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PCAS NEWSLETTER

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JUNE PCAS SPEAKER

Richard T. Fitzgerald

Ten Years After: The Archaeology of the Marsh Creek Site (CA-CCO-18/548)

Of the thousands of archaeological sites within the California State Park system, few are as rich or complex as the Marsh Creek site (CA-CCO-18/548). Nestled at the base of the eastern edge of the Coast Ranges and within the watershed of Mt Diablo, for the last decade this prehistoric and historic deposit has been one of the most intensely studied sites in California. A combination of private CRM and State Parks salvage excavations has revealed a large village and associated cemetery complex that began at least 7000 years ago. Through traditional archaeological methodology and a combination of bone

(Continued on p. 3)



Richard T. Fitzgerald.

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

Please join this month's speakers, Richard Fitzgerald, for dinner before the June 9 meeting, 6 pm, Mimi's Café, 4030 Barranca Parkway, Irvine.

PCAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

Free and Open To the Public

June 9 - 7:30 pm

Speakers: Richard T. Fitzgerald

Topic: *Ten Years After: The Archaeology of the Marsh Creek Site (CA-CCO-18/548)*

Location: IRWD Community Room
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the causes or activities of organizations that use the District's meeting rooms which are made available for public use.

BOARD MEETING

All Members Welcome

June 11 - 12 noon

Location: PCAS Curation Facility
Contact Scott Findlay for directions:
714-342-2534 or vicepresident@pcas.org.

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This is the combined June/July Newsletter. There are no General Meetings in July and August. The August/September Newsletter will announce the September speaker.

MAY SPEAKER NOTES

Paleocoastal Landscapes, Marginality, and Initial Settlement of California's Islands

By Megan Galway

Dr. Gusick began her presentation by defining the concept of island marginality—being difficult to reach and survive on—and noted that Clovis First proponents had marginalized the Northern Channel Islands. They viewed the islands of 8,000 to 15,000 years ago as being isolated places with an unproductive aquatic habitat. Southern California Native people were seen as dependent on more productive large game. Island settlement was thought to come much later and only for specialized resources.

Studies of shell middens around the world now return dates earlier than 100,000 years ago in South Africa and on the Mediterranean coast. Colonization of Australia is known to date to 40,000–50,000 years ago and required crossing a deep ocean indicating a culture that was marine adapted.

Dr. Gusick believes studies such as this support the Coastal Migration Theory and Kelp Highway Hypothesis as proposed by Jon Erlandson in 2007 and 2015. Kelp forests along the Pacific coast support marine animals exploited by maritime cultures. As populations moved down the coast, there would have been little variation in this environment, and little or no adaptation would be required. Sites on the Pacific coast, from Alaska to Chile have been dated as far back as almost 15,000 BP. Resources for all these sites would have included marine animals, cetaceans and pinnipeds, marine fish, waterfowl, shellfish, and seaweed.

At 15,000 years ago the island of Santarosae extended to within 7 km of the California coast. By 8,800 years ago sea levels had risen to a point where 76 percent of the island and associated habitation sites were under water, and Santarosae became the four Northern Channel Islands—San Miguel, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and Anacapa. Recent studies of 21 sites have returned dates much earlier than 9,500 years BP and offer evidence that people chose to live there long term. Artifacts include stemmed points and crescents similar to ones found on the mainland, but there are no fluted points. Identified resources from the sites include shellfish from rocky intertidal areas, birds, fish in varying densities, low densities of marine mammals, and charred blue dicks corms. Dr. Gusick suggests marine mammals were more extensively used than suggested by the evidence and that this is attributable to the “schlepp effect.” The fish were butchered at sea or on the shore, and the bones were discarded there and not in the village midden.



PCAS Programs Co-Chair Brian Steffensen with May speaker, Dr. Amy Gusick.

Olivella spire-lopped beads found at these sites have been dated to 13,000 to 9,500 BP, and isotopic data of shells indicate year-round habitation.

Five Early Holocene sites have been studied on Santa Cruz Island. Three sites at Christy Beach are located 6–8 m down an eroded sea cliff and appear to have been occupied from winter through summer. Located about a kilometer from the coast, they were close to plant resources. The Puente Arena site (SCRI-109) is a large site with extensive deposits dating to the Early and Middle Holocene. It has an extensive intertidal area and is close to Gull Island. It appears to have not been occupied in spring—likely due to a lack of plant resources. Limited amounts of obsidian have been found, and these have been sourced to Coso. The earliest known site on the island, CA-SCRI-691 is a hilltop, shallow, multicomponent site with early dates of 10,000 BP when it was only occupied during a few months of the year, but by 9,000 BP it was occupied year round. The site includes a chert quarry with evidence of manufacture but no complete points. Shellfish comprise 80–95 percent of the meat weight of the Early Holocene sites with fish and mammal in varying amounts. SCRI-691 has a higher percentage of sea mammal than fish meat in the diet.

Dr. Gusick offers the question, “If the islands were marginal, why would the Paleoindians choose to settle there?” Current evidence indicates the islands had sustained habitation, not just specialized use. They had a diversity of resources, and the availability of fresh water, chert, and plants drove settlement. Around 9,000 BP more sites appeared on both the islands and the mainland. Further research will include geophysical surveys of the ocean floor around the islands to identify targets which may indicate inundated habitation areas. Core samples will be taken from the target areas. Sites that were on the shoreline prior to the rise in sea levels may be located.

June Speaker (continued from p. 1)

collagen extraction, isotope analysis, and high resolution radiocarbon dating, this site has offered a wealth of information on the diet, mobility, mortuary practices, and the structure of an ancient central California society. This presentation provides a summary of the unique nineteenth century historical background of the location, the ongoing archaeological research, and the effort to preserve this exceptional archaeological site listed on the National Register.



Marsh Creek site bank profile. Historic house in background.

Richard T. Fitzgerald is a Senior State Archaeologist with the Cultural Resources Division of California State Parks and for the past four years the Director of the State Archaeological Collections Research Facility located in Sacramento. As Senior State Archaeologist, he provides archaeological technical expertise for the cultural staff throughout the Park system and is the editor of the Park's *Publications in Cultural Heritage* series.

Mr. Fitzgerald has worked widely in California over the past 35 years with positions with the National Park Service, US Forest Service, San Jose State University, Caltrans, and several CRM firms. He has been with California State Parks since 2004, working out of the Sacramento headquarters office. Although a native San Franciscan, he began his career in the Southwest at

Salmon Ruins, a Chacoan outlier in northern New Mexico, and subsequently worked for the National Park Service at several historic sites on the Eastern Seaboard including Harpers Ferry NHM, Appomattox NHS, Fort Necessity and Fort Washington NHPs, and Martin Van Buren Estate NHM. He has also participated on projects in Peru, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Denmark, and France. He has a master's degree in archaeology from San Jose State University and has published in *American Antiquity*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*, *California Archaeology*, and with Texas A&M University Press. He also has co-authored chapters in the Altamira Press *California Prehistory* volume on Bay Area and central coast archaeology. He served as Northern Vice President (2002–2004) and President (2014) of the Society for California Archaeology. His primary research interests are the San Francisco Bay area and central California prehistory, the Milling Stone horizon, and the archaeological record of the Pleistocene/Holocene transition.



Marsh Creek site with excavations center left.



Historic John Marsh Home, pre-1868.

EAST MOJAVE FIELD TRIP

By Stephen Dwyer

Perhaps all it takes to end the California drought is to schedule a PCAS field trip. The April 29–May 1 field trip to the East Mojave was occasionally rerouted because of rain, but interesting locations were found and explored. The weather just added to the memories. As one participant put it, “A good mix of historic and prehistoric on a background of lush green desert sprinkled with gorgeous wildflowers and lovely, but sometimes annoying, clouds.”



2016 Scholarship Report

The PCAS Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce our undergraduate scholarship awards for 2016. Due to a very strong field of applicants and difficulty in choosing just two, the PCAS board agreed to three awards this year.

Katherine Davis is a student at Saddleback Community College, transferring to San Diego State University in the fall. She plans to major in anthropology with a minor in Native American studies. Kat discovered PCAS at the Prehistoric OC event last October and has been an active member of the society, volunteering at curation workdays and participating in field trips. This summer she is attending a college-accredited field school offered by Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in southern Colorado and will gain hands-on experience in all facets of archaeology. Kat will receive the Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship.

Emma Holm is a student at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, expecting to graduate in 2017. Her interest in archaeology dates back to high school when she participated in a Passport in Time program and shadowed two local archaeologists interviewing Great Basin Native Americans and assisted at a local Forest Service station. She has participated in a University of Arizona field school at the Rock Art Ranch near Winslow, Arizona, a bioarchaeology field school in Transylvania, and served as a teaching assistant for a field project on San Juan Island. Emma has a strong interest in studying Native American cultural traditions. After graduation, she hopes to work for either the federal government or a CRM company before attending graduate school. Emma will receive a Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship.

Reagan Smith is a student at Irvine Valley College, transferring to UC Berkeley in the fall. She credits her early study of Latin with leading her to an interest in ancient Rome and from there to archaeology in general. Last summer she was accepted into the Apolline Project's pottery program, working in the ruins of Pompeii. On weekends she visited other archaeological sites and museums. The trip fostered her interest in artifact curation. While her focus is on classical archaeology, she acknowledges the need to actively preserve and honor the cultural heritage of all people. Reagan will receive a Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship.

The PCAS Scholarship and Grant program is fully supported by donations. The Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship is named for a founding member and funded by our monthly donation/award table—coordinated by **Joe Hodulik**—and by donations from our members. As noted above, the generosity of our membership enabled two Myrtle Soderberg awards this year. The Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship is named for a life member and is fully funded by her husband, Tom. PCAS is extremely fortunate to have members so dedicated to furthering the archaeological discipline.

PCAS LIBRARY RELOCATION UPDATE

PCAS members are preparing to vacate the PCAS Library in the Old Orange County Courthouse. The final disposition of all material has not been decided and will depend on OC Parks lease requirements for space at the Cooper Center. For now much of the PCAS library is being stored at the Red Car Curation Facility, and some material will be additionally sorted and inventoried.

First, and foremost, we thank **Scott Findlay** for his untiring efforts in organizing and boxing materials and moving boxes and shelves to our curation facility. He has moved collections and other items to make room for library materials.

Many other PCAS members have pitched in to make this move as smooth as possible. **Hank Koerper** has sorted through library books, scholarly publications, and journals to determine what we should keep for reference material and what can be either sold, used on our donation-award table, or used as incentives at conferences. **Sherri Gust** and her staff have sorted and inventoried innumerable site records and reports. EIRs have been given to the OC Archives. **Sherri** has also volunteered to move and store our mammoth tusk until such time as either OC Parks or another institution will accept the donation and agree to display it. **Bob Brace** with the assistance of **Rene Brace** and **Gail Cochlin** have boxed and inventoried the backstock of *PCAS Quarterly* issues. **Gail** and **Rene** have also priced books that will be offered for sale. **Dorothy DeGennaro** has assisted on several days. All Board members worked several hours before Board meetings.



Curation workday with a small portion of library materials on shelves in background.

MAY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm at the Old Orange County Courthouse. PCAS Board Members present: **Rene Brace, Steve Dwyer, Scott Findlay, Jane Gothold, Sherri Gust, Joe Hodulik, Hank Koerper,** and **Kathleen Shada.** PCAS members present: **Bob Brace** and **Megan Galway.**

The April minutes were approved with corrections. The Treasurer's report was approved.

The Board thanked **Scott Findlay** for work in clearing out the library and moving to the Red Car Building. **Sherri Gust** reported that she sent a letter to the OC Parks staff contact person noting the second area at the Cooper Center shown to us by Old Courthouse staff was not the area discussed during the last meeting at Park Headquarters. She requested that the liability insurance requirement be removed from the lease agreement because we would only be using the Cooper Center area for storage and not as a work area.

The Board discussed the PCAS Scholarship account balance and the excellent qualifications of three applicants and decided to grant two \$1000 Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarships this year. **Katherine Davis** will receive the \$1000 Gloria Bogdan Memorial Scholarship. **Emma A Holm** and **Reagan Abigail Smith** will each receive a \$1000 Myrtle Soderberg Memorial Scholarship.

Scott Findlay reported that there are 12 volunteers for the Garfield Archaeology Day on June 13, but more are needed. The Board delayed a decision as to whether to participate in the Cooper Center's From Dinosaurs to People event on July 17. **Brian Steffensen** is in contact with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy regarding a possible partnership. Board members will research a new PA system for lectures.

Joe Hodulik's donation-award activity earned \$142 at the May meeting! **Scott Findlay** stated he is planning a San Juan Capistrano field trip for July or August. Dr. James Snead will be the Holiday Dinner speaker and will present "Roads Through Nowhere: Archaeology of the Butterfield Stage Line in California." Native American Liaison **Stephen O'Neil** reported that Juaneño elder and scholar Frank Lobo is very ill.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

CURATION WORKDAYS

June 11

July 16

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

DIG THIS...



Lectures

San Diego Rock Art Association Annual Nostalgia Night will have 8-minute presentations using pre-digital age technology. Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center, Poway, June 5. Potluck 4 pm; presentations 5 pm. Fee: Donation \$5; members free. Information: www.sandiegorockart.org.

Fort Tejon: An Archaeological Overview from the Hospital/Commissary, by Victoria Harvey (Archaeological Monitoring Coordinator, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians). A Coachella Valley Archaeological Society lecture, Portola Community Center, 45-480 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, June 16, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: www.cvarch.org.

Acjachemen Star Lore and the Summer Solstice, by Stephen O'Neil, a part of Tide Pools, Natural History Lecture Series. Back Bay Science Center, 600 Shellmaker Rd, Newport Beach, July 6, 7 pm (be prompt: gates close at 7:15 pm). Free. Information: 949-644-3037 or www.backbaysciencecenter.org/lecture-series.

From Pastoral Nomads to Policemen: Ethnicity and Identity of the Medjay in Ancient Egypt, by Dr. Kate Liszka (CSU San Bernardino), July 9; **Akhenten and Monotheism**, by Dr. James Hoffmeier (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), August 13. ARCE lectures. Bowers Museum, 1:30 pm. Free. Information: www.bowers.org or 714-567-3677.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

The San Diego Archaeological Center's Annual BBQ and Appreciation Event will be held June 4, noon-4pm. Fee: \$10, children \$5. Preregistration mandatory. Information and registration: 760-291-0370 or www.sandiegoarchaeology.org.

Botany Walk, by Daniel McCarthy, a program of the Malki Museum. Meeting location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center parking lot, 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, June 11, 8:30 am-1:30 pm. Multiple locations

Lectures (continued)

will be visited. Fee: \$10. Advance payment required. Information and reservations: 951-849-7289.

Kumeyaay Habitation Along the San Diego Coast, a Delfina Cuero Summer Tour, with Micah Hale and Brian Williams, will visit various coastal locations. Program of the San Diego Archaeological Center, July 16, 9 am-noon. Fee: \$25; \$20 members. Reservations required. Contact: Cara Ratner, 760-291-0370 or cratner@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

The 2016 Pecos Conference will be held near Alpine, Arizona, August 5-7. Fee. Information: www.pecosconference.com.

The Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, Nevada, October 6-9. Fee: \$75. Information and online registration: <http://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org>.

Websites

San Diego Archaeological Society website has information on its speakers and events: www.sandiegoarchaeologicalsociety.com.

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.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Archaeology Day at Garfield Elementary School will be June 13, and volunteers are needed to man the activity stations. We will set up at 8 am, and fifth grade students will rotate through stations from 9 am to noon. No experience necessary! You will be paired with an experienced volunteer. For information or to volunteer, please contact **Scott Findlay**, 714-342-2534 or vicepresident@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 ANNUAL PICNIC

Save the Date!

July 14, 2016

The PCAS Annual Picnic will be Thursday, July 14, 6 pm, at Irvine Regional Park. Hamburgers will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share. A flyer will be sent out in early July with directions and additional information.



PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

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 Reneé Martinez

A Donation to the Museum (documentary film)

November 10, 2016

Dr. Adolfo Muniz

December 8, 2016

Dr. James Snead

Roads Through Nowhere: Archaeology of the Butterfield Stage Line in California

2016 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
*President	Sherri Gust	president@pcas.org	714-245-0264
*Vice-President	Scott Findlay	vicepresident@pcas.org	714-342-2534
*Secretary	Gail Cochlin	secretary@pcas.org	714-745-0815
*Treasurer	Rene Brace	treasurer@pcas.org	714-544-6282
*Field Trips Co-Chair	Stephen Dwyer	fieldtrips@pcas.org	714-969-1911
*Historian/Librarian/Archivist	Jane Gothold	librarian-archivist@pcas.org	562-947-6506
*Programs Co-Chair	Joe Hodulik	programs@pcas.org	949-300-1864
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Website	Rene Brace	info@pcas.org	714-544-6282

*PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2016 Calendar Year Membership and Subscription Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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* - \$40
- Newsletter* - \$20
- Student Associate - \$10 (email Newsletter only)

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

Return form with payment to:

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

www.pcas.org