Posters for the 2019 and 2020 California Archaeology Month
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The *Society for California Archaeology Newsletter* is a quarterly publication with information that is essential to California archaeology. Opinions, commentary, and editorials appearing in the *SCA Newsletter* represent the views of the authors, not necessarily those of the SCA Executive Board or the *SCA Newsletter* editors.

**Submissions:** The submission deadline for the September 2020 issue of the *SCA Newsletter* is August 10, 2020. All contributions will appear on the SCA website (https://scahome.org/) unless otherwise specified. Please email all submissions to newsletter@scahome.org or mail them to the SCA Business Office at 1692 Mangrove Avenue, Suite 153, Chico, CA 95926.

**Editors:** Jill K. Gardner, Managing Editor; Shelly Davis-King, Pat Mikkelsen, and Karen K. Swope, Co-Editors.

**On the cover:** The SCA’s California Archaeology Month posters for 2019 and 2020, the former an award winner (see page 22).
MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

As our SCA membership is aware, this year (2020) the United States has been suffering through the most devastating pandemic — known as COVID-19 — since 1918. As of this writing, more than two million confirmed cases and well over 100,000 deaths have been reported across our country, resulting in shelters-in-place, self-isolations, and quarantines that have encompassed the vast majority of our country. To date, we are still in the midst of this national (and global) tragedy, and will be for quite some time. As such, the SCA Executive Board made the painful but necessary decision to cancel our 2020 Annual Meeting.

Because the Annual Meeting was cancelled, this issue of the SCA Newsletter is different from past June issues which have always included several pages covering the festivities and awards of the meeting. Another consequence of this cancellation is that paper and poster authors were not able to present their research at the meeting. But fear not, the Editorial Committee for the Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology is putting together an issue for 2020 to which authors who were scheduled to present at the meeting may submit for publication. Several potential contributors expressed concern that if they published this year they would not be able to present at the 2021 meeting on the same topic due to copyright concerns. To alleviate these concerns, the scheduled presenters have been given formal authorization from the SCA to publish this year and present the same material at the Annual Meeting in 2021 (assuming it is held given the health concerns). The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2020, but I encourage you to submit as early as you can for the sake of my sanity! Submit your papers at proceedingseditor@scahome.org.

Finally, we are changing to a new format for the SCA Newsletter, eliminating the two-column layout. This change was suggested by Karen Swope, one of the Newsletter co-editors, who sent me a copy of one of another anthropological newsletter that had recently made this change. Since the Newsletter has gone entirely online, I think it is an appropriate upgrade, given the necessity to scroll up and down the column format on your laptop or iPad, which can be exasperating. This also gives me the opportunity to let our readers know that I welcome any suggestions for new ideas to make the SCA Newsletter more interesting, entertaining, informative, educational, or user-friendly. You may send any suggestions or comments to newsletter@scahome.org. There is a continuing call for submissions for articles dealing with a variety of topics, including (but not limited to) legislative actions, meeting announcements, member and community activities, and scholarly research.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and that we may all meet again next year!
A NOTE FROM REBECCA ALLEN, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

When we came upon the theme of archaeology into the future for 2020, this is not the future that we envisioned. But here we are. Viruses. Environmental footprint concerns. Social isolation. To complicate things, rescheduling the meeting at our Riverside venue for late 2020 did not work as we had hoped, and the full economic and social effects of COVID-19 continue to be unknown. Given the uncertainty of the time frame for this pandemic to play out, as you all know, the SCA cancelled the March 2020 Annual Meeting. Nevertheless, the gorgeous 2020 SCA California Archaeology Month poster, which is typically highlighted at the meeting, is on our website (https://scahome.org), along with an order form.

Our Northern and Southern Vice Presidents are working on venues for our 2020 fall Data Sharing Meetings. We will keep you updated, but please be aware that these too may have to be cancelled. Sadly, the same may be true for our 2021 Annual Meeting. We will send out news blasts as we know more, so please check the SCA website often!

The SCA Executive Board is embracing the promise of technology to see us through these difficult times. Over the next few months, we will be working on online presentation capabilities, especially those with interactive capabilities. We are moving ahead with the 2020 Proceedings of the Society for California Archaeology, Volume 34 (see page 3). If you would like to share your presentation, please check out scahome.org/sca-publications/proceedings-submissions and submit your paper or poster no later than August 1, 2020.

We know that the future will bring more challenges and hiccups. Along with our plans, we are working on our senses of humor and patience. We hope all of you are able to do the same in these challenging times. Please stay tuned.

Did you know that the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has a YouTube channel? Check it out at https://www.youtube.com/user/calshpo.
Who’s Behind the Mask?

Michelle Cross, President

NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS WOULD I HAVE imagined I would start my first “Letter from the President” without an Annual Meeting to reflect on. Nonetheless, here I sit in the solitude of my home office, more than eight weeks into California’s shelter-in-place order, to write to you. The year 2020 has started in a way that none of us could have anticipated. Our professional and personal lives are forever changed by the pandemic we are now living through. In early March, the SCA Board was faced with an extremely tough decision on whether to hold or cancel the Annual Meeting in Riverside in light of (at that time) newly emerging details on the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. After debate, lengthy discussion, and final buy-in by the entire Board, we made the decision to postpone the 2020 Annual Meeting. We quickly assembled to notify the membership, issue refunds, and look for options to hold the meeting at a later date. Ultimately, luck was not
on our side, and for the first time in SCA history, we made the very difficult decision to cancel the Annual Meeting. The Board felt that cancelling the meeting was in the best interest of the health of our members and also our civic and ethical duty to help prevent the spread of the disease.

Since that time, the Executive Board held our March Board meeting virtually, we check in with each other monthly via Google Hangouts, and we have been exploring options to remotely connect SCA’s membership. Top on our to-do list is identifying a virtual platform for the 2020 award recipients if we are unable to meet this fall for the Data Sharing Meetings; hosting virtual brown bags, coffee chats, and happy hour events for our membership where we can present and share research or other topics of interest; and planning for an alternative meeting platform should we be unable to congregate as a group for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Who’s behind the mask, you may ask — that’s me, committed to working tirelessly to keep us connected, informed, and collaborating as we navigate these murky pandemic waters. How we meet in 2020 and 2021 may look different, but we are still the same Society made up of the same spunky and tenacious membership. We will persevere.

For the time being, the 2021 Annual Meeting planning is charging forward. The meeting will be held in northern California at the Burlingame Airport Hotel in South San Francisco. John Holson will serve as Local Arrangements Chair and Carie Montero and Alisa Reynolds will co-chair the Program Committee. We are excited to announce the Annual Meeting theme, which is Inside Out, Reflecting on our Community. We hope to take a deep dive looking at our practices inside out and outside in. Let’s reflect on the work we do in light of the numerous factors that impact our profession on a day-to-day basis, including how we ensure the safety of our colleagues in the field and the hazards that come into play for the work we do; gender and racial biases and inequalities in our profession; how our work informs climate change; descendant community perspectives on our practices and what we can learn from each other; how we communicate what we do to the public and how they perceive archaeology; the toll the work we do takes on us and our families as well as our mental and financial well-being; how COVID-19 has impacted our industry; how the lack of health insurance or retirement savings has impacted our industry; how technology and changes to environmental laws and practice will change our work in the future; and more. We plan to incorporate many of the scheduled plenary talks from the 2020 Annual Meeting into our 2021 plenary session. I am also reaching out to each of you who feels inspired to contact me to be part of our plenary session.

Our keynote speaker for the 2021 Annual Banquet has been confirmed as Dr. Chip Colwell, whose essays and editorials have appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, and The Guardian, among other magazines and newspapers. His research has been covered by such outlets as the BBC, National Geographic, and Forbes. Dr. Colwell has conducted a TEDx talk and he is the editor-in-chief of SAPIENS and co-host of the SAPIENS podcast. I promise he will keep you awake and on the edge of your seat at the banquet. You won’t want to miss his talk! Our Archaeology Month poster design is underway by illustrator and anthropologist, Kathryn Killackey. Her illustrations were featured in the Tiger King documentary (you read that right, cool cats and kittens) and she specializes in archaeological illustration. Bring on the SAA poster of the year — I think California could take number one in the 2021 competition! Please get your nominations in for the 2021 awardees if you have someone in mind. The sooner you send in your
nomination, the better. Lastly, look for a notification coming to your inbox regarding the option to carry over 2020 Annual Meeting sessions to the 2021 Annual Meeting. We plan to leave all 2020 sessions in the online system for 2021 so that they do not have to be re-entered.

I intend to work on several other initiatives beyond Annual Meeting planning over the course of my tenure as President. One initiative is to highlight the website redesign for www.scahome.org. We are currently on schedule to have our new website rolled out prior to the 2021 Annual Meeting registration period. It will be mobile device friendly and easier to navigate. We hope to update the images featured on the website, so please continue to submit your pictures for the Photo of the Month competition to photoofthemonth@scahome.org. Thank you to the corporations, companies, and individuals who graciously redirected their 2020 Annual Meeting donation funds to the website redesign: ASM Affiliates, HDR, Stantec, SWCA, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and Thomas Layton.

Finally, of utmost importance and interest to the SCA membership is that our fearless and dedicated Executive Director, Denise Wills, will be retiring and stepping down from her position in March 2021. Denise has devoted many years to being the foundation of our Society. She will not be easily replaced. I have formed an Executive Director Task Force to identify and hire a new director. We will begin to advertise for the position in June or July 2020 and will bring on the new position in October with a six-month transition period working with Denise. I will also form an advisory panel made up of past Board members to advise and consult with the new director. If you are a former Board member and would like to serve on the advisory panel, please let me know.

I encourage every SCA member to reach out to me with your ideas, concerns, and most importantly your willingness to participate within our organization. The Society cannot survive without your participation on committees, as liaisons, and as Board members. Not only is participation in the SCA rewarding, it also increases your professional network and allows you to form friendships based on a common interest and love for our profession. I miss each of my SCA friends and look forward to the day, hopefully soon, when we can be together again. Until then, stay healthy and safe. Hold onto your 2020 wild ride hats and save me a cold beer to toast you with the next time we meet in person.
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**State Historical Resources Commission**
Open
Executive Board for 2019-2020 (Morning Session)

Rebecca Allen – President
Michelle Cross – President-Elect
William Hildebrandt – Immediate Past President
Glenn Russell – Southern Vice President
Denise Jaffke – Northern Vice President
Melinda Pacheco Patrick – Treasurer
Maggie Trumbly – Immediate Past Treasurer
Lindsay Hartman – Secretary
Denise Wills – Executive Director

Meeting Convened

Rebecca convened the morning session and welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the 2019-2020 Executive Board (via conference call). The January 2020 winter meeting minutes were approved and incoming board members Shannon Tushingham (President-Elect), Brendon Greenaway (Northern Vice President), and Eva Larson (Secretary) were welcomed.

SCA Code of Ethics

Glenn reported on the changes to the Code of Ethics and By-Laws amendment to include wording about sexual harassment policies. The membership vote on the changes would have been at the 2020 Annual Meeting during the business meeting; in the absence of the meeting, a vote by mail could occur. A vote was held and passed by the Executive Board to adopt the Code of Ethics change.

CEQA Compliance Documents

The CEQA compliance documents were submitted to the Board for final review. The brochure will be printed and sent to the Native American Heritage Commission list of agencies. A vote was held and passed by the Board to put the CEQA document and brochure on the SCA website, making them accessible in pdf format for the membership and including this information in a newsflash.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurers Report states that the SCA’s financials are healthy overall. If the meeting is canceled, we are still in a good place financially but will not have the same income this year.
2020 Annual Meeting Options

There was an in-depth discussion of the options to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting or postpone it as we are faced with the emergency of a pandemic. A vote was held and passed by the Board to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting, work on creating an online presence, encourage our members to submit their papers to the *Proceedings*, draft a policy of refund or donation, and inform the membership as soon as possible. In addition, it was suggested that the Data Sharing Meetings be expanded and presentations be made available online as another possible option. It was agreed that the *Proceedings* will still be published.

*Rebecca adjourned the morning session, at which time she “passed the buck” to Michelle Cross as the newly installed 2020-2021 SCA President, who opened the afternoon session.*

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**Executive Board for 2020-2021 (Afternoon Session)**

Michelle Cross – President
Rebecca Allen – Immediate Past-President
Shannon Tushingham – President-Elect
Glenn Russell – Southern Vice President
Brendon Greenaway – Northern Vice President
Melinda Pacheco Patrick (not on call) – Treasurer
Maggie Trumbly – Immediate Past Treasurer
Eva Larson – Secretary
Denise Wills – Executive Director

**Meeting Convened**

Michelle Cross opened the first meeting for the 2020-2021 Executive Board upon adjournment of the morning session and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made by the attendees of the conference call. Shortly after the meeting began, Rebecca received a call that a tribal emergency had arisen and she left the call/meeting at that time.

**SCA Board Manual**

Glenn Russell and Denise Jaffke reviewed and edited the SCA Board Manual. When it is completed, Board members will receive a hard copy. Michelle reported that about half of the manual has been updated, but it could use a technical overview. Maggie Trumbly suggested that the bylaws be reviewed to see if there is consistency between them and the manual. Denise asked that the articles of incorporation also be reviewed for the same purpose.

**Board Emails**

Regarding emails, it was discussed that Board members should check their SCA email accounts every two days and respond within 48 to 72 hours of receiving messages that require action.
Calendar and Monthly Meetings

Board members were asked to enter vacation and away time on the SCA Drive Calendar. That way the Board would know whether someone is available. Monthly telephone meetings are to be held on the second Friday of the month at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will last an hour and will be tactical in nature.

2020 Summer Meeting

July 24 and 25 were selected as the summer meeting dates for 2020. The meeting will take place as usual at Denise’s home in Chico. The meeting will last all day on Friday and part of Saturday. The SCA budget covers transportation costs of mileage or a flight to attend meetings, but does not cover meals. Form and receipts are submitted to Melinda for reimbursement.

Robert’s Rules of Order

Michelle asked the Board to familiarize themselves with Robert’s Rules of Order, parliamentary procedures that help run meetings efficiently (e.g., adjourn a meeting, call a vote, introduce new topics). The SCA Board meetings will rely upon Robert’s Rules of Order to run them. It is available online and on the SCA Board Page in G-suites.

Organizational Chart

Michelle spoke about the organizational chart as shown on the SCA Drive webpage. It is color-coded and some corrections were made at the last meeting of the previous Board. The chart lists the responsibilities and committees of Board members. Board members were asked to send an email to introduce themselves to their committees and let them know when they can attend meetings via phone calls or in person. Shannon noted that it is the Board members’ job to be a sounding board for their committees and to report to the Board how they are doing, not to run them. In addition, committees are encouraged to write something for the SCA Newsletter. Board members are to reach out to their committees quarterly. It was noted that the Secretary and Treasurer do not have such responsibilities.

Executive Director Search

Michelle has convened a task force to find a new Executive Director. Denise feels that a management company would be better suited to support the SCA. She would like someone in place by the 2020 Data Sharing Meetings. She will continue her search of appropriate management companies and firms. The Board will then vote on the recommendations of the task force. Michelle will provide updates to the Board on the progress of finding a replacement for Denise.

2020 Board and Data Sharing Meetings

The 2020 summer Board meeting will approve the budgets for upcoming programs. The 2020 fall Board meeting will be held at one of the two Data Sharing Meetings, if they occur. The SCA membership participation is lower in southern California and it may be beneficial to hold the Board meeting at the
Southern Data Sharing Meeting, which is currently scheduled to be held in Old Town San Diego on Saturday, October 24. If the meeting goes forward, the Board will convene in an in-person, all-day meeting on Friday, October 23. Glenn has contacts that may help in finding lodging for the attendees. Brendon is still looking at dates for the Northern Data Sharing Meeting.

2021 SCA Annual Meeting

Assuming circumstances related to the pandemic allow it, the 2021 SCA Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 4-7 in Burlingame, South San Francisco, at the beautiful Airport Hyatt. Carie Montero and Alisa Reynolds are the Program Chairs, and John Holson is the Local Arrangements chair. Shannon asked if Board members can give papers at the annual meeting; the answer was yes, but only on Friday or Saturday, as board members have all-day Board meetings on Thursday and Sunday.

The theme of the 2021 Annual Meeting was discussed. Michelle suggested a theme related to the balance of archaeology, looking at wage differences, health care, gender inequality, the mental toll of working in archaeology, and practical skills.

For the 2021 keynote speaker, Michelle is interested in inviting UCLA Anthropology Professor Jason De León. A long-shot keynote speaker being considered is George Lucas, who is known to have an interest in archaeology. Michelle will keep the Board posted on the progress of finding a keynote speaker [see page 5 for an update on the keynote speaker]. She also noted that the poster for the 2021 Annual Meeting needs to be ready for Board review by the October meeting. Once the poster is selected, it will be ordered in February 2021. The poster budget is $1,000 to purchase the artwork. The tote bags for the 2020 Annual Meeting will be held for now and Denise will ask the sponsor if they can be used for the 2021 meeting instead.

Insurance

The SCA is researching new options for insurance. Denise reported that our regular liability insurance is an old policy under which alcohol was grandfathered in and is covered by the policy.

Live Streaming Meetings

Are live streaming meetings a possibility? Maggie commented that live streaming costs money, especially for high resolution. Michelle responded that remote call-ins cost less money.

SCA Board Travel Budget

Maggie noted that last year, less than $1,000 was paid for Board travel expenditures. The expense of holding a Board meeting in San Diego would not affect the budget greatly.

2020 Annual Meeting Refunds

Refunds for the 2020 Annual Meeting still need to be decided. The Board is considering asking our members to donate their funds to SCA instead of receiving a refund.
[Update on Refunds per the SCA Website: “The SCA will refund meeting registration fees, minus transaction fees. Many individuals and companies will suffer financially from this pandemic, and the SCA is not excepted -- we are taking a financial hit. Several members have kindly donated their fees to support the society at this difficult time. . . . (Please note that students and non-members will receive refunds automatically.”)

SCA Website Revision

Some working elements of the SCA’s website backend redesign are not compatible with the old front end. We have already signed a contract for the new work.

At 2:00 p.m., Michelle moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Brendon. All conference call attendees responded “Aye.”
American Cultural Resources Association Liaison Report
Shelly Davis-King, ACRA Liaison

The American Cultural Resources Association has also been affected by the 2020 pandemic, including cancellations and postponements of events. These and other issues are the focus of this liaison report.

CARES 2 Legislation

On May 22, 2020, the United States House of Representatives passed the $3 trillion CARES 2 Act (also known as the Heroes Act). The Senate is not expected to immediately take up the legislation, and the President has said he will veto it. The legislation includes $1.5 billion for broadband hotspots and $10 billion in grants to small businesses that have suffered financial losses as a result of the pandemic. It also includes a second round of direct payments to citizens. More information on the CARES 2 Act is available from Politico.

Paycheck Protection Program

The Small Business Administration distributed new guidance and frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). One particular aspect they have clarified concerns the good faith certification that is required as a part of a borrower's loan request. Borrowers who received an original principal amount of less than $2 million will be deemed to have made the required certification concerning the necessity of the loan request in good faith. More details on the guidance are available at https://www.acra-crm.org/acrasphere/8966513.

ACRA Annual Meeting

ACRA has made the very hard decision to postpone their 2020 Annual Meeting, which was to be held in San Antonio, Texas. Conferences are being postponed right and left and this pandemic is not ending any time soon. ACRA conducted a poll asking if the conference should be held, and more than 70% of the respondents said they would not attend the conference due to COVID-19 or financial concerns. Our host facility, the Menger Hotel, agreed to reschedule to the same weekend in September 2022 with no penalty and with the same room rate. So the 2021 conference will be in Alexandria, Virginia, and in 2022 it will be in San Antonio. ACRA may hold a virtual event this September, details to follow.

ACHP Approves FEMA Section 106 Emergency Procedures for COVID-19

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) approved Emergency Situation Procedures that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will use to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for COVID-19 response undertakings. The ACHP authorized the procedures under 36 C.F.R. § 800.12(a) of the regulations implementing Section 106 for projects that respond to COVID-19 under the national emergency declared by President Trump on March 13, 2020; major disasters declared by the President for states; and other COVID-19 emergencies or disaster
declarations that have already been issued by the President, a tribal government, or the governor of a state, or may be issued by any of them. FEMA anticipates that the majority of emergency/disaster response undertakings will have no potential to affect historic properties, as they will only involve: procurement and storage of supplies, commodities, and equipment; reimbursement for administrative actions, including supplies and staff; collection and storage of medical waste; or pose no or limited potential to affect historic properties, such as modifications of existing facilities. However, in certain circumstances where existing facilities are deemed insufficient, new construction of temporary medical facilities, shelters, or emergency operations centers may affect historic properties.

ACRA Healthcare Program

Contract archaeologists have long sought medical insurance programs, with little success except for major firms. ACRA made the decision to help smaller firms in particular by creating the ACRA Healthcare Program, a new benefit just for member firms. This allows small companies to offer a healthcare option to employees and for larger firms to enroll temporary and part-time employees. If you work for an ACRA firm, go to the ACRA website (https://acra-crm.org) to learn more about this new healthcare program.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Issues

EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The ACHP has issued an extension on the use of emergency procedures for federal undertakings responding to COVID-19 emergency and disaster declarations (https://www.achp.gov/news/achp-extends-use-emergency-procedures-federal-undertakings). As explained in the opening statement of the extension: "On April 3, 2020, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation issued a blanket extension regarding the review under 36 CFR 800.12 of undertakings responding to COVID-19 emergency and disaster declarations. That initial extension was set to expire on May 29, 2020. Considering the likelihood of such declarations remaining in place into the foreseeable near future, and the ongoing need for federal agency responses to them, that extension is now set to expire on July 31, 2020."

CEQA Guidance Documents

Glenn Russell, Standards and Ethics Advisory Committee

THE SOCIETY FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY (SCA) IS AWARE THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL of variability among lead agencies throughout the State of California in the quality of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews of cultural resources conducted by those agencies. Because of this, the SCA has developed a brochure and two basic guidance documents regarding the treatment of cultural resources in the CEQA review process (see https://scahome.org/professional-guidance-documents for details and additional links).
SCA Business and Activities (Continued)

The first document, “Guidelines for Determining the Significance of and Impacts to Cultural Resources: Archaeological, Historic, and Tribal Cultural Resources,” provides clear direction to lead agency staff and planners about how to evaluate cultural resources in the CEQA process. It provides thresholds for evaluating potential adverse environmental effects and defines various types of cultural resources and their proper treatment as outlined in the regulations.

The second document, “Fieldwork and Reporting Guidelines for Cultural Resources: Archaeological, Historic, and Tribal Cultural Resources,” provides a clear description of the CEQA review process for cultural resources, includes basic guidelines for conducting archaeological fieldwork during CEQA review, and provides standardized, suggested formats for cultural resource reports prepared pursuant to CEQA. These documents are intended to provide basic guidance to staff who are conducting CEQA review of cultural resources. The brochure, which includes links to the guidance documents, is a convenient way to make lead agency staff and planners aware of the availability of this guidance. If you know any lead agency staff or planners who might benefit from this guidance, please provide them a copy of the brochure.

These guidance documents are based on those developed by the County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department, with input from professional planners, archaeologists, architectural historians, and Native Americans. The documents were officially adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in February 2018 and became part of the CEQA Thresholds Manual maintained by the County and used for CEQA review of all private and public development projects that require discretionary land use permits. These documents have been modified by the Society for California (see https://scahome.org/professional-guidance-documents) to be used by planners and consultants conducting CEQA review at any agency in California.

Public Outreach and Education Committee Report
Craig Lesh, Committee Chair

October is California Archaeology Month and October 17 is International Archaeology Day (IAD). Whether you are working from home or in the field while managing social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, please consider what you can do to engage the public to support archaeology. Many organizations across the United States, Canada, and abroad celebrate International Archaeology Day by hosting an event and including it on the IAD calendar on the Archaeological Institute of America website (https://www.archaeological.org/programs/public/archaeologyday). In 2019, more than 1,200 events were planned around the world to celebrate IAD. In addition to having a blog, IAD is on Facebook and Twitter. Be sure to use the hashtag #IAD2020 when tweeting about it. Opportunities to celebrate through participation in online activities will be available closer to IAD. For more information about California Archaeology Month, go to https://scahome.org/?s=california+archaeology+month.
Older Than Dirt: The Enigmatic Anchor Stones of Palos Verdes

John W. Foster, California State Parks (Retired)

ON A BRIGHT NOVEMBER MORNING IN 1994, I FOUND MYSELF WALKING DOWN THE BOAT RAMP in King Harbor Marina, Redondo Beach. I was excited to meet SCUBA diving legend Bob Meistrell, the founder of Body Glove (www.bodyglove.com). He and his identical twin Bill were raised in Missouri where they developed an obsession with underwater diving. They explored farm ponds with a homemade diving helmet fashioned from a No. 10 can with a cut-out window tarred in place and air supply provided by a bicycle pump. When the family moved to southern California, the brothers began to explore offshore sites. Their first real diving helmet was purchased from a neighbor for $25 after the previous owner died in it. The brothers opened a surf shop called Dive 'N Surf after finishing school at USC. They were avid watermen – boating, surfing, and diving whenever they could. Bob was a pioneer in the development of wetsuits, which made these activities much more comfortable. He found a material that was flexible, warm, and vastly superior to the rubber suits of the 1950s. It fit so well he gave it the name “Body Glove,” and a legend and fortune were secured.

I had met Bob a few times and my mom had interviewed him for a local magazine article, but this 1994 appointment was special. Bob was going to show us a submerged site off Palos Verdes that he believed contained proof of ancient Chinese contact on the California coast. Having lived in Palos Verdes, I had heard of the “Chinese anchor stones,” but now I would finally get to see them. I dragged my dive bag and camera along out to Bob’s Body Glove brand boat, The Disappearance (Figure 1). It was to be a remarkable day.

Joining us onboard was Wayne Baldwin, who had discovered the site with Bob in 1975. These dive buddies had made hundreds of dives around Catalina Island and the southern California mainland. They knew the best sites for lobstering and where many shipwrecks could be examined, but they maintained that this site was unique. Nowhere else had a concentration of drilled stones ever been found. A few had been reported in deep water, but in an open cove on the Palos Verdes Peninsula there was a concentration of at least 31 stones that seemed to be anchors. Two basic stone shapes have been documented — tabular and cylindrical. The former, sometimes called “donuts,” are circular, flat, and drilled in the center with

Figure 1. The Disappearance, Bob Meistrell’s Body Glove brand boat in 1994. Photo courtesy of Dive ‘N Surf.
9 to 15 cm holes (Figure 2). Cylinders ("pickle-shaped" or "barrels") (Figure 3) are drilled through the long axis, sometimes incompletely. A few "pickles" seemed to have an incised channel around their exteriors on the opposite plane at the equator. They weighed 25 to more than 500 pounds.

Also joining us for the day was Dr. Frank Frost, a history professor at UC Santa Barbara. Other guests included a dive team from the television series, Arthur C. Clarke’s Mysterious World. They would film the site and discuss possible explanations for the stone anchors.

I had never seen the site, but had read what others had offered about it. The first to posit on the stones was Dr. James Moriarity of the University of San Diego and his student, Larry Pierson. They had seen photos taken at Dive ‘N Surf of stones recovered in 1975. Pierson chipped off a few samples of the stone itself for analysis. Some samples were said to be derived from local Franciscan shale (I recognized it from our family’s fireplace), but others were identified at Taiwan National University as being from the Shandong and Liaodung peninsulas of the northern China coast.

On that basis, Pierson and Moriarity (1980) asserted that the Palos Verdes stones were evidence of ancient Chinese exploration of the Americas long before Columbus or the time of Christ. Of course, this interpretation was gobbled up by the popular media, and the Palos Verdes stones were soon cited as a basis for rewriting world history.

The stones became “Chinese anchor stones” marking the demise of a great fleet from Asia lost about 2,300 B.C. Other writers tied the fleet to voyages of a Buddhist monk, Hwui Shan, who had supposedly visited the New World in 460 A.D. Either way, goodbye Columbus! Frank Frost (1982) had also weighed in, agreeing that the stones were probably of Chinese origin, but that they were net anchors indicating evidence of nineteenth century fishing activities.
Dr. Paul Chace had a different take on the stones. He linked them to possible Azorean Portuguese shore whalers who had established a station on the Palos Verdes Peninsula a few miles away. Paul corresponded with Portuguese families from the Azores who remembered their whaling traditions. They did use stone anchors to moor dead whales until they could be flensed and processed (Chace 1983). He showed me the correspondence and even a sketch of a stone anchor from the Azores. This seemed far more plausible an explanation. After all, no Chinese artifacts have ever been found in the vicinity. But then again, neither was there a scintilla of archaeological evidence for Portuguese shore whaling at the anchor stone site.

Our dive was interesting. My partner, Wayne Baldwin, showed me a concentration of perhaps 10 stones at a depth of 18 feet. They were mostly donuts but there was a large, particularly attractive pickle nearby. I looked at it closely, made a sketch, and deployed my marker float to document its position. The water was green and murky and swells from the Pacific moved us around on the bottom. My photos were terrible.

We assembled on the Body Glove boat for a post-dive debriefing. No new observations were made, and there were no new insights, but Arthur C. Clarke’s team got some footage for an episode of Mysterious World. After various interpretations were discussed and the need for further research universally acknowledged, Bob had a request. He had been approached by the new Palos Verdes Interpretive Center about recovering one of the stones for display at their new Point Vicente facility (Figure 4). I informed Bob that it could not happen without permission from the State Lands Commission. He handed me his cell phone and said, “call them and get the okay.” I called their lead attorney and some 30 minutes later my pickle was lifted from the seabed and was resting on The Disappearance.

In the decades since, I have wanted to see more active research on the Palos Verdes anchor stones. Perhaps a time will come when remote sensing technology, like magnetometry and sidescan mapping, will bring new understanding to human activities in the cove. State Parks has begun studying other Portuguese shore whaling stations at Pigeon Point and Point Lobos, so I am hoping some stone anchors might be revealed in those anchorages. On my recent visit to Palos Verdes, I visited my favorite pickle. Is it an artifact? Was it part of an ancient Chinese fleet, or is it a modest fishing weight? Or perhaps, was it part of a mooring system for whales harvested offshore by Azorian Portuguese?

References

California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program Activities

Karen Lacy and Mike DeGiovine, CASSP Coordinators
Beth and Chris Padon, Partners for Archaeological Site Stewardship

[This report is an excerpt from the 2019 CASSP Annual Report; the complete annual report may be viewed on the CASSP website, www.cassp.org.]

CASSP Highlights for 2019

The most important parts of CASSP are the achievements of the volunteer site stewards, who work all across the state. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and skills are making a real difference, and their efforts keep growing. Over the past year, we received reports from site stewards who documented more than 4,000 volunteer hours, a total value of donated time greater than $100,000. Thanks to all!

On January 5, 2019, CASSP joined Partners for Archaeological Site Stewardship, Friends of Cedar Mesa, and Nevada Site Stewardship at the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) ArchaeoCon. This event was open to the public during the AIA Annual Meeting in San Diego. Karen Lacy, CASSP coordinator, distributed flyers about the volunteer training program in California. She collected contact information for more than 30 interested people and talked to another 25. Site steward Ed Fox also participated at the CASSP table and enthusiastically talked about his experiences in visiting and protecting archaeological sites on public lands. Ed has volunteered with Erik Zaborsky at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Central Coast Field Office.

At the 2019 SCA Annual Meeting in Sacramento, CASSP held a poster session on Saturday afternoon, March 9. We were very pleased that over 40 people attended the session and had the opportunity to talk with CASSP organizers, archaeologists, and site stewards. State Parks archaeologist Brian Walsh and site steward Jan Bales presented a poster for the Northern Butte District of California State Parks, which showed their site stewardship activities around Lake Oroville for the past year.

A big thank you to Joan Schneider for bringing Astrid and Samuel Webb’s poster that highlighted their volunteer efforts at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Webbs are volunteer site stewards with archaeologist Robin Connors. They were also honored at the 2019 SCA Annual Meeting, receiving the Helen C. Smith Award for Individual Avocationalist Achievement. Congratulations, Astrid and Samuel, for your volunteer archaeological work over these many years.

Ed Fox presented a poster titled “A Day in December, 2018.” Ed travels about 200 miles round trip to his sites in the BLM Central Coast Field Office, and hikes about five miles, a commitment that inspires us all. CASSP coordinators Karen Lacy and Mike DeGiovine presented a poster, “What It Means To Be a Site Steward,” showing site stewards’ experiences in visiting their sites and what they learn, and about their contributions to protecting archaeological sites.

CASSP organizers Beth and Chris Padon presented a poster that traced the contributions of California State Parks to site stewardship. Stewards volunteer at many State Parks across California — the
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Angeles District (with Barbara Tejada); Monterey District (with Rae Schwaderer); Northern Buttes District (with Brian Walsh); Colorado Desert District (with Robin Connors); and State Vehicle Recreation Areas of Carnegie, Hollister, and Ocotillo Wells (with Jay Baker). Thanks to everyone who stopped by the CASSP poster session. We also thank the agency archaeologists for their involvement with these volunteers.

Many people stopped by the CASSP table in the book room of the 2019 SCA Annual Meeting. We thank Codifi Paperless Solutions and Michael Ashley for sponsoring the table. CASSP Coordinators Karen Lacy and Mike DeGiovine talked with more than 100 people about site stewardship and future volunteer training workshops, and 75 people signed up for further information.

In April 2019, CASSP celebrated its 20th birthday. The first workshop was held in 1999 at the BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, and the 115th workshop was held in 2019 at the BLM Ukiah Field Office. We congratulate all participants, agency archaeologists, and site stewards for their continued efforts to help protect archaeological and historical resources, part of our shared past.

Plans for 2020

We are pleased to announce that Lassen National Forest and the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office will host the next CASSP workshop. These agencies share an office building in Susanville, California. Planning for this volunteer training is underway for the fall. In a month or two, look for further details on the CASSP website (www.cassp.org).

CASSP had planned to participate in the 2020 SCA Annual Meeting in Riverside in March, but this year’s conference was postponed because of the public health concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than meeting in person in March 2020, we distributed the CASSP Annual Report by e-mail and on our website to volunteers, archaeologists, and interested public on Saturday, March 14. Please send your comments about the program to Karen or Mike at klacy@cassp.org or mdegiovine@cassp.org. Let us know how you think CASSP is doing and what it needs to do for future volunteer workshops. We hope everyone is and stays well!
Ruins Versus Derelicts in Archaeology
Douglas Mengers, PanGIS

The ruin is a thing of wonder and romantic grandeur; it inspires poetry, whereas the derelict seems to cry out for burial or demolition. It is the difference between a majestic crumbling beauty and an eyesore, a hazard, or a nuisance. . . . For some of us, a lofty ruin does nothing; we are for the ramshackle and the derelict every time.


Many archaeologists become interested in fieldwork after seeing images of the famous ruins of ancient civilizations — the temples of Greece or Rome, the pyramids of Egypt or Mexico. But the work of a real-life archaeologist, especially in southern California, is much different. There are no pyramids or Parthenons in the Mojave Desert, no castles in the Cuyamaca Mountains. Instead, we are more likely to find derelicts such as graffitied tanks of an abandoned service station in the Arizona high desert, a dilapidated house and trailer on the shore of the Salton Sea, a deserted ranch in the Palo Verde Valley, a barely upright shack in Rainbow. In the West, many of these types of ruins reside away from the cities, where sprawl has yet to reach or redevelopment to reconquer.

But archaeologists can learn much from these structures, things too pedestrian to have been written down or important only to the occupants. Construction methods and materials can inform us of settlement patterns and trade networks. We are able to directly see the results of environmental challenges, and often the consequent responses and failures. We may even learn from the graffiti added later, by others who saw a unique canvas on which to leave their mark. While most archaeologists will still be awed by the grandeur of classical ruins, most of us have an outsized appreciation for the ramshackle and the derelict as well.

Clockwise from top left: abandoned and graffitied water tanks, Gray Mountain, Arizona; abandoned house/trailer, Salton Sea Beach, California; abandoned ranch in Palo Verde Valley, near Ripley, California; abandoned shack in Rainbow, California. Photos courtesy of Doug Mengers.
SCA California Archaeology Posters Shine in 2019 and 2020
Rebecca Allen, Immediate Past President

CAHUILLA ARTIST MANUEL MONGUIA DESIGNED THE SCA’S 2020 CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY
Month poster, *Archaeology into the Future*. I asked Manuel to create something that would help
members and the public envision the future, and his image of the arrowhead, trowel, and rattle
on the basket, along with the integration of the cosmos in his beautiful artwork knocked it out of the
park! Manuel was planning to have an artist’s booth at the SCA book room, and I am saddened for us all
that we did not have the opportunity to see his display. If you are interested in contacting him about
this artwork, or commissioning other work, please contact him at manuelmonguaia88@gmail.com.

We are also trying to figure out how to distribute the posters. Please keep checking the SCA website for
more information. They will also be distributed at the Data Sharing Meetings this fall, assuming that
these meetings are able to go forward. Keep your fingers crossed!

The SCA’s 2019 poster featuring *Women in Archaeology* was awarded second place for the SAA’s State
Archaeology Celebration Poster Contest ([https://www.saa.org/education-outreach/public-outreach/
state-archaeology-celebrations/poster-contest-winners](https://www.saa.org/education-outreach/public-outreach/state-archaeology-celebrations/poster-contest-winners)). In 2018, we placed third, so if all SCA-SAA
members vote for the 2020 poster, we will have a three-peat! Adrianna Allen designed the 2019 poster
and did the graphic design on the 2020 poster that featured Manuel’s artwork. Please see her website
at [https://www.photonillustration.com](https://www.photonillustration.com) if you would like to contact her for illustration assistance.

Both the 2019 and 2020 California Archaeology Month posters are featured on the cover of this issue.
To order these posters, go to [https://scahome.org/archaeology-month/order-archaeology-month-posters](https://scahome.org/archaeology-month/order-archaeology-month-posters).

From the Anza Borrego Foundation: The Begole Archaeological Research Grant

Grant Opportunity! The Begole Archaeological Research Grant (BARG) is designed to support
scientific archaeological research in the Colorado Desert District of California State Parks, and in
other areas of the California and Baja California desert regions. There are no restrictions on the
topics of the research proposals, as long as they are archaeological in scope. Two grants of up to
$5,000 each are awarded annually. The grant is open to registered undergraduates or graduate
students, faculty and/or titled researchers at academic institutions, staff of federal or state agencies,
or independent scholars. So please share this information with your colleagues and students!
Proposals are due June 30, 2020. To learn more about the application process or to download an
application, please visit the Anza Borrego Foundation website at [www.theabf.org/research-grants](http://www.theabf.org/research-grants).