President’s Message

Happy New Year from SDCAS!

As we head into 2011, I will be taking the helm (good expression for a naval architect to use) of SDCAS again. But I’ve had 19 years since my last stint as SDCAS President, so I should be rested enough to do it again. Normally, last year’s President-Elect, Tracy Stropes, would have moved into the President’s role this year, but personal and business commitments led to his decision to resign last year. I volunteered to pick up the gavel (or I would if we had one) for 2011.

Before introducing this year’s other officers, elected by the membership last month, I want to thank last year’s President, Nick Doose. Without all Nick’s efforts and talents, including picking up the lead on October’s Arch in the Park, 2010 would not have been the success it was. Nick was helped along by the rest of the board, and they deserve your appreciation, too.

The 2011 officers include many of the same folks who served last year, so I have high hopes for another successful year.

(Continued on page 4)
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DISCLAIMER: Articles printed in this newsletter are for the information of the members of the Society and do not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of the board members or the Society in general.

Editor’s Message

Happy 2011! Hope you all had happy holidays. It is hard to believe it is already 2011. This year I hope you have the opportunity to get out and visit some of the amazing archaeological and historic resources this world has to offer, either close to home or farther away.

I’ve included some articles in this issue of the newsletter about some potential places to visit. I’ve also included a number of articles and letters regarding threats to archaeological and historical resources.

As time continues to move forward and natural processes and the expansion of human impacts continue to take their toll, these incredible cultural resources continue to be damaged and destroyed. Threats range from the obvious destructive ones of pothunting, vandalism, natural disasters, and development [see stories on pg. 5] to more subtle threats from military jets [see story on pg. 7], solar and wind farms [see stories on pgs. 7 & 10], recreation, and many natural forces.

Do what you can to help protect these sites and get out and see them before they are gone! Then send me a story or note about what you did or what you visited so I can include it in the newsletter!

SUBMISSIONS: Please send any articles, stories, accounts, news items, poems, photos, websites, cartoons, etc. to me at the address below (email works best). Digital documents are preferred, but others will be considered for inclusion. Any hard-copy item you wish returned (such as photos, slides, drawings, etc.) should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The submission deadline for the next issue is February 25. Please send all items to:

Marla Mealey c/o California State Parks  
8885 Rio San Diego Dr. #201, San Diego, CA 92108  
Phone: 619-220-5329/FAX: 619-220-5400  
email: mmealey@parks.ca.gov

SDCAS Website:  
www.sandiegoarchaeologicalsociety.com
Members’ News Corner

SDCAS Field Trip to Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Extension Area

Be sure to join us on March 5 at 10 a.m. for a follow-up field trip in conjunction with our February program by Andy Pigniolo (see page 4). Andy and State Parks Archaeologist (and SDCAS newsletter editor) Marla Mealey will be giving SDCAS members a tour of the Extension Area of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, which has many vantage points overlooking Peñasquitos Lagoon (the topic of Andy’s talk).

Additional details such as the meeting location for this tour will be sent via email at a later date. If you are interested in this tour and do not receive this newsletter via email, please call the SDCAS office (858-538-0935) and leave a message noting your interest in this field trip and your contact information so we can get you the details once they become available.

46th Annual Congress of History Conference

This exciting, educational conference will be held March 4 & 5, 2011 in the Santa Fe Room at the Balboa Park Club, and the Ballroom and Recital Hall, all in beautiful Balboa Park, San Diego. It is sponsored by the Congress of History of San Diego & Imperial Counties, the Women’s History Museum and Educational Center, and the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board.

The conference will include numerous speakers, with illustrated presentations; educational exhibits; historical book displays; walking tour of Balboa Park; and a Historical Women’s Costume Presentation from the Women’s History Museum. For an additional price, box lunches may be ordered for both days, on the pre-registration form. (Conference walk-ins welcome as space permits, but pre-registration is encouraged. Box lunches are available only to those who order/pay using the pre-registration form.)

Only $25 per person for the two-day conference! • Seniors (age 65 +) only $20 per person • Students (with student ID) $15 each • Same price for one day or both. Note: price does not include box lunch. Walk-ins welcome both days. Pre-registration begins January 10, 2011. For more information or to register e-mail: hghalmay@aol.com, call 619-469-7283, or visit www.congressofhistory.org

PCAS Monthly Lectures

Lecture meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue (between the I-5 and I-405, next to the Post Office) in Irvine, on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 pm. Meetings are free and open to the public. For additional directions, please contact Scott Findlay, 714-342-2534.

January 13, 2011: Dr. Jerry D. Moore “From Campsite to Village to Town: The Origins of Settled Village Life in the Equatorial Andes—Recent Data, New Insights”

The emergence of settled village life--frequently called “the Formative transition”--has been explored by archaeologists throughout the Americas. In South America, southwestern Ecuador has an extremely early archaeological record for the Formative transition, providing the principal framework for understanding the emergence of social complexity in the equatorial Andes. Recent excavations in the department of Tumbes, Perú, have documented markedly different Formative developments, coeval but distinct from those known in southwestern Ecuador, with significant variations in domestic architecture, public architecture, and settlement patterns. Recent data from Tumbes and adjacent regions of southern Ecuador are contributing to a major reassessment of the Formative transition in the equatorial Andes, a new perspective with implications for other regions in the Americas.

February 10, 2011: Dr. David S. Whitley “Mojave Desert Petroglyph Dating and the Peopling of the Americas”

The question of when humans first arrived in the Americas has been a point of debate for decades, with archaeologists divided between proponents of a short versus long chronology. Recent advances in petroglyph dating provide important evidence in this controversy, in the process yielding insight into the origins of Native American art and religion. We have used a combination of independent scientific dating methods, including the recently calibrated varnish microlamination dating technique, applied in a blind test with two different laboratories. A petroglyph of a probable extinct Pleistocene mammal, dated with three different techniques, is approximately 13,000 years old, and represents the oldest known art in the Americas. About 10% of the sample of dated motifs is greater than 9,000 years old, indicating that the creation of rock art was part of the cultural practices of the earliest immigrants into the continent. The scientific dates also demonstrate that petroglyphs continued to be made into the last few hundred years—a conclusion that is verified by the presence of horse and rider motifs at the sites. The (Continued on page 4)
President’s Message
(Continued from page 1)
The one new face on the board is President-Elect Scott Wolf, an archaeologist at ASM Affiliates. I’m looking forward to the addition of Scott’s enthusiasm to the board this year and next.

Picking up the role of First Vice President, in charge of arranging our monthly programs, will be Tim Gross. Tim’s long involvement in archaeology in the Southern California region (and elsewhere) will doubtless lead to interesting speakers—potentially including Tim himself.

Nick Doose will still be part of the board this year, despite the imminent addition of the role of father to his responsibilities. As Second Vice President, Nick will be arranging our field trips in 2011.

And I’m also pleased that Annemarie Cox will be serving a second term as Secretary and Patty McFarland will be returning for another term as Treasurer.

The board also includes the committee chairs listed on the second page of the Newsletter. You will notice that a few are shown as vacant. We’d like to have a name for each of them. How about yours? Give me a call or email (jwroyle@cts.com). And if I call you first, please be prepared to say yes!

Upcoming Speakers
January 25 (4th Tuesday Lecture), 7:30 p.m.
Los Peñasquitos

Presenter: Chris Wray and Sue Wade
Title: “Recent Field and Research Investigations along the Southern Overland Trail in Preparation for Designation as a CA State Parks Cultural Preserve”

On December 10, 2010, the CA State Parks Commission unanimously voted to approve seven new cultural preserves within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Unique and innovative among these is the linear Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve. The trails that cross the Colorado Desert region are the tangible evidence of human adaptation and perseverance in Southern California’s diverse and unpredictable environment. Perhaps the best known and most intensively used of these trails is an area known today as the Southern Overland Trail. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Trail linked points in Mexico and the American Midwest with the California Coast. While much of its evidence across the southland has been destroyed by modern development, the Trail remains largely intact in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, from Carrizo Creek in the southeast corner of the park, to San Felipe in the northwest, and to the Cuyamacas on the west. The Southern Overland Trail incorporates known prehistoric and historic locations as nodes along the network- Carrizo, Palm Spring, Vallecito, El Puerto, Box Canyon, San Felipe, and others. Approximately 26.3 miles of Southern Overland Trail intact roadway, identified by field survey, are included within the Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve, as well as 3.3 miles of intact roadway that are protected within the two other Preserves, Vallecito and We-nelsch. The section at Vallecito is the focus of Vallecito Days, a multi-agency annual three-day living history event re-creating life on the 1850s desert frontier. Inclusion of segments with intact remains in the Southern Overland Trail Cultural Preserve will provide absolute protection of these fragile traces. Sections of the Trail “overwritten” by more recent uses will provide an exceptional opportunity for the public to experience Southern Overland Trail travel on horse or by vehicle.

The designation of this Cultural Preserve would not have been possible without the extensive field and archival research completed for the Park by historian Chris Wray. Our talk will focus on Chris’s adventures in the archives and in the field. Sue will discuss the Preserve and the interpretive and educational events that have centered on the Trail since the 150 the anniversary of the completion of the first Transcontinental Mail Line in 2007.

February 22 (4th Tuesday Lecture), 7:30 p.m.
Los Peñasquitos

Presenter: Andy Pigniolo
Title: “Environmental Change, Settlement, and Subsistence at Peñasquitos Lagoon”

Environmental change in the form of coastal lagoon development and infilling has long been used as an explanatory model for human settlement and subsistence change on the southern California coast. Environmental change at Peñasquitos Lagoon is examined through a summary of new and existing data. Settlement intensity and response to environmental change is examined in relation to both coastal decline models and models of settlement organization shifts.

A field trip and tour of the Extension Area of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve will follow this lecture. The field trip is scheduled for March 5. See announcement under Member’s News Corner on page 3 for more details.

Members’ News Corner
PCAS Monthly Lectures
(Continued from page 3)

combination of the scientific dates, the motif forms themselves, and other lines of evidence demonstrate that the Mojave petroglyphs represent a manifestation of the longest continually practiced belief system known in the world: the shamanistic religion of indigenous Shoshone and Paiute peoples.

Singing the Birds (Wikitmallem Tahmuwhae): Bird Song & Dance Festival

Celebrate traditional bird singing and dancing. Through the ages, bird singing and dancing have been an important part of Native culture for tribes in southern California and other regions of the Southwest. This day-long event features honored bird singing groups and dancers from California. Guest Host: Gerald Clarke, Jr., Cahuilla Band of Cahuilla Indians

Saturday, January 22, 2011, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm, Palm Springs High School Gymnasium, 2401 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs. Free Admission.

Spirit Keepers Program - Panel Discussion: sovereignty (-t) n.

“...the word nobody can spell correctly, everyone understands, and nobody can define...” – Ray L. Patencio, Sr.

Most newspaper articles about Tribal Nations mention the word sovereignty at least once. What exactly is this all-important concept? Why is it fought for every day by tribes? How have the courts dealt with the issue of sovereignty? A notable panel of experts will discuss aspects of sovereignty, both in the past and in the present.

Panelists include Millie Browne – Chairwoman, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, Art Bunce, J.D. – Attorney for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, K. Tsiunina

(Continued on page 5)
Members’ News Corner
Spirit Keepers Program (Continued from page 4)

Lomawaima, Ph.D – Professor of American Indian Studies, University of Arizona, Richard M. Milanovich – Chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and Moraino J. Patencio, J.D. – Member, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 6:30 pm. Rancho Mirage Public Library, 71-100 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage. Free Admission

Preservation Action Alert: Public Comment Sought Before the Balboa Park Committee

What Plaza de Panama bridge, roads, and parking garage project; public comment and workshops

Where Balboa Park Club Ballroom, 2150 Pan American Road West, San Diego CA 92101

When Saturday, January 8, 9am-12pm

Why Without your voice this project could move forward and destroy the entrance to Balboa Park and its iconic Cabrillo Bridge forever.

SOHO and the greater San Diego preservation community strongly oppose the current plans for a bypass bridge and roadway to be built onto the historic Cabrillo Bridge in Balboa Park. The current proposal is extremely destructive and would forever alter the iconic Cabrillo Bridge and the historic landscape, and would hide the most important character defining features of the front entrance to this National Register District. The project also includes the removal of over 82 feet of the historic Cabrillo Bridge railing and lighting.

We cannot support the premise that a swath of concrete and massive fill bisecting the entire front façade of the National Historic Landmark Spanish Colonial Hilltop town and historic entry to the park is necessary in order to remove 70 parking spaces from the Plaza de Panama. The plan as currently conceived and recommended would destroy for all time the architectural, historic, and cultural integrity of Balboa Park, along with its historic landscape. The proposed addition would be in the most visible and destructive location possible. This plan is not consistent with any of the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and is in fact the antithesis of these standards and must not be allowed.

The underlying premise that there is currently no other way to accommodate the removal of approximately 70 parking spaces from Plaza de Panama and to remove traffic from that area is flawed. Instead we are advising the best route to take is the one with the lightest impact, the quickest time line and the less costly project by starting with the basic tenant of restoration of the Plaza de Panama and removing excessive automobile traffic from the historic core.

The current design also includes a 900 parking space structure behind the Spreckels Organ Pavilion that would only encourage even more automobile traffic into the parks core solely for parking. This is not an appropriate site for the proposed garage. Placing the partially underground parking structure instead in a different area, possibly Inspiration Point or other areas on the periphery would be more appropriate. We believe a shuttle or tram service is the key to early Spanish and Mexican American visitors to the park. We encourage the removal of cars from the Plaza de Panama and the Palisades area and returning it to parklands is an important and admirable goal that should be pursued.

The temporary and immediate solution to remove the cars from the plaza is to route the traffic around the southwest quadrant of the Plaza de Panama as in the current precise plan. There are adequate areas behind many of the museums for parking displaced by this project to be added to existing lots or placed adjacent, as we look for a long-term solution that could include parking garages on the periphery of the park and a robust tram system.

There are several other potential solutions that are not being pursued.

We acknowledge the generosity behind the idea of this gift that Dr. Jacobs has offered. However, Balboa Park belongs to all the people of San Diego and it is the public who should decide its future.

We ask that you plan to attend this important meeting and that you write letters or emails to your local and state representatives rejecting the current plans and ask instead that they focus on the basic restoration of the Plaza de Panama and make use of the viable, simple options presented here as the solution to removing the 70 parking spaces. Please use the important points discussed in this email or the sample letter on SOHO’s website to formulate your letter.

We also ask you to sign the online petition (http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/savebalboapark) and further, to take responsibility for getting ten of your friends, neighbors and family members to sign as well.

Visit SOHO’s website to learn more: (http://sohosandiego.org/main/paaplazadepanama.htm)

Removal of 90+ Historic Human Burials at the La Plaza de Cultura y Artes

Letter from Members of the Gabrielson (Tongva) Community, 1-5-2011, Submitted by P. Mitchell

The Background

“LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes at El Pueblo Historic Monument is a multi-million dollar museum dedicated to showcasing and preserving the history of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in Los Angeles. The museum is housed within the historic Vicky-Brunswig and Plaza House Buildings next to Our Lady Queen of the Angels Church (commonly known as “La Placita”)...(Molina 2011)” LA Plaza is scheduled to open on April 15, 2011 (Painter 2010). This project is the pet project of Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District.

The LA Plaza (see http://www.lapca.org/) is located at 501 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and is within Los Angeles’ first consecrated cemetery (LA Cultural Monument #26). The cemetery contains the remains of not only Mexican American settlers but also the Native Americans to whom they (Continued on page 6)
Removal of … Burials …

(Continued from page 5)

were intermarried. The cemetery opened in 1822 and closed in 1844 when it was determined that the lot was too small. According to the Los Angeles Archdiocese and other documents, the remains were to have been removed and re-interred at Calvary Cemetery.

In 2004, Los Angeles County approved LA Plaza’s Final Environmental Impact Report prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Project refinements were proposed thus an Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report was prepared and approved by the County on September 28, 2010 (Sapphos 2010).

The Facts

In late October of 2010 while beginning work for the Campo Santo Memorial Garden, human remains were uncovered (Painter 2010). Over 40 sets of remains were initially removed and “bagged” while trenching with a backhoe for a fountain, a fountain that is to celebrate the history of the Mexican-American people.

As remains continued to be encountered, an archaeologist was brought on-site to continue with the removal with contextual and archaeological information inadequately collected and/or destroyed. Over 90+ remains have been removed to date.

On Dec 29, 2010, an archaeologist employed by the Sanberg Group notified the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) of the discovery of possible Native American remains. The remains were interred with beads and a “flint scraper” (Letter, Meyers to Hernandez January 4, 2010). The NAHC has attempted to investigate the discovery but has yet to get a response from the responsible parties.

An informant on site stated that the project is “being rushed”, and that the rest of the remains need to be removed within ten days. This is a directive that is being given by Daniel Mendoza the on-site foreman and ultimately coming from Gloria Molina’s office and the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Mr. Mendoza is acting as community contact and incidentally, also happens to be the brother-in-Law of Gloria Molina.

The Issue

Once human remains were encountered, possible descendants should have contacted in order create a plan for appropriate removal and reburial. The Los Angeles Archdiocese has a list of those that were interred at the cemetery. This did not happen.

Additionally with the discovery of possible Native American remains, the NAHC should have been contacted by the project proponent, as per the California Health and Safety Code § 7050.5, so that a Native American Most Likely Descendant could be designated. This did not happen.

The Irony

This museum is supposed to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of the Mexican and Mexican-American communities to the development of Los Angeles. However, the fact that these early settler burials, the very people the Museum is supposed to be honoring, are being removed in secret is ironic. The excavation of this cemetery in a rushed, unscientific way, without community involvement, is a travesty.

Additionally, the possibility that Native American remains are being removed without participation of the Gabrieleno (Tongva) Nation is illegal under California law. Although the LA Plaza opening on April 15, 2011 is imminent, this is no reason to desecrate burials or inadequately document this important part of history. Not only is the Mexican and Native American pasts being destroyed, but also the past of all Los Angeles’s citizens.

What You Can Do

Please contact the following people, offices and public entities to ask why these burials are being hurriedly removed, why the most likely descendants have not been contacted regarding the removal, why the archaeological information is not being properly documented, why those who are doing the work are not professionally trained archaeologists with experience removing human burials. Tell them if they really want to celebrate the accomplishments of the Mexican and Mexican-American people, they need to do right by the early settlers and Native American ancestors interred in the cemetery.

City of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor 200 North Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 485-2121 Fax: (213) 978-0750 mayor@lacity.org

County of Los Angeles Dawn McDivitt, Chief Executive Office-Capital Projects 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Gloria Molina Los Angeles County Supervisor, First District Hall of Administration Office 856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 Phone: (213) 974-4111 Fax: (213) 613-1739 gmolina@bos.lacounty.gov

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation Miguel Angel Corzo, President and CEO LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation 1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 (323) 260-3412

Daniel Mendoza 1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 (323) 260-3412

Archdiocese of Los Angeles Bishop Edward W. Clark Our Lady of the Angeles Pastoral Region 3424 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202 (213) 637-7000 info@la-archdiocese.org

Bibliography


Membership Renewal Time is here – Have you Renewed?
San Diego County Archaeological Society Membership Application

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Address ________________________________________________________________
City _____________________________ State _____ Zip ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________________________________________
☐ I would like to receive a Hard Copy of the Newsletter
          (Newsletter is delivered by email unless a hard copy is requested)
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 $30.00
_______ Family $40.00
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      (Company, University, College, Etc.)
      (non voting)
_______ Life $300.00

* New Members Only: 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 through 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.