



JANUARY 2025

PCAS Newsletter

The Monthly Publication of the
Pacific Coast Archaeological Society

www.pcas.org

Volume 64 Number 1

ISSN 0270-6776

January PCAS Speaker

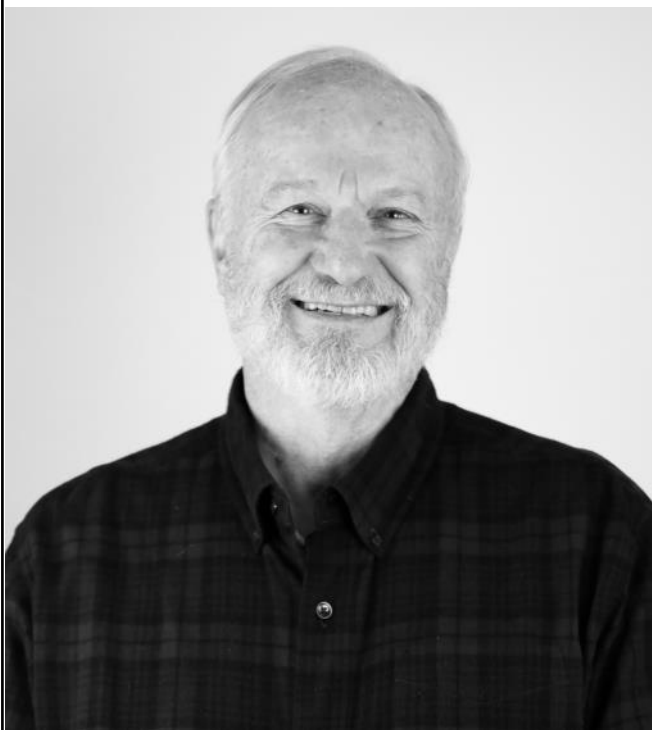
Dr. John R. Johnson

Mapping Chumash Communities

Zoom Meeting

January 9, 7:30 pm. See p. 6.

Following Cabrillo's voyage in 1542, certain Chumash towns and villages began appearing on maps resulting from Spanish exploration. Mission records during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries provide crucial information on settlement locations and populations. Anthropologists, particularly Kroeber and Harrington, began working on comprehensive mapping of Chumash communities beginning in the early twentieth century. One of the sources that proved invaluable was



placename lists recorded by a literate Ventureño man named Juan Estevan Pico. Interviewing elders whom he knew, Pico documented the names and locations of Chumash towns and villages along the coast between Point Conception and Malibu, inland areas of the Ventureño region, and the Channel Islands. Subsequent maps of Chumash rancherías have built upon and refined the work of Kroeber and Harrington by incorporating archaeological evidence, mission register data, and other sources. Having established the complete settlement pattern, other studies become possible, including determining population distributions, discerning geographic patterns of recruitment to the missions, and reconstructing intervillage sociopolitical relationships.



Dr. John Johnson served 37 years as Curator of Anthropology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and since retirement in 2023 holds the position of Curator Emeritus. He taught an anthropology course on Indigenous Peoples of California Indians for 18 years at UC Santa Barbara. Dr. Johnson's written contributions include more than 100 studies regarding the cultures, history, and ancient past of California's Native peoples, especially emphasizing the Chumash Indians of the Santa Barbara region.

Happy New Year!
**Remember to renew your
PCAS membership:**
www.pcas.org/membsr.

December Speaker Notes

CA-ORA-64: Background, Data, and What's Next

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Initiation of Large-Scale Excavations at the Irvine Site.

By Megan Galway

Michael E. Macko, our Holiday Meeting speaker, began his presentation with an overview of the history of CA-ORA-64, the Irvine site. Nels Nelson came to UC Berkeley around 1901, and working with Alfred Kroeber, he spent many years surveying sites in the San Francisco area. In 1911 he married Kroeber's secretary, and they honeymooned on Catalina Island, and as all archaeologists would do, he took the opportunity to survey sites on the island. After recording 29 sites on Catalina, he came to the mainland, and his 30th site was ORA-64. Site records of the time consisted of little more than index cards, and Nelson's card for this site described it as:

No. 30. Traces of a camp site. Situated on the east side of Newport Bay about 2¾ miles above the entrance. The refuse lies on tip of the bluff and is most significant for actual measurements.

The site was later recorded to be between 15 and 25 acres. The first recorded study of the site was in the 1960s by the University of California, and PCAS volunteers were involved in the work. The first scientific investigation, including excavations, was in 1971–1975 and conducted by CSU Fullerton. Around 190 1 x 1 m units were excavated. As increased development in the area became apparent, efforts were made to protect the site as environmentally important, and an additional survey was conducted. A proposal to levy a property tax in the City of Newport Beach to purchase and protect the site, including an expanded area which increased the cost, was voted down, and development went ahead.

In the development area of around 50 acres, the area designated as ORA-64 was about 12 acres. Collection on the site was intensive, and all of the material was sorted through sequentially smaller screens. The resulting material was all washed and sorted in the laboratory. Mr. Macko mentioned this avoided sampling bias and provided a database to compare to similar sites in the area. The initial sampling was conducted over the whole site on a grid with excavation units every 20 m. The samples were analyzed as to artifact distribution, and then further units were excavated every 10 m resulting in 226 units. No burials and very few features were identified during this process. Additional data recovery showed features below 60 cm, indicating rodent disturbance had undercut the



PCAS Program Chair Joe Hodulik and December speaker Michael Macko.

features causing them to settle on top of the underlying Monterey chert bedrock. The overburden was then removed with backhoes and analyzed for artifacts, and any features revealed were then excavated by traditional methods. The whole site was then graded in 1 inch increments by a mechanical scraper followed by four archaeologists who were familiar with the site and were able to identify significant features and artifacts.

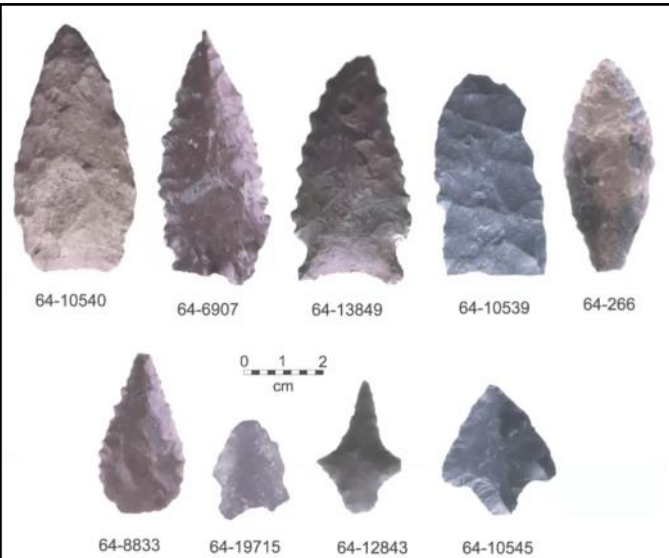
Radiocarbon dates from the site go back 9,600 years with an apparent lack of occupation around 4,000 years ago likely due to climatic and environmental issues. Artifacts included early ceramics, crescents, and shell and ceramic beads. Decoration on many ceramics included parallel lines, likely made by a multipointed tool.

Surprisingly, few points were found, likely due to collecting by early residents and ranch hands. The ones that were found covered a range of periods from archaic to early Holocene, including one similar to previously identified Channel Island Barbed point.



CA-ORA-64 ceramics with punctuated parallel lines.

(Continued on p. 3)



CA-ORA-64 points.

Olivella beads were predominant, although again rather few in number, and often coated in ochre. One grooved rectangle bead was discovered, and these are found all over the western Great Basin and up to Oregon, possibly indicating the occupation by Uto-Aztec people into southern California.

Two caches with each cache containing two intriguing, oversized bifaces were also recovered. One biface was sourced to Buck Mountain obsidian from northeastern California. Two bifaces were made of



CA-ORA-64 bifaces. (A) Buck Mountain obsidian; (B) Monterey chert.

glassy rhyolite visually similar to that found in southeastern Oregon and Idaho, and one was made of Monterey chert. The bifaces are in pristine condition and are highly polished as if stroked or handled. This is believed to indicate a ceremonial use. Nonutilitarian groundstone artifacts included large, perfectly round balls, ovoids, and discs with no known purpose. Features were primarily rock cairns, including broken groundstone artifacts or fire affected rock, or caches of artifacts such as the stone balls or ceremonial blades.



CA-ORA-64 stone balls.

Plans for the repatriation of human remains were developed in consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission, the two local tribes, and the team osteologist. Burials, human remains, and grave goods were identified in this plan. Trenches were dug adjacent to ORA-64 and the items reburied with appropriate offerings and ceremony.

Mr. Macko notes that with the new laws restricting the study of archaeological artifacts the robust data recorded from this site becomes even more important to the study of coastal California’s culture history. This presentation was recorded and is available on our YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/@pcas-pacificcoastarchaeolo9403.

PCAS Holiday Potluck

PCAS members and guests enjoyed the Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner on December 13h at the Irvine Ranch Water District Duck Club. Our guest speaker was PCAS new Board member Michael Macko who gave an excellent presentation on CA-ORA-64, the Irvine site.

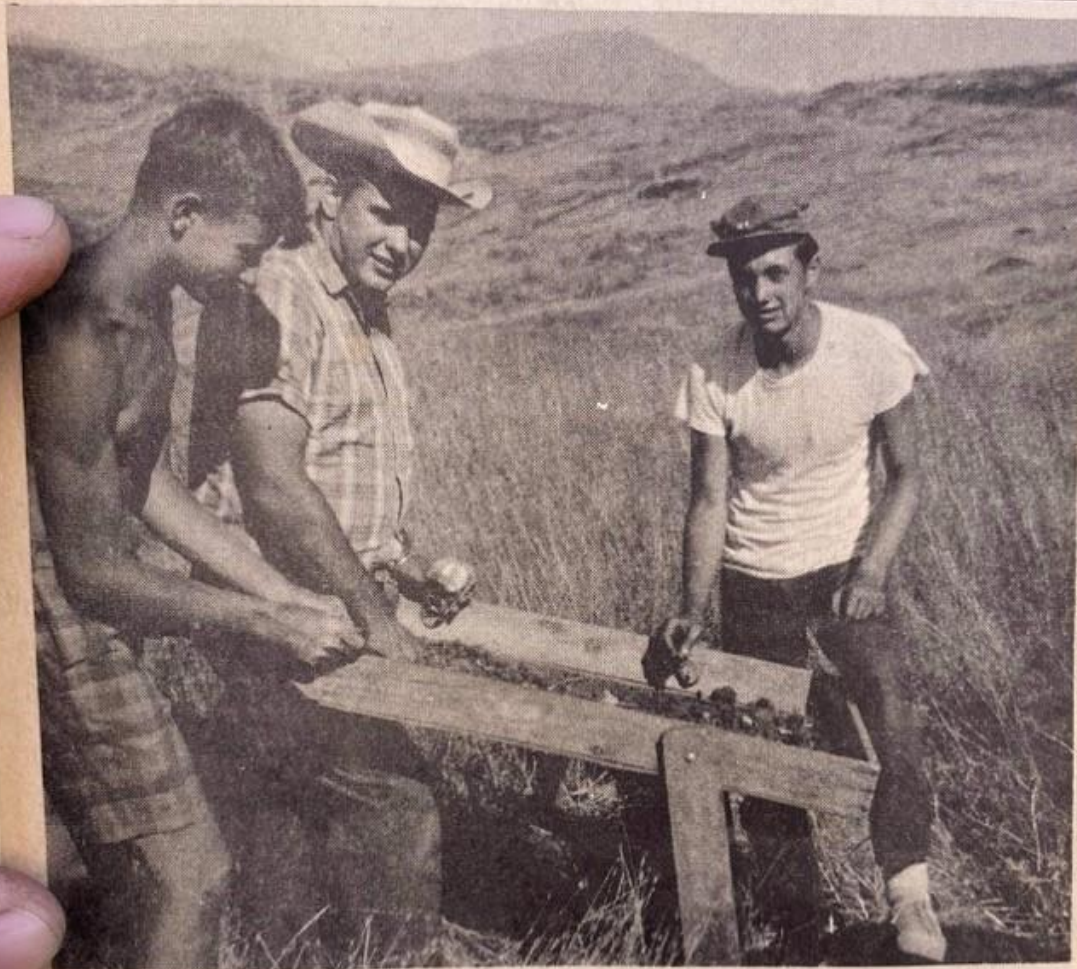
We thank all our members and guests who brought delicious food to share and those who came early to set up and helped clean up.

PCAS Assists the Start of a Distinguished Career

18TH YEAR, NO. 49

FIRST SECTION

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1966



SCREENING the diggings during a weekend field trip to Catalina produced Indian beads and fishhooks and other artifacts estimated to be about 500 years old. The field trip was a project of Archaeological Explorer Post 806 of Orange County, one of 3 such posts in the United States. Pictured here doing the screening are, from left, Explorer Scout John Johnson, 16, of Corona del Mar, acting president of the Post; Paul Chase, technician at

Charles Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, and Explorer Scout Tom Spangler, 16, of Corona del Mar. Six scouts from Post 806 went on the trip, crossing on the Garden Grove Sea Scout ship "Volunteer" last Friday, camping out 2 nights at "Little Harbor," near the Isthmus, and returning Sunday. The artifacts uncovered by the scouts will go to the Catalina Museum at Avalon.

Dr. John Johnson's earliest experience in archaeology was back in 1965 when he joined Archaeology Specialty Explorer Post 806, which was sponsored by the PCAS. The Scouts took several trips to Santa Catalina Island in 1966 where several pits were excavated at a site at Little Harbor under the supervision of **Paul Chace**, who was then working as a curator at the Bowers Museum. The photo above shows **Dr. Johnson** (left), **Dr. Chace** (middle) and the late Tom Spangler screening at Little Harbor.

The next summer, the post raised funds and traveled to the Philmont Scout Ranch and Explorer Base in northeastern New Mexico. There the Scouts spent two weeks working under the direction of **Michael Glassow**, who was then a graduate student working towards his Ph.D. Dr. Johnson returned the following three summers to serve as a Program Counselor in Archaeology and field assistant to **Dr. Glassow**. PCAS can proudly claim some responsibility for initiating **Dr. Johnson's** career in archaeology!

DIG THIS ...



Exhibits

Fire Kinship: Southern California Native Ecology and Art presents the importance of fire-based land management in Native southern California. Fowler Museum, UCLA, January 12–July 13, 2015. Free; parking fee. Information: <https://fowler.ucla.edu>.

Lectures

Then and Now: An Overview of the Last Ten Years of Rock Art Research in Georgia, by Levan Losaberidze. An ARARA online lecture, January 11, 5:30 pm (PST). Free. Information and registration: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Lectures>.

The Amarna Royal Family and Modern Genetic Testing, by Diane Mueller Hagner. An ARCE/Bowers Museum onsite lecture, January 11, 1:30 pm. Fee: \$15; Bowers and ARCE members free. Recorded lecture available one week after onsite event. Fee: \$10; Bowers and ARCE members free. Ticket purchase and information: www.bowers.org.

Beyond Bones: How Human Osteology Can Facilitate Wellbeing, Healing, and Inclusion, by Giselle Kiraly. A Zoom lecture of the San Diego Archaeological Center will contain images of human remains, January 18, 10 am–12 pm. Free, pay what you wish. Information and registration: sandiegoarchaeology.org/event/beyond-bones.

Bird Singing and Oral Tradition, by Agua Caliente Bird Singers, along with tribal members from other Bird Singing groups, will discuss the importance of this oral tradition and cultural practice. Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, Palm Springs, January 23, 6 pm. Fee: \$15. Information and ticket purchase: www.accmuseum.org/events.

Pre-Hispanic Art of Ancient West Mexico, by Jean Stern. Bowers Museum, January 26, 1:30 pm. Fee: \$20; members \$15. Information and ticket purchase: www.bowers.org/programs.

Many past **PCAS lectures** are available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@pcas-pacificcoastarchaeology9403.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

The Society for California Archaeology has discounted early bird packages for conference registration, silent auction, and the annual banquet dinner through January 5. Discounted hotel registration at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport is valid until February 17 or until sold out. For information and registration: <https://scahome.org/page-18274>.

The American Rock Art Research Association's deadline for submission of papers for its May conference in Visalia, California, is February 1. Information: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conf-Call-For-Papers-2025>.

Editor's Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@pcas.org.



www.facebook.com/pacificcoastarchaeologicalsoc

Sign up for Ralph's Community Contribution Program

PCAS thanks Ralphs and all our participants for this opportunity to earn a donation of at least 1 percent of your Ralph's purchases. Please go to www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program and sign-up.

- Link your card by searching for "Pacific Coast Archaeological Society" or inserting the PCAS organization number, QT023.
- Call 1-800-576-4377 for assistance.

Thank you for supporting PCAS!

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.

Zoom Meeting

- Email a **new** Zoom registration request by **noon on Thursday, January 9** to membership@pcas.org. You will receive an emailed link to the 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.

No in-person meeting in January.

PCAS Speaker Calendar

February 13, 2025

Albert Knight

Santa Monica Mountains Rock Art and the Woolsey Fire

March 13, 2025

Dr. Duncan McLaren

Alpine Obsidian Quarries and Perishable Artifacts from the Mt. Edziza Volcanic Complex, Canada

April 10, 2025

Dr. Marilyn Johnson

May 8, 2025

Michael Tucker

2024 PCAS Board Members and Committee Contacts

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2025 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

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member – \$45
- Family Membership – \$50
- Supporting Member* – \$55
- Donor Member* – \$75
- Lifetime Member* – \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* – \$50
- Newsletter* – \$20

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

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