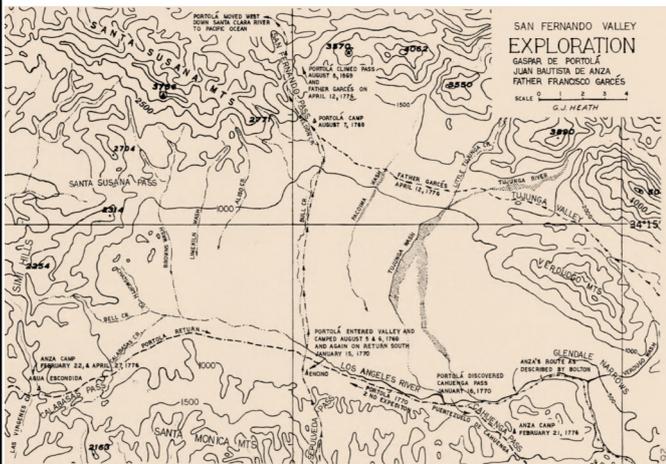
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NOVEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Relocating an Ancestor's Grave from the Village of Cahuenga

By Megan Galway

At our November Zoom meeting Paul Langenwalter II, Lauren Biltonen, and Aimee L. Montenegro presented a video report of their study of a gravesite in the area of what is now known as Cahuenga (traditionally Kaweenga). The village was first mentioned by Father Crespi in his journal recording the 1769–1770 expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá to locate sites for future Franciscan missions in California. On his northbound journey Portolá visited the village of Encino on August 5, 1769, and was welcomed by the inhabitants. Mention was made of meeting people earlier but not seeing their village. Returning south, on January 16, 1770, he stopped at a village about 3 leagues from Encino, and the inhabitants mentioned meeting him previously. This village is believed to have been Cahuenga.



Map showing the Portolá Expedition route through the San Fernando Valley.

This project at CA-LAN-4894 developed when landscape trenching activities disturbed a gravesite. The presenters were called in to rescue the skeletal remains, relocate them to a secure area, and excavate and record the burial feature. Sites such as this, like those in many other areas, have long been impacted by agriculture and development. In the past they were subject to disturbance and looting, but the passage of statutes such as NAGPRA has laid out a protocol for protection. Guidelines are in place as to whether a burial can be protected in situ, reburied nearby, or relocated to a new location. The process in California is overseen by the Native American

Heritage Commission which brings together archaeologists and Most Likely Descendants (MLDs) to facilitate the process.



Speakers with members of the excavation crew.

This burial was badly disturbed by the ongoing landscaping, and the decision was made to recover as much as possible and relocate it. This was done in consultation with the designated MLD, Robert Dorame, and the remains were reburied at a site previously used for this purpose. The burial site was excavated, and the excavated material, along with that already removed in the trenching, was passed through a 1/8 inch screen. The investigators hoped to retrieve enough information to place the remains in a cultural and historical context. More than 1,550 bone fragments were found throughout the fill, and most were less than 1 cm in size. The fragments came from all areas of the body and included teeth and skull fragments.



Excavation at CA-LAN-4894.

The ability to study skeletal remains varies based on the beliefs and wishes of the local descendants. In this case an attempted DNA analysis failed due to

degradation of the teeth, but a visual analysis of the fragments provided a great deal of information. The individual was male, most likely 35–50 years of age. He had suffered numerous injuries and infections appearing to result from an earlier attempt on his life. An arrow point was found lodged in his 4th lumbar vertebra, damaging both that and the 5th lumbar. This had caused partial paralysis resulting in arthritis of his joints and reduced bone density because he had to crawl rather than walk. It appears he must have been greatly supported by others due to his condition. He had suffered greatly from abscessed teeth, affecting his jaw bones and sinuses. A healed rib fracture was noted, and his ultimate death was caused by a blunt weapon blow to his head.



Sorting artifactual material from CA-LAN-4894.



PCAS Board member Irene Foster.

A variety of stone and bone artifacts were recovered in the excavation including projectile points, bifaces, scrapers, utilized flakes, chipping waste, and a hammerstone. Faunal remains included various reptiles, birds, and both small and large game. The

variety of game suggests a grassland and brushy environment as described in Crespi's journal. Included among the faunal remains was an antelope astragalus. Fr. Crespi had described an antelope being killed by the expedition, but experts had long considered this identification to be in error. With the Cahuenga discovery, two of these bones have now been identified in southern California, the other in San Juan Capistrano. One other variety of non-local faunal artifact was abalone shell which was likely imported or traded from the coast and used as a bowl. Radiocarbon dating of the artifacts suggest a date of AD 980 to AD 1150 with the midden being older than the burial.

Results of the study suffered from missing data because of the previous disturbance of the area. The nature of grave fill, shape of the grave, density of the midden, and burial position were all inconclusive. Also missing was an expected cairn, traditionally placed over a burial. Results were believed to have resolved the location of Cahuenga, that it was a village rather than a camp, and the burial was from the late tenth to mid-eleventh centuries.

The burial was reinterred at the selected location on July 13, 2019.

PCAS ZOOM MEETING

- Email a registration request to membership@pcas.org by **noon on Thursday, December 10.**
- You will receive an email shortly with a link to the Zoom meeting.
- Guests (non-PCAS members) are welcome with registration.
- When the presentation starts, please **mute your microphone and turn off your webcam.**

PCAS host Steve Dwyer will open the Zoom meeting at 7 pm to allow time to resolve any technical problems prior to the beginning of the PCAS General Meeting and lecture at 7:30 pm.



DIG THIS ...



Lectures

The Archaeological Conservancy's 2020 Virtual Lecture Series is available online at www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/virtual-lectures-2020/. *The Archaeological Conservancy in California: A Tour of TAC Sites in the Golden State* is of particular interest.

The Archaeological Institute of America has webinars available online at www.archaeological.org.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center has recent presentations available at www.youtube.com/user/CrowCanyonConnects/videos.

San Diego Archaeological Center has past lectures available online at www.sandiegoarchaeology.org/museum-at-home/.

Living Room Lecture: Avian Remains from the Presidio, by Dr. Aharon Sasson (San Diego Natural History Museum). A San Diego Archaeological Center Zoom lecture, December 3, 5:30 pm. Free. Information and required registration: <https://sandiegoarchaeology.org>.

Island Chumash Plant Use: Archaeobotany, Archaeology, and Historical Ecology of the Northern Channel Islands, by Dr. Kristina M. Gill. A Ventura County Archaeological Society Zoom lecture, December 8, 7 pm. To request registration, email vcas.arch@gmail.com.

The Unique Vail Ranch, by Rebecca Marshall Farnbach (author and historian). A Coachella Valley Archaeological Society Zoom lecture, December 11, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org; required registration: cvasnews@dc.rr.com.

The Power of Ancient Egyptian Images, by Dr. Rune Nyord (Emory University). An ARCE/Bowers Museum online lecture, December 12, 1:30 pm. Fee: \$5; ARCE and Bowers members free. Information and required registration: www.bowers.org.

Rock Art of Chaco Canyon, by Scott Seibel. A San Diego Rock Art Association Zoom lecture. December 13, 4 pm (meeting opens at 3:45 pm). Required registration: www.sandiegorockart.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.

2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

By Megan Galway

Well, it's been quite a year, hasn't it? SCA Annual Meeting – canceled, Pecos Conference – canceled, Rock Art Symposium – canceled. PCAS meetings in April, May, and June – canceled. And right now 2021 appears headed in the same direction. But the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary in 2021 and plans to be around for many more years.

In September we joined many other organizations in conducting our monthly meetings via Zoom and have enjoyed seeing old friends again after so many months. This allows us to meet with people who would otherwise be unable to get to our meetings and will also enable us to solicit speakers from outside Southern California.

All of which brings me to the point of this column – your annual membership expires on December 31st, and it's time to renew. Those members who wait to renew in person at the SCAs? Ain't gonna happen this year. So remember, you may pay online with any credit card at <http://www.pcas.org/membs.html>, or by check with the renewal form in this newsletter. Also, please keep in mind, so long as we're unable to hold in-person meetings, we're also unable to conduct our donation/award table which funds our annual scholarship. Perhaps you'll consider us in your year-end charitable giving?

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.

We appreciate your continued support of PCAS and look forward to receiving your renewal for 2021.

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

January 14, 2021

Dr. Richard J Chacon

*Tibenuk and Chuji: Status Attainment and
Collective Action in Egalitarian Settings*

February 11, 2021

Jon Harman

DStretch on the Baja California Peninsula

2020 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2021 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

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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 _____

Signature

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- Family Membership – \$50
- Supporting Member* – \$55
- Donor Member* – \$75
- Lifetime Member* – \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* – \$40
- Newsletter* – \$20

www.pcas.org

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

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**PCAS Membership
PO Box 10926
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0926**

or

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www.pcas.org/membrs.html