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PCAS Newsletter

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October PCAS Speaker

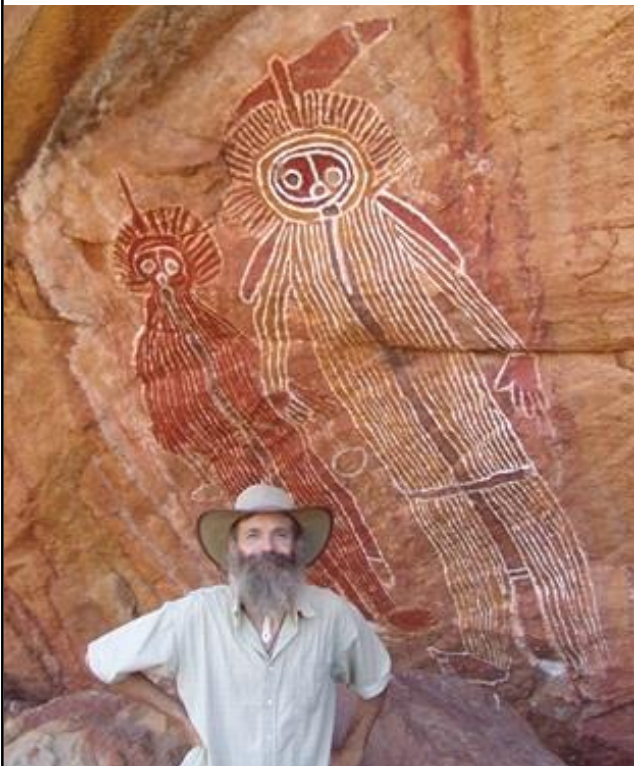
David Lee

*Seeing Rock Art
Through the Eyes of the Elders*

Zoom Meeting

October 10, 7:30 pm. See p. 6.

There are still a few places on earth where traditional peoples use rock art images to aid in intergenerational instruction and in ceremonies. Wardaman Country in northern Australia is one such place. This lecture will present information gathered during 10 field seasons working with Wardaman Elder Yidumduma Bill Harney to document Wardaman rock art sites and Mr. Harney's traditional knowledge of the land, the sites, and the images. It will also describe



some of the logistics required, the experiences, and insights gained while living and working "out bush."

The ceremonial traditions of indigenous groups in northern Australia are concerned primarily with lessons first learned during the "Dreamtime" when the world was created (still an ongoing process). Those lessons passed from the Creation Beings to humans when that Dreamtime world changed into the one we know today, and those beings became part of the landscape they created. The songs, stories, laws, and ceremonies of the present are informed by that ancient past and are meant (in large part) to help teach children about their connection to the lands of their ancestors. How do lessons from the ancient past inform dreams for the future? Learn how the Wardaman people of Australia continue to use rock art sites and images to maintain spiritual connections to their lands, to their ancestors, and to each other. To them, time, space, act, and actor are all part of the woven fabric of existence. The lessons of the Dreaming serve to inform both the reality of the present and their hopes for the future.

David Lee is an independent rock art researcher focusing on the function and context of Native American rock art of western North America and the rock art and associated traditional knowledge of northern Australia. He is a founding member and General Manager of Western Rock Art Research, a nonprofit organization located in Bishop, California, and dedicated to the documentation, study, and management of rock art. He has recorded rock art in California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, and Australia and has co-authored several papers and reports on the Mojave Desert, Eastern California, and Australia. Between 2005 and 2017, he and his wife, Charlotte, worked with the Wardaman people of the Northern Territory to document their rock art sites and associated traditional knowledge.

**October is Archaeology Month
Join our October Zoom meeting!**

September Speaker Notes

El Núcleo Duro: Evidence for Enduring Myths in Archaic Period Rock Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands

By Megan Galway

Dr. Carolyn E. Boyd brought us preliminary information from her study of the rock art of the Lower Pecos Valley and how it appears to relate to ethnographic data over an extended area. The area extends both north and south of the US/Mexico border and consists of limestone canyons and rock shelters created by the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Devils Rivers. The study area north of the border has some 250 sites. At least 25 sites, and likely many more, are known to exist south of the border but are not included in the study due to security concerns in that area. The longest documented panel, Panther Cave, extends 43 m along the rock face, and one figure is 9 m tall. The panels depict polychromatic human like figures and also images of felines and deer. Dr. Boyd noted that these panels would have required the creators to use ladders or scaffolds to reach the highest points. Because the paint used was all organic it can be carbon dated and has returned dates extending from 5,500 years BP to 1,300 years BP.

Dr. Boyd is an artist as well as an archaeologist and is able to understand how the painting was completed, which appears to be unusual. At the White Shaman site, the panel was studied using digital microscopy, and the panels appeared to be planned in advance with the paint being applied one color at a time, beginning with black and progressing through red, yellow and white. Thus, a whole panel was planned and completed at one time and not over-painted or changed over a period of maybe 4,000 years. It was noted that a black patch was identified as the black tuft on the end of a cougar's tail and would have been applied before the rest of the cougar was painted.

The current study was designed to test the hypothesis that the panels are a visual narrative of an archaic belief system extending across cultural, linguistic, and geographic boundaries. These beliefs may in fact extend back to a Eurasian cultural origin. The rock art images were compared to those known by the modern-day Huichol people and the ancient Nahua, or Aztec. Although images and myths may have varied or changed over time, the core beliefs and representations appear to continue. A study by Prudence M. Rice, published in 2020, notes "Many aspects of early belief systems are pan-Mesoamerican, and some are found throughout the Western Hemisphere, hinting that they might have been brought from Eurasia."



PCAS September speaker, Dr. Carolyn E. Boyd.

Illustrations of the panels were taken to the Huichol people in Mexico, and they were interviewed on what they could recognize in the images. Dr. Boyd has also had extensive discussions with Matsua, considered one of today's most powerful shamans of the Huichol people. Interviews were conducted in both Huichol and Spanish and recorded. Recordings were transcribed by two interpreters to ensure accuracy. The paint sequence was seen to be the creation story, with black being the original darkness, followed by the red to orange of the rising sun, and the white which is the bright light of day. This sequence was recognized throughout the area and beyond. The panels are not static images but living beings from the past and continuing into the future. A recurring image of a single pole ladder was identified by informants as the wind and seen in various forms, each with a slightly different meaning. When transformed into the Tree of the Wind, it came to represent the deadly nightshade, or *Datura* plant.

This summary just touches the surface of Dr. Boyd's presentation. Her descriptions of the work were much more detailed, and we look forward to adding the presentation to our YouTube channel in the future once her study is published.



www.facebook.com/pacificcoastarchaeologicalsoc

PCAS Board Election

Open positions on the PCAS Board of Directors will be filled in this November election. PCAS members will receive ballots for the election of Directors by email in mid-October. These ballots must be returned by November 14, 2024, and can only be returned electronically or by USPS mail. To vote in this election, one must be a 2024 PCAS member by October 10, 2024 (date of record). Newly elected Board members will be announced in the December newsletter and will take office in January 2025. **Please return your ballot—we need a quorum for this election!**

The PCAS Nominations Committee presents the following nominees:

Jane Gothold has a BA from Whittier College and also holds a Kindergarten-Primary teaching credential. She is a founding member of PCAS (1961) and has held many leadership positions—President (3 times), Vice President/Program Chair, Treasurer, Curator, Site Director of the China Ranch Project since 1971, and member of the Quarterly Committee. Jane is a Life Member of PCAS and the California Society for Archaeology (SCA). She served as SCA Treasurer for 14 years. Jane's interests and efforts have been directed at public outreach and education. She currently serves as PCAS Historian/Librarian and is a member of Board for the Old Courthouse Museum Society. She is currently President of the Hathaway Ranch Museum Board (Santa Fe Springs) and School Board President of Options for Youth, a charter school.

Michael E. Macko received his BA (1978) and MA (1983) in anthropology from UC Santa Barbara. Earlier education included engineering, math, and architectural interests that led him to view archaeological inquiry in terms of site structure and function. Having an early exposure to mapping and land surveying from high school onward, Macko became proficient in field mapping with everything from a Brunton Compass to Lietz total stations and Autocad software for the graphic presentation of data. These tools combined to form a standardized methodology for documenting, evaluating, and sampling resources used on all his projects through the 1980s and 1990s.

His noteworthy projects began with the MX and Peacekeeper Missile Projects in California, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico and continued with the 500-mile Intermountain Power Transmission Line Project across California, Nevada and Utah; the San Joaquin Hills and Foothill Transportation Corridor Projects in Orange County; the Newport Coast Archaeology Project and other related developments in coastal Orange County; and hundreds of smaller surveys and excavations in California. Macko is currently the Senior Archaeologist for Partner Engineering and Science, Inc. in Irvine, where he coordinates archaeological surveys, assessments, and section 106 consultations for federal projects in over 30 states.

2024 Archaeology Month Poster



The poster image is Cara Romero's (Chemehuevi) "Evolvers" from her 2019 series "Jackrabbit, Cottontail & Spirits of the Desert" with images responding to cultural landscape, development, environment, sacred sites, infrastructure, and race. Romero states, "The images convey our reverence for the landscape and also convey the dynamics of our people—our warmth, our courage and our hearts. They convey an indigenous connection to our ancestry of this place and our connection to the ecosystem that we feel and experience all around us."

The image depicts four time-traveling visitors from Chemehuevi to their sister tribe's land in the

Coachella Valley reminding "us of our deep connection to the land, the stories contained within it, and how we can live in relationship to it." From SCA Past President Brendon Greenaway, sfca.wildapricot.org/page-18371.

DIG THIS ...



Lectures

A Critical Test of the Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis?, by Dr. Vance Holliday (University of Arizona). A webinar of the Sacramento Archaeological Society, October 7, 5 pm (PT). Free. Information: <https://www.sacarcheology.org/activities/calendars/SASCalendar2024.pdf>.

Living Room Lecture: Coffin Reuse in Ancient Egypt and the Theban Royal Caches, by Dr. Kara Cooney (UCLA), will discuss her latest book, *Recycling for Death*. A Zoom lecture of the San Diego Archaeological Center, October 10, 6:30 pm. Free—pay what you want. Information and registration: sandiegoarchaeology.org/event/egyptology.

The Contributions of Women in Egyptology, by Dr. Kathleen Sheppard (Missouri University of Science and Technology). An ARCE/Bowers Museum onsite lecture, October 12, 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.

New Perspectives on Israelite Religion, Dr. Ido Koch (Tel Aviv University). A part of the Archaeology of Biblical Lands Distinguished Lecture Series, Bower Museum, October 20, 1:30 pm. Fee: \$20, members \$15. Recorded lecture available one week after onsite event. Fee: \$10, members \$5. Ticket purchase and information: www.bowers.org.

Werewolves, by Sandra Pentney and Karen Lacy, a Halloween themed lecture of the San Diego County Archaeological Society, Los Penasquitos Ranch House, 12122 Canyonside Park Dr, San Diego, October 23, 7:30 pm. Free. Information: sdcas.org.

Archeological Excavation and the Study of Mayan Language Texts, by Toni Gonzalez (PhD candidate UC Santa Barbara); and ***Listening to the Past: Reconstructing Prehistoric Fisheries in the Taiwan Strait through Otolith Analysis***, by ZiQi Chew (PhD candidate UC San Diego).), lectures of the AIA, Orange County Chapter. DeNault Auditorium in Grimm Hall, Concordia University, 530 Concordia West, Irvine, October 27, 2 pm. Fee: \$10; members free. Information: www.aia-oc.org

Many past **PCAS lectures** are available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@pcas-pacificcoastarchaeolo9403.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

Prehistoric OC, presented by OC Parks, will celebrate archaeology, paleontology, history, culture, and science with exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Ralph B. Clark Regional Park, October 12, 10 am–2 pm. Event and parking free. Information: www.ocparks.com/events/prehistoric-oc-clark-park.

Arch in the Park, a San Diego County Archaeological Society event. Los Penasquitos Ranch House, 12122 Canyonside Park Dr, San Diego, October 19, 10 am–3 pm. Free. Information: sdcas.org/upcomingevents.

Archaeology Day, at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, will have hands-on activities, presentations, and a food vendor. Santa Monica Mountains Visitors Center, 26876 Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas, October 19, 9 am–2:30 pm. ***What Lies Beneath: Historical Archaeology at Los Angeles State Historic Park***, by Barbara Tejada (California State Parks), 11 am–12 pm; ***Talepop through Time: The Archeology of CA-LAN-229***, by Nicole Kulaga (National Park Service), 12 pm–1 pm; ***Down the Chute: Excavation of the Craggs Country Club Cellar at Malibu Creek State Park***, by Ann Stansell (California State Parks), 1 pm–2 pm. Information: www.samofund.org/outdoors-calendar.

Fall Gathering at Malki Museum will have Native American demonstrations and information tables. 11-795 Malki Rd, Banning, October 19, 11 am–3 pm. Free. Lunch: \$15 suggested donation. Information: <https://malkimuseum.org>.

Archaeology Day, presented by the Colorado Desert Archaeological Society, will include basketry, games, storytelling, speakers, and hands-on activities. Anza-Borrego Desert State Visitor Center, November 2, 9 am–4 pm. Free. Field trips on November 2 and November 3 are planned with required pre-registration. Fee: \$10 adult, \$5 child for each. Information: www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-day-2024.

Rock Art 2024 Virtual Symposium sponsored by the San Diego Rock Art Association will be November 4. Free. T-shirt orders must be placed by October 15. Information and registration: www.sandiegorockart.org.

Editor's Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event.

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, October 10** 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 October

PCAS Speaker Calendar

November 14, 2024

David Nichols

Managing Cultural Resources at Mojave National Preserve

December 12, 2024

Michael E. Macko

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

January 9, 2025

Dr. John Johnson

February 13, 2025

Albert Knight

March 13, 2025

Dr. Duncan McLaren

April 10, 2025

Dr. Marilyn Johnson

2024 PCAS Board Members and Committee Contacts

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*PCAS Board Member

PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2024 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* – \$50
- Newsletter* – \$20

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

Join online:

www.pcas.org/membrs.html

Or return with payment to:

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