SDCAS Newsletter

November/December 2002 ISSN 0897-2478 Volume 30, Number 6

Calendar

Every Saturday — Los Peñasquitos
Docent tours: Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House

November 20 (7 p.m.) Palm Springs
Agua Caliente Spirit Keepers Lecture Series
Giant Rock Art Figures of Baja California
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

November 23 (10 a.m.) San Diego Archaeology Center
Grand Opening—Open House
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

November 23-24 (10 a.m.) Palm Springs
Agua Caliente Living Traditions Program
Cahuilla Arrow Making
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

November 26 (7:30 p.m.) Los Peñasquitos
4th Tuesday General Meeting
Speaker: Tim Gross
Topic: "My Criminal Record in Egypt: Stories from My Life as an Archaeologist (So Far)"
See announcement inside (Pg. 4)

December 6-7—Mexicali, Mexico
Baja California Symposium
on Anthropology and History
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

December 14 (10 a.m.) Palm Springs
Agua Caliente Living Traditions Program
Cahuilla Acorn Meal
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

There is no General Meeting
in December
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

January 11 (10 a.m.) Palm Springs
Agua Caliente Living Traditions Program
Mineral Pigment Making
See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

President's Message

By Mick Calarco

As President of the Society, this will be my last newsletter article. It has been my honor and privilege to work with the SDCAS for the past three years, in the position of President-Elect and President, respectively.

I am proud of the Society's accomplishments during the past three years. Dozens of outstanding lectures on archaeological and historical topics, numerous events at the Ranch House (Arch in the Park and Summer Lecture Series), progress made on the curation of the "Old Town Orphan Collection", and the completion of the final Laguna Mountain Archaeological report, just to name a few.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the tireless efforts of the SDCAS Board of Directors: Marla Mealey, producing an excellent newsletter every two months for the past several years. Jim Royle, single-handedly manning the Environmental Review Committee, and saving sites at the same time. We owe much to his efforts. Howard and

(Continued on Page 6)

INSIDE

Pg. 2	Board of Directors & Meeting Location
Pg. 3	Editor's Message & Members' News Corner
Pg. 4	Wonderstone Quarry & Fishtraps Fieldtrip
Pg. 4	Upcoming Speakers
Pg. 5	Getting to Know your Board Members
Pg. 5	Membership News
Pg. 6	Murphy's Rules of Archaeology
Pg. 6	Unearthing History at San Elijo Lagoon
Pg. 7	Unusual Coalition Strives to Restore Missions
Pg. 8	Pictograph a Hidden Treasure
Pg. 9	New Light Cast on Ancient Maya War
Pg. 10	Ancient Giant Images found…[in] Peru Desert
Pg. 10	Public Gets First Peek at Miami Circle Finds
Pg. 11	Native American Origins Debated
Pg. 13	…Archaeologists Make Plea to Spare Iraq's Treasures
Pg. 14	County Rejects Hidden Meadow Appeal
Pg. 15	Obituaries

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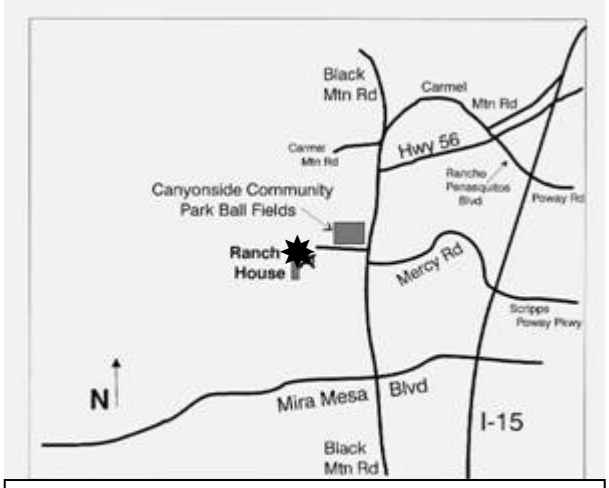

Los Peñasquitos Ranch House

NOTE: Fourth Tuesday General Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. From I-15 take Mercy Rd. west, turn right (north) onto Black Mountain Rd. and then take the first left into Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Follow the road all the way to the back (past Canyonside Community Park ball fields), and park either in the small parking lot or along the edge of the dirt road.

There is no General meeting in December.
Happy Holidays!

Editor's Message

This month it is my turn to apologize for getting this newsletter out late. I don't know why autumn is always so hectic around here, but it is. Hopefully things will calm down a bit for the holidays. Let me know if you have any interesting archaeology, anthropology, or history experiences over the holidays, and it's still not too late to submit your summer (or fall) vacation stories.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes to you all.

News articles or other archaeology-, anthropology-, or history-related items should be sent to me at the address below (e-mail works best). Digital documents in MS Word are preferred, but others will be considered for inclusion. Photos of your archaeological experiences (fieldwork, vacations, etc.), a cartoon from the newspaper or your favorite magazine, etc. should be sent as-is (slides, prints, or clippings); or if you have scanning capability or a digital camera, please e-mail them in. TIF, JPEG, or GIF format are preferred.

The submission deadline for the next issue is **December 27**. Please send all items to:

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Visit the new SDCAS web page:
http://communitylink.sdinsider.com/groups/sdcas

Members' News Corner

San Diego Archaeology Center Open House

Saturday, November 23rd, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come help celebrate the Grand Opening of the San Diego Archaeology Center at its new home in Escondido. The center is located at 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, just east of San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. There will be a presentation program starting at 10:30 a.m. Center tours, learning activities for kids and adults, archaeology exhibits, food and music will also be offered.

Baja California Symposium on Anthropology and History

The anthropology and history of Baja California will be discussed on December 6 and 7, 2002, in the III Encuentro Binacional de Balances y Perspectivas de la Antropologia e Historia de Baja California.

The two-day meeting will be organized into three sessions, which will address issues concerning desert archaeology, the history of the mission period, and present-day native groups. The sessions will be held in the auditorium of the Museo Universitario in Mexicali. They will be free to the public, and simultaneous translation between English and Spanish will be provided.

The symposium is the third in a series begun two years ago in Mexicali and continued last year in Ensenada, at which researchers from Mexico, the United States, and Canada presented the results of their investigations and discussed their interpretations of the region's history and anthropology.

Sponsors of the meetings include Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia (INAH), Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC), state government of Baja California, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Telnor.

Agua Caliente Living Traditions Programs: Flintknapping & Cahuilla Arrow Making

Saturday & Sunday November 23 & 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs.

This is a workshop not to be missed. Learn to make a traditional Cahuilla arrow with Amil Pedro. Amil will teach us how to knap arrowheads and straighten arrow shafts with local materials. Cost is $35. Classes are held outside so participants should dress appropriately for the weather. For more information or to enroll please call 760-778-1079 or 760-323-0151.

Agua Caliente Living Traditions Programs: Cahuilla Acorn Meal

Saturday December 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs.

We've had many requests to bring this class back into our schedule. Catherine Kitchen joins us to make acorn meal. This traditional food was the basis of the Cahuilla diet. Cost is $10. Classes are held outside so participants should dress appropriately for the weather. For more information or to enroll please call 760-778-1079 or 760-323-0151.

Agua Caliente Living Traditions Programs: Mineral Pigment Making

Saturday January 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in Palm Springs.

Paul Campbell, author of the book *Survival Skills*, teaches the process of making mineral pigments. Utilized by most Southern California Indians, mineral pigments were used to create rock art and decorative patterns on many surfaces Cost is $25. Classes are held outside so participants should dress appropriately for the weather. For more information or to enroll please call 760-778-1079 or 760-323-0151.

Agua Caliente Spirit Keepers Lecture Series: Elanie Moore

November 20, in the Cahuilla Room at the Agua Caliente Spa Hotel in Palm Springs at 7 p.m.

Elanie Moore's program is on the Giant Rock Art Figures of Baja California. For more information please call 760-778-1079 or 760-323-0151.

(Continued on Page 6)

Wonderstone Quarry and Fishtraps Fieldtrip

By Al Verna, Photos by Sam Webb

[*Editor's note: wonderstone, also known as rainbow rock, is a multicolored, banded or mottled fine-grain stone that was used by the Native Americans in the area to make projectile points (arrowheads), and other stone tools. Unfortunately this newsletter is printed in black and white, but be sure to check out the wonderstone color pictures on our website: http://communitylink.sdinsider.com/groups/sdcas*]

The fieldtrip on November 2 to the Wonderstone Quarry was wonderful and well-attended. We had twenty-five people out for the day. We also visited the nearby vestigial fishtraps that were built by Native Americans in what used to be the shallows of ancient Lake Cahuilla. The quarry and fishtrap sites are out near the Salton Sea just west of Highway 86. It was a great day for exploring and both sites were amazing and very interesting in their own way. We were very fortunate to have two professional guides, Joan Schneider and Jerry Schaefer, who provided information and a historical perspective about both sites.

Joan Schneider and friends at the Wonderstone Quarry

The quarry was apparently a primary gathering site for workable wonderstone rock cores that were taken to other secondary sites for finishing into tools, arrow-points, beads, etc. The quarry is actually a boulder-strewn hilly area approximately 1/4 mile square. There are several areas with hundreds of square feet of concentrated debitage and rock flakes. The parent rocks are all coated with desert varnish or patina and almost every large rock that one sees has an obvious sample chip broken off and flakes nearby as if this was a gigantic test bed for "good" workable cores. One could explore this quarry for hours and find interesting things at every footstep.

The fishtraps were located about one mile from the quarry and were situated on the gently rising desert plain that extends from Highway 86 west into the foothills. There are hundreds of the ancient fishtraps in this area, which used to be the gently rising shore and shallows of Lake Cahuilla. What remains of the fishtraps are man-made rock formations that are generally shaped like a "U" or "V", approximately 5 to 6-feet long and 3 to 4 feet wide. The curve of the "U" or point of the "V" face downgrade in all cases. It is thought that the rocks formed a pool and that possibly the rocks also held thin vertical poles with fiber netting to capture fish. The exact process remains unknown.

Fieldtrip participants at the Fishtrap Site

Fish Traps

Upcoming Speakers

November 26—G. Timothy Gross, Ph.D.: "My Criminal Record in Egypt: Stories from My Life as an Archaeologist (So Far)"

Tim has been involved in archaeology since 1967, working mostly in Southern California. Graduate work, research, and contracts have also taken him to Egypt, Washington State, Colorado, Arizona, and Nevada. On these projects, over more than 30 years, a number of interesting and sometimes humorous things have happened to Tim or his friends. Why is his name on a police report in the files of a small village in northwestern Egypt? Who

(Continued on Page 5)

Upcoming Speakers

November 26—G. Timothy Gross: "My Criminal Record in Egypt: Stories from My Life as an Archaeologist (So Far)"

(Continued from Page 4)

is Comos Cleane and who in the world would want to look like him? What is Tim's favorite display at the Anasazi Heritage Center? Can a clean limerick be funny? What did Carol Serr tell Tim's graduate school friends about his past when she worked at the Ozette site in WA? Why did the late Grover Krantz grow his hair out shoulder length and what did he use a hack saw for in the physical anthropology lab? Which president of a San Diego area consulting firm nearly had his crewmates call in Search and Rescue to find him? How many practicing professional archaeologists attended Monte Vista High School in the late 1960s and early 1970s?

These and other questions will be answered at the November meeting of the San Diego County Archaeological Society. This should make for an interesting journey down memory lane...and then some.

There is no General Meeting in December.

Enjoy the holidays and we'll see you in January!

Getting to Know your Board Members

Jim Royle – Environmental Review Committee Chair

I was born and grew up in New Jersey, but have been a San Diegan since my college days. My BS and SM are both in naval architecture and marine engineering, and I've worked at NASSCO, in a variety of different jobs, for my entire professional career. Currently, I'm a senior project engineer.

I've had an interest in archaeology since at least 1970, when I visited sites in Mexico, and in rock art since I visited the Woods Wash Site in the Mojave in 1968. I joined SDCAS in the summer of 1975, soon after having learned about the organization when Richard Carrico spoke at a Sierra Club meeting, and after attending one general meeting at the Olivenhain meeting hall (Old-timers will recall hunkering down as bats circled round while slides were shown.). In 1978, Jay Hatley persuaded me to chair what is now the Environmental Review Committee, and I'm still at it. I've also served, at various times, as SDCAS President, First Vice President, and Corresponding Secretary.

Other than my involvement in SDCAS, I put in many years at Fort Guijarros and served on the San Diego Archaeological Center board from 1993 until 1999. Finally, I am currently Chair of the San Diego County Historic Sites Board.

Membership News

Welcome new members: Gail Hilliard, Gene Hurysch (of the Arch. Conservancy), and Marc Beherec. Thank you for joining SDCAS and we hope to see you at an upcoming meeting.

For many of the rest of you, it's that time of year when you get to show your continuing support for protecting, preserving, and learning from archaeological resources in our County. The SDCAS membership year is from October to October, so now is the time to renew. If you haven't been to one of our Tuesday evening programs, please make this year – **our 30th Anniversary** – a time to attend. We'd love to meet you. I strongly encourage you to show your support to local archaeology by becoming a Life Member for a one-time sum of $250 (that can be paid in installments till October 2003).

Check our webpage (http://communitylink.sdinsider.com/groups/sdcas) for upcoming events, the monthly speakers planned for the year, and membership forms for your friends to join. Hopefully we will again be sponsoring the popular ethnoarchaeology workshops in Baja California this year; they have been a great success in the past. If the program topics haven't interested you lately then let us know what sort of topics you do like. Better yet...GIVE a presentation yourself to the enthusiastic members who faithfully show up each month.

So Don't miss out! PLEASE Re-join (or join) today! Thank you for your continued support and please think about becoming an officer or committee chairperson for next year!

Carol Serr, Membership Chair
858-578-8964 ext 319 (work/voicemail)
ArkyLabGds@aol.com

Members' News Corner

(Continued from Page 3)

Agua Caliente Spirit Keepers Lecture Series: Sven Haakanson Jr. Ph.D.

January 15, in the Cahuilla Room at the Agua Caliente Spa Hotel in Palm Springs at 7 p.m.

Sven Haakanson's program is on Six Villages of Kodiak, Alaska. For more information please call 760-778-1079 or 760-323-0151.

Murphy's Rules of Archaeology:

From Ventura County Archaeological Society Newsletter, vol. 31, no. 3

The following list is from the latest PIT Traveler. It is a different list from the one published previously in this newsletter. Do any of these sound familiar?

1. No matter what you use to mark the datum point, it will disappear.

2. The item you need right now has been left in the truck.

3. Johnson's Corollary: If you need something desperately, it's been left back at the lab.

4. The dump [backdirt] pile will always be on the square you need to open next.

5. The dump [backdirt] pile never has enough dirt for the backfill.

6. You always find the most interesting feature, artifact, or site on the afternoon of the last day.

7. The best [artifacts] will be found in the square you didn't open.

8. The best [artifacts] are always being found by the other team.

9. The pit walls are never straight.

10. After you clear the pit, [someone else] will always jump in, root around, and come up with the artifact you missed.

11. The pothunters get there first.

Obituaries

Dorothy Ramon, Serrano Elder

M. Kamen, Carbon-14 Pioneer

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

Maisie managing our financial affairs in a sound and fiscally responsible way. Carol Serr, our awesome Webmaster, membership coordinator, and Jack-of-All-Trades. Roy Pettus, who organized and advertised 12 stimulating lectures on behalf of the Society. Patty McFarland, who resurrected the Sales Committee on her own and made it a profitable venture for the Society. Lynnette Salmon, Secretary, Hospitality, whatever it took to make it happen. Al Verna, who organized many memorable field trips into Baja and San Diego County. And to the others I have served with, thanks.

I am fortunate to be surrounded by many good people. Without their assistance, I would never have been able to accomplish the things I did as President. I believe that is one of the keys to a good life: surround yourself with good people.

Finally, my thanks and best wishes to our President-Elect, Cristina Gonzalez. With her, the Society is in good hands.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your President.

Happy Holidays, good health, and best wishes for the New Year.

Mick Calarco

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

San Diego County Archaeological Society
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The Mission of the San Diego County Archaeological Society is to promote public understanding and appreciation of archaeology in general, and to encourage the preservation of the cultural resources of San Diego County

San Diego County Archaeological Society Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address: _____

Occupation / School _____

Special Skills / Interests _____

How did you hear about us? _____

The SDCAS membership year begins **October 1**. Please check the membership desired and enclose payment for the amount shown in the table below. Membership is subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

		1-Year*
_____	Individual	$20.00
_____	Family	$30.00
_____	Student	$10.00
_____	Institutional (Company, University, College, Etc.) (non voting)	$15.00
_____	Life	$250.00

* Half-year rates (at ½ the full-year price) are available after April 1.

☐ Check here for ½-year rates.

☐ Check here for Renewal

Code of Ethics

1. The collecting in any manner of archaeological material or data shall be done using contemporary scientific techniques, and shall have as its express purpose the finding and dissemination of information relative to the history and prehistory of California.

2. Provisions shall be made for the housing of archaeological materials and data in accordance with accepted professional practices, and such materials and data shall be made available to qualified individuals though accumulated field notes and records or to the general profession through the publication of findings.

3. The gathering of archaeological specimens or the destruction of archaeological sites for purposes of selling artifacts or personal acquisition shall in all cases be forbidden and shall subject member to expulsion proceedings.

All members will adhere to this Society's Code of Ethics, and to State, Federal, and International Antiquities Laws.

I have read and agree to abide by the above Code of Ethics.

Signature _____ Date _____

Sponsor* _____Date _____

* Persons under 18 years of age must be sponsored by an adult SDCAS member

Please send completed form and payment to San Diego County Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 81106, San Diego, CA 92138.