



# SDCAS Newsletter

January/February 2020

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Volume 48, Number 1

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.

## Calendar

*Support your Society! Items in boxes are SDCAS-organized or sponsored events*

**January 17 (11:30a.m.-1 p.m.) Liberty Station**  
*Association of Women in Water, Energy and Environment (AWWEEE) Event*  
 See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

**January 28 (7:30 p.m.) Los Peñasquitos**  
 SDCAS Fourth Tuesday Meeting  
*"Space, 'The Final Frontier': How Anthropologists Approach the Study of Human Space Exploration"*  
 See announcement inside (Pg. 5)

**February 1 -- Cuyamaca College**  
*6th Annual Cuyamaca College Powwow*  
 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway – Free admission and parking in student lots. More Info: [www.facebook.com/nasa.cuyamaca](http://www.facebook.com/nasa.cuyamaca)

**February 8 (11 a.m.) San Diego Archaeological Center**  
*Presentation: Shrouded Heritage - Island of the Blue Dolphins*  
 See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

**February 25 (7:30 p.m.) Los Peñasquitos**  
 SDCAS Fourth Tuesday Meeting  
*"La Rumarosa Rock Art Along the Border"*  
 See announcement inside (Pg. 5)

**February 29-March 1—Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**  
*Archaeology Weekend*  
 See announcement inside (Pg. 3)

See Members' News Corner inside (Pg. 3) for more Events!

## President's Message

By Kris Reinicke

Welcome my fellow SDCAS members to a new decade. 2020 will be another wonderful year for our organization. Firstly, I would like to thank our out-going President, Lauren Downs, who served dedicatedly for two years in the position. Lauren showed a great example of leadership, stepping in for a second term when the organization needed her. She inspires me, and I strive to continue in her example this year as President. My goal this year for the organization is to increase  
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## SDCAS Board of Directors

SDCAS Office Phone: 858-538-0935

Email: [info@sdcas.org](mailto:info@sdcas.org)

### ELECTED POSITIONS:

#### President

Kris Reinicke email: [kreinicke@pangis.com](mailto:kreinicke@pangis.com)

#### President Elect

Rachel Bilchak email: [rbilchak@pangis.com](mailto:rbilchak@pangis.com)

#### First Vice President (Programs)

Natalie Brodie  
760-219-0103 (w) email: [Natalie.brodie@lsa.net](mailto:Natalie.brodie@lsa.net)

#### Second Vice President (Field Trips/Research)

Shannon Foglia email: [shannerick@gmail.com](mailto:shannerick@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Phill Bosque email: [PBosque@sdgecontractor.com](mailto:PBosque@sdgecontractor.com)

#### Treasurer

Mary Robbins-Wade email: [maryrw@helixepi.com](mailto:maryrw@helixepi.com)

### APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

#### Environmental Review

Jim Royle email: [jwroyle@att.net](mailto:jwroyle@att.net)

#### Membership

Christine Lambert email: [cmlambert@petra-rm.com](mailto:cmlambert@petra-rm.com)  
[Membership@sdcas.org](mailto:Membership@sdcas.org)

#### Youth and Community Outreach

Erica Esquer email: [arrow.eric@gmail.com](mailto:arrow.eric@gmail.com)

#### Newsletter Editor

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619-221-7051 (w) see Editor's Message for address

#### Hospitality

Alexia Landa email: [alexia.landa27@gmail.com](mailto:alexia.landa27@gmail.com)

#### Publications (Journal)

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#### Sales

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#### Webmaster

Shannon Foglia email: [shannerick@gmail.com](mailto:shannerick@gmail.com)

#### Climate Change

Sandra Pentney email: [spentney@nwbenvironmental.com](mailto:spentney@nwbenvironmental.com)

#### Student Liaison

VACANT

#### Social Media Coordinator

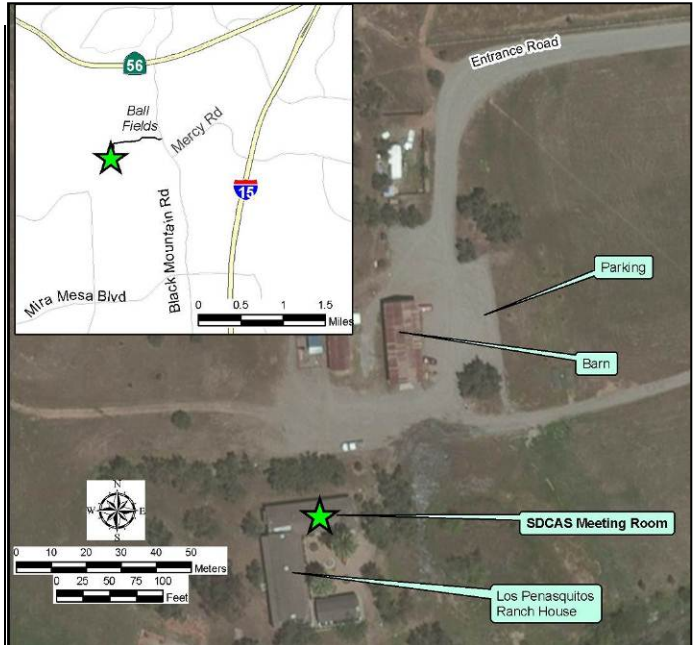
Rachel Droessler email: [rachel.droessler@icf.com](mailto:rachel.droessler@icf.com)

#### Art Show Committee

Joanna Collier email: [Joanna.Collier@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Joanna.Collier@parks.ca.gov)

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**MEETING INFO:** The SDCAS Office is located at Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. During the Fall, Winter, and Spring, Monthly Speaker meetings are held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month except December. During the Summer months General Meetings are held on Saturday evenings, in the courtyard at the Ranch House. See pg. 5 for details of upcoming meetings.



Directions to Los Peñasquitos Ranch House: From I-15 take Mercy Rd. west, turn right (north) onto Black Mountain Rd. and then take the first left (Canyonside Park Driveway) into Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Follow the road all the way to the back (past Canyonside Community Park ball fields and through the partially closed gate), and park either in the small parking area by the barn or the larger parking area in the field to the east of the barn.

If you put "Los Peñasquitos Ranch House" into Google Maps, it can also give you specific directions.

Board Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the offices of California State Parks' Southern Service Center in Liberty Station (Barracks 26), 2797 Truxtun Rd., San Diego, CA 92106.

**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 New Year everyone! I hope that you all had wonderful holidays and that 2020 will be a great year for everybody!

If you're still trying to come up with New Year's resolutions – how about one to become more involved in SDCAS? We are a volunteer-run society, so any help is much appreciated and welcomed! We're still looking for a Student Liaison Committee Chair, but if any of the Board Committees sound interesting to you, please contact any board member and let us know. Most of our committees are committees of one, so there is certainly room to help out. But if committees aren't your thing, there are other ways to become more involved in the society – helping at an event/meeting, writing/submitting an article for the newsletter, or even just taking some photos of SDCAS events, other archaeology related events, or things of archaeological/historical interest, and sending them to us!

**SUBMISSIONS:** Please send all submissions to the email/address below. Emailed digital documents are preferred. Any hard-copy item you wish returned must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The deadline for the next issue is **February 28**. Please send all items to: [Marla.Mealey@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Marla.Mealey@parks.ca.gov) or to Marla Mealey c/o California State Parks, Southern Service Center, 2797 Truxtun Rd., San Diego, CA 92106.

## Members' News Corner

### Association of Women in Water, Energy and Environment (AWWEEE) Event

The Association of Women in Water, Energy and Environment will host a panel discussion on January 17, 2020 at 11:30 am to 1 pm with San Diego elected officials and discuss their career paths to their current leadership positions. The panel will include San Diego City Council President, Georgette Gómez and Councilmembers Barbara Bry, Jennifer Campbell and Vivian Moreno for this special Path to Power event moderated by San Diego County Water Authority's General Manager, Sandy Kerl. The event will be at the San Diego County Water Authority, 4677 Overland Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. You must register to attend and lunch is provided. Find out more here: <https://awwee.org/january-17-sd-path-to-power/>

AWWEEE promotes the success of woman in water, energy, and environmental fields. They offer educational events, mentoring, and networking opportunities. AWWEE will be offering a special discount code for SDCAS members that would like to attend. To receive the discount code, please email [info@sdcas.org](mailto:info@sdcas.org) and put AWWEE in the email title.

### Archaeology Weekend

Presented by the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (ABDSP).

This annual event celebrates Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's rich cultural resources and will be held at the ABDSP Visitor Center and the Begole Archaeology Research Center (BARC) in Borrego Springs, CA (Parking Fee = \$10). Archaeology Weekend is a family-oriented event designed to promote, protect and preserve the vast cultural resources of the beautiful and vast Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2020

*[Come visit SDCAS's table at this event!]*

Presentations by Begole Grant Recipients:

- Obsidian Sourcing, Protein Residue analysis for Cuyamaca Ovals
- Research on the Harkleroad Native American Ceramic Vessel Collection, San Diego Museum of Man
- Chronological Placement of Circular Rock Features and Rock Cairn Sites Using OSL Dating Method
- Aerial Photo Documentation of Archaeological Features Using Quadcopter Drone-Mounted Camera

Pottery Making Demonstration & Kids Activities

FUNdraiser/Silent Auction

- Every item has a Buy Now price!

Guided tours of the Begole Archaeology Research Center

Demonstration

- Uses of Native Plants for Food, Medicine and Construction by Kumeyaay Tribes

Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2020:

Field Trips:

- Yaqui Pass Hunting Blinds
- Mine Wash Prehistoric Village

Visit: <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/archaeology-weekend/> for a complete schedule of events.

### Presentation: Shrouded Heritage - Island of the Blue Dolphins

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 11:00 AM at the San Diego Archaeological Center (16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027)

The San Diego Archaeological Center announces Shrouded Heritage: Island of the Blue Dolphins, presented by Tom Holm. This lecture is included with paid \$2 museum admission; members are free. Please register at <https://sandiegoarchaeology.org/shrouded-heritage/>

Ten years ago, Thomas Holm read Scott O'Dell's novel Island of the Blue Dolphins with his fourth-grade daughter. That experience led to him to research California's indigenous mariners, including the "Nicoleño" of San Nicolas Island, which is the real setting of O'Dell's book. That ten year journey, from elementary school field trip, to claims of improprieties, to the enactment of new preservation laws, will be addressed by Holm as he presents his new book entitled, Shrouded Heritage: Island of the Blue Dolphins.

Holm sets out to learn the truth about California's ancient island-dwelling People, especially the real-life woman fictionalized as Karana in Scott O'Dell's beloved novel Island of the Blue Dolphins. That endearing soul became the last of her kind after witnessing the bloody massacre of her tribe. She then suffered 18 years of isolation on her cold and merciless island. This investigation of her life and the legacy of her People inadvertently triggers a battle among academics and Indigenous Peoples with world-wide implications. Woven together within this saga are data from church records, court papers, ship logs, and dozens of other historic and "scientific" documents. Likewise, and with equal reverence, included are oral accounts, traditional songs, and religious beliefs of tribal elders. This uniquely inclusive approach provides the source of new information about the real "Island of the Blue Dolphins" and its remarkable heritage. Also included in Holm's presentation will be exclusive photos of unique artifacts, archeological excavations and extraordinary scenery from San Nicolas Island.

Thomas Holm is an author, archaeological researcher, environmental activist, and long-distance paddler. His research has focused on the ancient maritime cultures of the Southern California Bight, including those of the Channel Islands. He teaches Marine Archaeology and Preservation at California State University, San Marcos and has made numerous solo passages on a stand up paddleboard from the mainland to the Channel Islands to research early oceanic trade routes.

Signed copies of Holm's book will be available for purchase and proceeds will help fund preservation programs on the Channel Islands.

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**SDCAS Website: [www.sdcas.org](http://www.sdcas.org)**

<https://www.facebook.com/sdcas>

<https://www.instagram.com/sdcarchsociety/?hl=en>

## Meet Your New Board Members

### Rachel Bilchak – President Elect

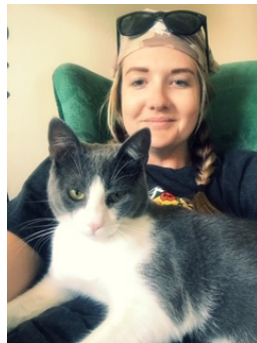
Rachel Bilchak graduated from UCSD with a B.A. in Anthropology with a specialization in Archaeology and a B.S. in Public Health. While at UCSD she studied abroad in Peru and received the Warren Undergraduate Research Scholarship as well as the Robert Mc. Adams Award for Excellence in Archaeological Anthropology for 2017.



“Being an archaeologist has not only helped me gain more knowledge of the past but it has helped me feel more connected to the San Diego community as a whole. This year I was lucky enough to attend the Beach Clean Up, a few lectures up at the Archaeology Center, the Art & Archaeology Event, and Arch in the Park! I’m looking forward to all the great things to come in 2020 and onward.”

### Christine Lambert - Membership Committee Chair

I’m happy to join some of San Diego’s finest archaeologists on the SDCAS board this year! It has been a privilege working in cultural resource management (CRM) for over 7 years in San Diego, CA where I was born and raised. In 2011, I received my undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) in physical anthropology. Since then, I have provided archaeological services on a variety of projects for ASM Affiliates, HDR, and Petra Resource Management throughout California. I entered a graduate program in biological anthropology at UC San Diego in 2013, but ultimately did not earn a degree. Still, my time there was well spent – I gained teaching experience in anthropology and writing, and conducted research using stable isotope analysis. I’m pleased to begin the next decade with a renewed enthusiasm for archaeology, and I can’t wait to learn more about San Diego’s history with this community.



### Erica Esquer – Youth and Community Outreach Committee Chair

After moving to San Diego in 2008 from Columbus, Ohio, it was at San Diego City College where Erica found her passion for California Archaeology. She went on to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from San Diego State University. While attending college she started her career as an archaeologist at California State



Parks and later found work with several CRM companies. When working for State Parks she sparked an interest in GIS mapping and she now works as a GIS specialist for PanGIS, Inc. Erica’s interests include prehistoric lithic technologies, coastal archaeology, and keeping up with the latest developments in GIS.

**For the other SDCAS Board members, their bios can be found in the Newsletter issues listed below. Most of these can be found on SDCAS’s website:**

<https://sdcas.org/publications/>

- President: Kris Reinicke (J/F 2019)
- First Vice President: Natalie Brodie (J/F 2014)
- Second Vice President/Webmaster: Shannon Foglia (J/A 2015)
- Treasurer: Mary Robbins-Wade (J/F 2017)
- Secretary: Phill Bosque (J/A 2019)
- Environmental Review: James Royle (N/D 2002)
- Climate Change: Sandra Pentney (J/F 2013)
- Art Show: Joanna Collier (J/F 2013)
- Journal Publications: Tim Gross (J/F 2004)
- Newsletter: Marla Mealey (M/J 2002)
- Sales: Pearl George (J/F 2014)
- Social Media: Rachel Droessler (M/A 2017)

## SDCAS Fieldtrip to the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum

Story and photos by Natalie Brodie



On November 16, 2019, members and friends of the San Diego County Archaeological Society attended the centennial celebration for the San Diego and Arizona Railway at the

Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in Campo. The San Diego and Arizona Railway extended over 140 miles between El Centro and San Diego, with a 44-mile segment

through Mexico via Tecate and Tijuana. Notable segments of the “impossible railway” include the myriad tunnels through Mexico and the trestle through Carrizo Gorge. Events of the day included a special 1-hour train ride, a reenactment of the golden



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## Upcoming SDCAS Meetings

*SDCAS Monthly Meetings are free and open to the public*

**January 28 (Fourth Tuesday) 7:30 p.m.  
Los Peñasquitos (see page 2 for directions)**

**Title:** *Space, "The Final Frontier": How Anthropologists Approach the Study of Human Space Exploration*  
**Presenter:** Laura T. González

Space – Roddenberry famously called it the “final frontier.” The 2020s will be a decade in which humans increasingly lay claim to places previously untouched and uninhabited by our species. As such, anthropologists have much to say about cultural attitudes and language of colonization, what our bodies need to be successful for life on the frontier, and what artifacts are worth preserving during our conquest. This talk gives a four-fields overview of some of the important ways archaeologists, and cultural, linguistic, and biological anthropologists are approaching the study of human space exploration.

Laura T. González is professor of anthropology at San Diego Miramar College. She was the recipient of the Oxford University Press/American Anthropological Association Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Anthropology Teaching in 2018. She has published two textbooks, *Through the Lens of Anthropology* (2nd ed. 2018), with co-author Robert J. (Bob) Muckle, and *Through the Lens of Cultural Anthropology* (2019) with University of Toronto Press.

**February 25 (Fourth Tuesday) 7:30 p.m.  
Los Peñasquitos (see page 2 for directions)**

**Title:** *La Rumarosa Rock Art Along the Border*  
**Presenter:** Don Liponi

This presentation will describe new patterns in the rock art of the most geographically dominant rock art style of the Borderlands wilderness. This rock art has at least three origins - trance imagery, archaeoastronomy, in particular a number of verified solstice sites, and cosmology/animism or ceremony. In this talk we will show many breathtaking images of trance imagery in alignment with the work of Lewis-Williams, Thomas Dowson, Jean Clottes and David Whitley. Not every image fits into trance and some of the presentation will show images that defy categorization. Others appear to be related to ceremony and animism. My presentation attitude is focused, but casual, and I hope we can have an interactive meeting. I would be happy to sign our recent coffee table book [25\$] for you which supports our ongoing research.

Dr. Don Liponi [chemistry] has studied rock art for the past 50 years under the tutorage of such legendary teachers as Bob Begole, Michael Kelsey and Fran Barnes. Don lamented around 10 years ago: “because I could only visit Utah or Arizona on vacations, out of desperation I realized that there was a huge vacuum in Kumeyaay-Patayan archaeology and rock art right in my own neighborhood.” In particular Southern California, Southwestern Arizona and northern Baja.” Don proceeded to organize a group of more than 50 professionals, Native Americans and avocationalists to recover the rock art of these “lost cultures”. The outcome has been elaborated in two books highlighting these images and textural foundation for these people.

## SDCAS Fieldtrip to the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum

(Continued from page 4)

spike ceremony, and demonstrations of historical trains and equipment. See the photos (above and below). If this sounds like an event you would have liked, consider becoming a member of SDCAS and you'll be kept up to date on the fun (and educational) outings we have planned for next year!



## JDRF Walk Table - SDCAS

By Kris Reinicke

SDCAS's Youth and Community Outreach Committee was out at the 2019 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) annual walk in Balboa Park on Saturday, November 9th. The walk takes place every year in support of finding a cure for type 1 diabetes. The event, held by the nonprofit JDRF, brings together tens of thousands of people with type 1 diabetes, family members, friends and other supporters. SDCAS has had a table for the last few years at the event in a wonderful spot in the Kids' Zone where we do outreach to families. So many folks were excited to see our table and said their kids love archaeology and old things! Youth and Community Outreach Chair Erica Esquer and President Kris Reinicke guided kids from ages 2 to 12 in archaeology themed activities such as a dig box, a matching game and sharing artifacts from a teaching collection that included manos, arrow points, pottery, and small vertebrate bones. The kids were especially interested in the arrow points or arrowheads. We hope to continue tabling the JDRF event and finding similar family events to share our love of archaeology at!



Figure 1, Youth and Community Chair Erica Esquer (right) informing a girl about the artifacts.

## Membership Report

A very warm welcome to new SDCAS members **Elizabeth Blow** and **Tanya Botta**! We are always excited to have new members and we hope to see you at an upcoming meeting or event! SDCAS membership continues to grow and we are proud to welcome new members every month. Thanks to everyone who has renewed their memberships for 2020. If you have yet to renew, please feel free to reach out to [membership@sdcas.org](mailto:membership@sdcas.org), renew online at [www.sdcas.org](http://www.sdcas.org), or send dues via mail at P.O. Box 81106 San Diego, CA 92138. Standard annual renewals are \$30, while student renewals continue to be \$15.

Advantages of membership include fun, educational and archaeology-focused field trips that are free for members, along with this wonderful, informational newsletter! Membership fees also help to fund free activities for the public, such as Arch in the Park. Please be sure to renew by January 31, 2020 to keep up to date with the newsletter and

event invitations. We could not perform our mission of public outreach for cultural resources without your help and support!

Membership Chair: Christine Lambert

Email: [membership@sdcas.org](mailto:membership@sdcas.org)

## President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

member participation in the committees. You do not need to be on the board to get involved in the planning of our events and help promote public understanding and appreciation of archaeology. I encourage members to think about their special skills and how they can apply them in helping SDCAS flourish. Please attend a board meeting and tell us what committee you want to be a part of.

This year's 22nd annual Arch in the Park will be on Saturday, October 17th at the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House. Our first speaker of the year will be Laura Tubelle de González, anthropology instructor from San Diego Miramar College, to speak to us about anthropology... at the Ranch House on Saturday, January 28th [see pg. 5].

Now to introduce our board for 2020: Rachel Bilchak is the new President-elect and she will be leading the planning effort for Arch in the Park along with the assistance of our new Youth and Community Chair Erica Esquer. First Vice President for Programs will be veteran board member Natalie Brodie. Second Vice President for Outings will be veteran board member Shannon Foglia, who wears two hats serving as Webmaster as well. Our Secretary will be Phill Bosque, who stepped in mid-last year when we needed him and is doing such a wonderful job taking our minutes at the board meetings. Mary Robbins-Wade will be serving her last year as Treasurer, keeping our finances in order; thank you Mary! We have a new Membership Chair, Christine Lambert, who comes to us with a lot of experience organizing databases, events and people; I really appreciate her energy and willingness to help.

We have many other returning board members who chair our committees. With everyone's busy schedules these days, we appreciate their investment of time and energy to fill the expectations. Jim Royle will continue on as Environmental Review Chair; Tim Gross will continue as Journal Publications Chair; Marla Mealey will continue producing our amazing, bi-monthly newsletter; Alexia Landa will continue as Hospitality Chair; Joanna Collier will continue as Art Show Chair, Pearl George will continue as Sales Chair extraordinaire; Sandra Pentney will continue as Climate Change Project Liaison; Rachel Droessler will continue as Social Media Chair. We have an opening for Student Liaison chair. If it is your special talent to reach out to youth and students, sharing your love for our field, please step up to fill the position.

I am fairly new to the organization (this is just my second year!) I hope to meet many of you at our monthly lectures or during one of our outings. I wish everyone a prosperous New Year!

## Member's News Corner

(Continued from page 3)

### San Diego Archaeological Center Presents – Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest

Friday, March 27, 2020 at 7pm at the San Diego Archaeological Center (16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027). Presented by Anne Morgan. Admission is free and open to the public. Please register at <https://sandiegoarchaeology.org/geoglyphs/>

The deserts of the American southwest contain one of the largest concentrations of geoglyphs outside of Peru's Nazca Lines. These ancient Native American works of earthen art can be up to hundreds of feet long, and yet are often invisible until viewed from above. Before drones, GPS, or Google Maps, photographer Harry Casey began a unique archaeology project. Armed with nothing more than topographic maps, 35mm film cameras, and his beloved Piper J3 Cub aircraft, Casey spent thirty-five years documenting the region's geoglyphs before natural erosion and human intervention could destroy these fragile sites. A newly published book, *Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest: Earthen Art as Viewed from Above*, authored by Harry Casey and Anne Morgan, collects Casey's photographs into the first visual record of these beautiful and mysterious features. A book signing will take place after the lecture.

*Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest*, published by Sunbelt Publications, is the first book dedicated to the earthen art of the southwest deserts of the United States. Steven M. Freers, rock art researcher and co-author of *Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region* praises the book, "This definitive book is an elegant historical account of the relentless pursuit to document and comprehend one of humankind's great enigmas as expressed on desert surfaces. It is a gem, an essential addition to anyone's library where the mysteries of rock art holds special status."

The eldest of three sons born into a farming family east of Brawley, California, Harry Casey had always been interested in flying, photography, and desert archaeology. These interests led him to take classes from noted archaeologist and historian Jay von Werlhof at the Imperial Valley College in El Centro, California. After many years of flying and photographing, Casey donated his extensive collection of photographs and research to the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, where Anne Morgan was the Head Archivist/Curator. Anne met Harry and his wife, Meg Casey, and what began as an archival project on nearly 10,000 aerial images became a friendship and partnership as she helped edit Harry's original manuscript into a published book.

### SOHO Launches Digital Cultural Heritage Tours

By Marlena Krcelich, from the January/February 2020 *Our Heritage News* (Newsletter for Save Our Heritage Organisation [SOHO])

San Diego is and has always been a city full of diverse people from different places, cultures, and walks of life. From the indigenous Kumeyaay, to the Spanish Mission era, Mexican Pueblo, and American city, San Diego abounds with a rich past that reflects the inclusivity and distinctiveness still present today.

As an organization that preserves, protects, and interprets our county's architectural and cultural heritage, SOHO presents San Diego Cultural Heritage Tours, a new digital series. Each tour will feature a San Diego neighborhood, and use the built environment to highlight the important inhabitants and cultural backgrounds of each place. While taking these tours, you'll discover that the walls of buildings not only speak to an architectural style of a certain culture and time period, but also embody stories that combine

dozens of unique and diverse persons who lived within them.

Old Town San Diego, the first tour in our series, showcases the multicultural history of our oldest neighborhood. This walking tour will guide you through San Diego's historic areas by highlighting the earliest development of people, businesses, schools, and more. You'll encounter tales of brave women, dedicated businessmen, multi-cultural families and the architecture they occupied every day. Begin your tour here: <http://www.sohosandiego.org/tours/index tours.htm>

We hope these tours will remind you of the famed stories of San Diego's past, and enlighten you about some of our hidden cultural gems. Stayed tuned for future releases of tours of neighborhoods you want to know more about, or have always been excited to explore.

### National Park Service's 2020 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service's 2020 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled *Current Archeological Prospection Advances for Non-destructive Investigations of the Buxton Townsite, Iowa*, will be held May 18-22, 2020, at the Buxton Townsite in Monroe County, Iowa.

Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center and National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the Pioneer Cemetery Association.

This will be the thirtieth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this Nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field.

Lodging will be at the Indian Hills Inn & RV Park in Albia, Iowa. The cost for the lodging is \$79.00 per night plus tax.

The lectures will be at a meeting room at the Indian Hills Inn. The field exercises will take place at the Buxton Townsite in Bluff Creek Township in northern Monroe County.

Buxton was a coal mining camp in south central Iowa. The Consolidated Coal Company, a subsidiary of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company, established the town in 1900 and it lasted until approximately 1924. The community was racially integrated consisting of European immigrants and a majority population of African Americans recruited from southern states.

There is a registration charge of \$475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at: <http://www.nps.gov/mwac/>

Payment will be made by credit card through the Friends of NCPTT at: <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/training-conference-events/>

For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; telephone: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: [steve\\_de\\_vore@nps.gov](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov)

## Arch-Nology

(where ARCHaeology and techNOLOGY intersect)

### Prehistoric Stone Monument in Scotland May Have Been Intentionally Built to Attract Lightning

By George Dvorsky, 12/30/2019

Researchers working in the Outer Hebrides island chain off the west coast of Scotland have uncovered evidence of a previously unknown rock monument located within a stone's throw of the iconic Calanais Standing Stones.

The newly discovered monument featured standing stones that were arranged in a circular pattern around a spot bearing the distinctive traces of a powerful lightning strike. Intriguingly, the new research indicates that the structure itself may have been deliberately built to attract lightning.

The discovery, made by researchers from the Calanais Virtual Reconstruction Project, suggests the stone monuments were somehow connected to, and possibly inspired by, powerful forces of nature. Lightning, it would appear, made quite the impression on the Neolithic people who lived at the time. Details of the discovery were recently published to the science journal *Remote Sensing*.

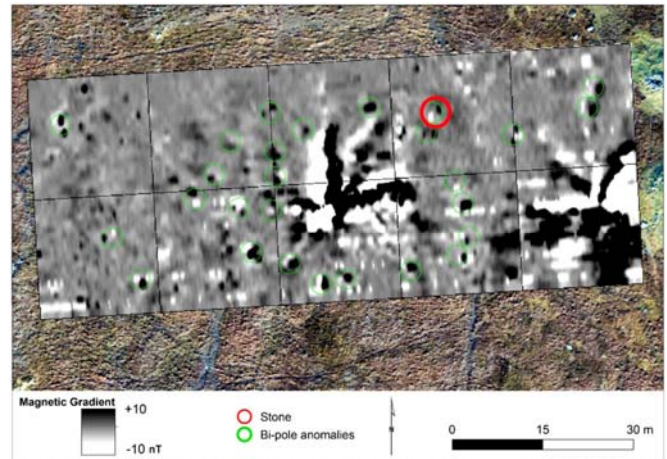
Archaeologist Richard Bates from the University of St. Andrews and his colleagues were looking for evidence of unknown rock circles buried beneath the ground near the Standing Stones of Calanais—a megalithic structure built some 5,000 years ago during the Neolithic period—on the Isle of Lewis. More than a dozen spots had previously been flagged as possible locations of “satellite circles” to the main monument.

These sites are now obscured by peat bogs that cover significant portions of the area. The researchers used multiple non-invasive remote sensing techniques, such as electromagnetic surface mapping and electrical resistivity tomography, to explore what was under the bogs. They uncovered evidence of a single standing stone at Calanais Site XI, or Airigh na Beinne Bige, which is located on a hill that overlooks the Calanais Great Circle. Geophysical analysis of the site shows that the lone stone was once part of a circle of standing stones.

What's more, the scans revealed a rather large star-shaped “magnetic anomaly” at the center of this circle, which was dated to around 4,000 years ago. This magnetic anomaly was formed by either a single, large lightning strike or a series of small strikes hitting the same spot, according to the new research.

“This evidence is rare because lightning strikes are conducted along the top ‘skin’ of the Earth’s surface,” Tim Raub, a co-author of the new study and a researcher from the University of St. Andrews, said in a press release. “The clarity of the strike suggests we are looking at events before the peat enveloped the site, more than 3,000 years ago.”

The researchers could not determine if the lightning strike (or strikes as the case may be) happened before or after the stone circle had been constructed.



*The magnetic anomaly, or magnetic gradient, appears as a large star-shaped structure. The green circles show the previous locations of other standing stones, and the red circle shows the lone standing stone.*

*Image: C. R. Bates et al., 2019*

In the same press release, Bates, who led the project, said the evidence of a lightning strike at the center of this stone circle is “unlikely to be coincidental,” to which he added: “Whether the lightning at Site XI focused on a tree or rock which is no longer there, or the monument itself attracted strikes, is uncertain. However, this remarkable evidence suggests that the forces of nature could have been intimately linked with everyday life and beliefs of the early farming communities on the island.”

That the megalithic monument could have been deliberately used to attract lightning strikes is a fascinating possibility—one warranting future research and consideration.

“The construction of a stone circle, deliberately located in a dominant position above the Calanais monument complex, might enhance the chances of such events,” the authors wrote, adding that “the archaeological literature increasingly recognises the symbiotic role between culture and nature in the past and, if that were the case at Site XI, this survey demonstrates the benefit of exploring buried landscapes of the western Hebrides through careful use of different remote sensing techniques.”

Typically, the construction of megalithic sites such as the Calanais Standing Stones are attributed to the changing seasons and the position of the Sun, among other reasons. The new research is interesting in that lightning—a previously under-appreciated natural phenomenon in the development of prehistoric sites—may have played an important role as well. The authors recommend archaeologists who study similar structures should be on the lookout for similar “magnetic anomalies” as well.

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<https://gizmodo.com/prehistoric-stone-monument-in-scotland-may-have-been-in-1840726715>



## Scientists Reconstruct ‘Lola’ After Finding Her DNA in 5,700-Year-Old ‘Chewing Gum’

By George Dvorsky, 12/17/19 11:07AM

Scientists in Denmark have squeaked out an entire human genome from a prehistoric piece of “chewing gum.” Made from birch tar, the 5,700-year-old gum also contained evidence of diet and disease and is providing a remarkable snapshot of life during the early Neolithic.



Artist's reconstruction of “Lola.”  
Illustration: Tom Björklund

Lola was a Neolithic female who lived in Denmark some 5,700 years ago when the region was slowly transitioning from hunter-gathering to agriculture. She had blue eyes, dark hair, and dark skin and was closely related to foragers and farmers who came from continental Europe. Lola’s diet included duck and hazelnuts, and she may have suffered from gum disease and mononucleosis.

We know this about Lola despite the fact that her bodily remains are completely unknown to archaeologists, and, as this time period dates to prehistory, no written records exist about her life and the community she lived in. Incredibly, these rich details were gleaned from a single piece of birch pitch—a kind of ancient chewing gum that’s produced by heating birch bark.

The birch pitch, found at the Syltholm site in southern Denmark, was so well preserved that it yielded an entire human genome. Previously, archaeologists have shown that it’s possible to extract bits and pieces of genetic information from birch pitch, but this is the first time that scientists have managed to pull out a whole human genome. What’s more, the researchers, led by Hannes Schroeder from the University of Copenhagen, also managed to extract nonhuman DNA from the gummy remnant, which provided evidence of Lola’s diet and the microorganisms inhabiting her mouth at the time she chewed on the birch pitch. Details of this work were published [Dec.17, 2019] in Nature Communications.

Birch pitch has been used by humans since the Middle Pleistocene. The sticky blackish-brown substance was primarily used as glue, but it likely served other purposes as well. Early humans probably chewed on the substance to restore its malleability prior to hafting stone tools, but they may have also done so just for the pleasure of it. The pitch could’ve been used for medicinal purposes, such as easing toothaches or other maladies, as a kind of toothbrush, or to suppress hunger.

The birch pitch was found sealed in mud, which contributed to its remarkable preservation. Theis Jensen, a co-author of the study and a postdoc at the University of Copenhagen, said the pitch’s hydrophobic qualities also contributed to the preservation.

“DNA from the environment would have a hard time penetrating the substrate,” explained Jensen in an email to Gizmodo. “In general, [birch pitch specimens] preserve very well—even in areas with very acidic soils.”

Jensen was surprised by the quality of the DNA pulled from the pitch, but he was equally amazed by the story embedded within. Lola, whose age could not be determined, had blue eyes, dark hair, and dark skin. Fascinatingly, her lineage was traced to mainland Europe and not central Scandinavia.

“Lola’s features were common amongst individuals of Western Hunter-Gatherers, who lived in central Europe at that time and beyond,” said Jensen.

As the authors noted in the study, dark skin has been documented before in other European hunter-gatherers, “suggesting that this [trait] was widespread in Mesolithic Europe and that the adaptive spread of light skin pigmentation in European populations only occurred later in prehistory.”

Lola was also lactose intolerant, an observation “which fits with the notion that lactase persistence in adults only evolved fairly recently in Europe, after the introduction of dairy farming with the Neolithic revolution,” wrote the authors in the study.

In addition to the human genome, the researchers were able to discern DNA belonging to plants and animals, namely hazelnuts and duck—likely the meal consumed by Lola prior to her chomping away on the birch pitch. These foods are suggestive of a hunter-gatherer diet. What’s more, the archaeologists didn’t find any evidence of domesticated foods at the Syltholm site, which came as a surprise given that it dates to the Early Neolithic and the establishment of agriculture. The new research, therefore, speaks to Denmark’s transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic.

“What is striking is that Lola was basically a hunter-gatherer living in the Neolithic,” Jensen told Gizmodo.

Jensen said the genetic data “also fits very well with finds from the site,” which suggests the “population to a large degree continued to hunt, gather, and fish during the Early Neolithic,” he explained. The switch to farming, therefore, was likely “a more ‘collaborative’ effort between the immigrating farmers and the hunter-gatherers already residing” in Denmark, said Jensen.

The microbial DNA extracted from the birch pitch allowed the researchers to reconstruct Lola’s oral microbiome. Though a sample of one, the results are potentially indicative of other Neolithic humans living in Lola’s community. The vast majority of microbes identified were harmless, but the researchers identified *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, a bacterium linked to gum disease, bacterial DNA associated with pneumonia, and the Epstein-Barr virus, which causes mononucleosis, also known as mono or glandular fever.

“We don’t know whether [these microbes] impacted her in any way,” said Jensen. “Most of the bacteria are commensal species, that under specific circumstances can turn pathogenic. But we don’t know if she had pneumonia or glandular fever the day she chewed the pitch.”

It’s pretty amazing what these scientists were able to get out of a single piece of ancient chewing gum. And indeed, the new research strongly suggests that archaeologists should be on the lookout for similar artifacts. Clues to our ancient past and our biology can be found in the most unexpected places.

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<https://gizmodo.com/scientists-reconstruct-lola-after-finding-her-dna-in-1840481633>

## 44,000-Year-Old Indonesian Cave Painting Is Rewriting The History Of Art

Merrit Kennedy; December 11, 2019  
Submitted by N. Brodie

Scientists say they have found the oldest known figurative painting, in a cave in Indonesia. And the stunning scene of a hunting party, painted some 44,000 years ago, is helping to rewrite the history of the origins of art.

Until recently, the long-held story was that humans started painting in caves in Europe. For example, art from the Chauvet Cave in France is dated as old as 37,000 years.

But several years ago, a group of scientists started dating cave paintings in Indonesia — and found that they are thousands of years older.

“They are at least 40,000 years old, which was a very, very surprising discovery,” says Adam Brumm, an archaeologist at Australia’s Griffith University. He and his colleagues used a technique called uranium-series analysis to determine the paintings’ age. The oldest figurative painting in those analyses was a striking image of a wild cow.

These works had been known for years by locals on the island of Sulawesi — but Brumm adds that “it was assumed they couldn’t be that old.”



The scene found in Indonesia shows, among other things, hunters confronting a wild buffalo with ropes and spears. Adam Brumm/Nature

Since that big reveal, Brumm’s team — which he led with archaeologists Maxime Aubert and Adhi Agus Oktaviana — has been searching for more art in these caves. In 2017, they found something breathtaking — the massive hunting scene, stretching across about 16 feet of a cave wall. And after testing it, they say it’s the oldest known figurative art attributed to early modern humans. They published their findings in the journal *Nature*.

The painting tells a complicated story. It depicts jungle buffaloes and wild pigs pursued by tiny hunters with spears and ropes.

“They appear to be human, but they seem to have some features or characteristics of animals,” Brumm says. One appears to have a birdlike head, and another has a tail. He says these part-human, part-animal figures might signal early religious beliefs, because they indicate that ancient humans could imagine things they had never seen.

“We can’t know if it has anything to do with spirituality, but at least we can say that those artists were capable of the sorts of conceptualizations that we need in order to believe in religion, to believe in the existence of the supernatural,” he says.

Brumm says discoveries in Asia have complicated what we know about when — and where — humans started to make figurative art. There are some older examples of humans making simpler markings, like zigzags or circles.

“I think the discoveries that have been emerging over the last few years is suggesting that our understanding of the human story, that key part of the human story, is still being revised as we speak and there could be some big changes in store,” he adds.

Genevieve von Petzinger, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Victoria, says the discoveries in her field are happening very quickly, thanks to newer technology such as the technique used to date the hunting scene. “I think the overall theme here really is that we’ve vastly underestimated the capacity of our ancestors,” she says.

She says the oldest cave paintings in Europe and Asia have common elements. And she thinks that even older paintings will eventually be found in the place where both groups originated from.

“Personally, I think that our ancestors already knew how to do art before they left Africa,” von Petzinger says.

While not everyone in the field agrees, and no figurative cave art in Africa has been dated older than the Indonesian works, Brumm says he has the same gut feeling.

But even as Indonesia is emerging as an important location for early art, the paintings are rapidly deteriorating and the scientists don’t know why. “It is such a huge and important part of the human story. Yet it’s literally crumbling away before our eyes,” Brumm says.

Brumm and his colleagues are trying to figure out the cause of the problem. He says one theory is that higher temperatures in the caves due to climate change are harming the art.

Brumm says the deterioration — in one case, by about an inch every two months — is making their work to survey these sites feel particularly urgent. “Who knows what other amazing cave art is out there at some site that can change our understanding of human evolution?”

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<https://www.npr.org/2019/12/11/786760790/44-000-year-old-indonesian-cave-painting-is-rewriting-the-history-of-art>

## Rock Art Destroyed at Australia’s Baloon Cave

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA—ABC Australia (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-08/ancient-rock-art-lost-after-plastic-walkway-explodes-in-bushfire/11848938>) reports that ancient rock art at eastern Australia’s Carnarvon National Park was destroyed in 2018 when a walkway made of recycled plastic exploded during a bushfire. “Unfortunately, that’s sort of like solidified petroleum, and if you have a hot fire underneath it, it melts and then it just explodes into a ball of flame and that’s exactly what happened,” said Paul Taçon of Griffith University. Pieces of rock sloughed off Baloon Cave’s walls, along with the artwork, which included ancient handprints and more recent images. Dale Harding, a member of the Baloon Cave working group, called the lost artwork a link between generations of Bidjara, Ghungalu, and Garingbal people. Taçon suggests

(Continued on page 11)

## Rock Art Destroyed...

(Continued from page 10)

that only steel, or concrete and steel, be used to construct walkways at Australia's cultural heritage sites. Government officials continue to review such structures.

*Photo: Experts say the ancient art in Baloon Cave cannot be restored. (Supplied: Selina Goodreid/Paul Tacon)*



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## 1,600-Year-Old Bone Pendants Discovered in Turkey

ÇANAKKALE, TURKEY—Two pendants carved from bone some 1,600 years ago have been unearthed in western Turkey at the site of a bone workshop near the agora in the ancient city of Assos, according to a Hürriyet Daily News report (<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/1-600-year-old-pendants-unearthed-in-assos-excavations-150435>). Nurettin Arslan of Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University said one of the pendants is human in shape, while the other resembles an animal. "These must be part of jewelries which people used as necklaces in the ancient period," Arslan explained.



*Photo: © 2020 Hürriyet Daily News*

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## Obituary

### Remembering Jan Bennett

By Jim Royle

We just recently learned of the passing of Janyce (Jan) Bennett nearly a year ago, on January 28, 2019. SDCAS Members and friends who attended SDCAS meetings and other Society events in the 1980s and 1990s will remember Jan as our Hospitality Chairperson for an amazing 19 years,

from 1981 through 1999. Jan loved to bake and bring us brownies and other goodies at each of our monthly meetings.

Jan also hosted a number of our Board meetings at her home in University City back in the days when we met at the homes of the Board members. And she also participated in many outings and events. Whether at the meetings or on an outing, Jan was always a happy presence who longtime members remember fondly.

Her Obituary (from:

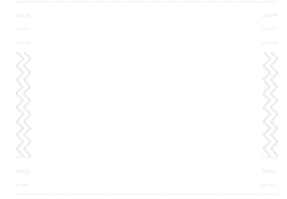
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/san-diego-ca/janyce-bennett-8144697/>):

Janyce Nadine Bennett (Jan) passed away on Monday, January 28, 2019 of natural causes. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Robert E. Bennett on July 1, 2018. She leaves behind their five children: Brooks, Holly, Peter, Scott and Chris. Additionally, she cherished her seven grandchildren: Hampton, Zachary, Casey, Carly, Samantha, Karla and Robert. The daughter of Myrtle and Earl William Wolter, Jan was born in Fairmont, Minnesota and spent her early years in Georgia and California. While living in Oakland, California and working for NAS Alameda, Jan met and fell in love with a Navy Aviator, Robert Bennett. They were engaged to be married on New Year's Eve, 1951. Mom said years later that Dad was going out on WestPac and "didn't want me running around while he was gone! He was shipping out and wanted me to wait for him." After accepting his proposal, they married on June 29, 1952 upon his return home. Mom was an avid collector, garage sale and estate sale provocateur. She collected teapots and dishes, amongst other items. She was notorious for finding things that could be re-purposed or given new life by Dad. She might have said, "Bob, can you rewire and refinish this old lamp I found by the side of the road." She was always so proud of Dad's ability to work his "magic" on old and forgotten treasures. As an avid gardener, her backyard was a plethora of beautiful flowers and vignettes. One of our favorite traditions was the annual Easter Egg hunt in the backyard. The perpetual trophy went to the proud winner each year and to this day reflects the names of the winners and participants like an "Easter timeline" for thirty years! Always involved in her children's endeavors, she encouraged us to pursue our interests. She was very involved in the arts and produced three exceptional artists. Over the years, she went to numerous art lectures and openings. She was a member of the San Diego Museum of Art, the Mingei Museum, Natural History Museum and the San Diego Zoological Society. For years Mom was heavily involved in the San Diego County Archeological Society where she went out to various dig sites and meetings. In addition, she volunteered with a cultural immersion program (UCSD Visiting Doctors). She had foreign doctors' wives over to our home to teach conversational English and bake cookies! This included students from Japan, Korea and Italy, resulting in new friendships that continued throughout her lifetime. Our mother has now joined her true love in Heaven. She will not be forgotten, and her life will be celebrated by those who loved her. We will always cherish her memory, sense of humor and creativity. We will always cherish the love she imparted on her family and friends. We will always cherish her contributions to countless lives and causes. If she could talk on telephone right now, she would say, "This is Mom Bennett, everything is cool, I'm with your father once again, don't worry about me, I am at peace now, I love and miss you all very much!" In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the ASPCA.





San Diego County Archaeological Society  
 P.O. Box 81106  
 San Diego, CA 92138



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## San Diego County Archaeological Society Membership Application

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The SDCAS membership year begins **January 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.

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### 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.

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**SDCAS Website: [www.sdcas.org](http://www.sdcas.org)**