



Colorado Desert Archaeology  
Society

# CDAS Monthly Bulletin

October 2018

## October Calendar

<http://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/calendar>

Tues 9 am to 4 pm	Lab Days	BARC
Fri. 10/19 11 am	<a href="#">CDAS Speaker Michael Ables</a>	Visitor Center
Fri. 10/19 1 pm	CDAS Steering Committee	BARC Library
Sat. 10/20 10 am	<a href="#">Borrego Days Parade</a>	
Sat. 10/20 2 to 4 pm	BARC Tours	Begole Arch Center
Sun. 10/21 9:30 am	<a href="#">CDAS Kick Off Mtg/potluck</a>	Steele-Burnand Research Center
Sat. 10/27 9 am	La Rumorosa Field Trip (Full)	Pat Downing pdsnewmail@ gmail.com

## From The Chair

We have much to look forward to as our next season approaches, starting with Borrego Days and our Season Kick-Off Meeting/Pot-luck on October 20 & 21. On Saturday, we will have a parade entry and afternoon BARC tours. On Sunday, our membership meeting will have a lot of useful information for all, including:

- Field Survey Schedule
- Future Lab Projects
- Site Stewards – want to swap sites? Need a partner?
- Site Steward group communication
- The Ad Hoc Site Steward Team
- Streamlining monitoring reports
- Better Impact scheduling and hours reporting system
- An informative presentation on pictograph styles of our area by Steve Freers.

The meeting will be held at the Steele-Burnand Desert Research Center classroom and lunch will be pot-luck, please bring a dish to share. There will be a lot of time to visit with friends you haven't seen since last season.

I encourage all members to attend this important meeting.  
John Downing

## Notes From the Park

After a long and busy summer, it will be such a pleasure to see our friends returning from their cool summer adventures. And I do mean cool in the temperate sense!

This season CDD Archaeology is involved in a complex project combining paleontology knowledge and expertise, archaeology knowledge and expertise, all tied together with a drone project for precise visualization and documentation of the project as it proceeds. We expect to be able to put together a protocol establishing how to best work together to achieve the best outcome. Hayley and I have field “scoped” four areas that require a survey and site report. We also have many sites requiring updates and hope to get a few of those under our belts this season. As it stands right at this moment, we would like to invite experienced surveyors to assist with student surveys on Saturdays, Nov. 10th, Dec. 1st, Dec. 8th, and Dec. 15th. Hayley and I have not had a chance to sit down and prepare a list of other survey dates, but we will send out an “all hands” bulletin and put them on the schedule in Better Impact as soon as we can.



Are they cupules or target practice?

### Your CDAS Steering Committee

The Steering Committee Meetings are held once a month during the season and are open to all members. Should you have any comments or suggestions for the committee and cannot attend please contact one of the following members:

Chair	John Downing <a href="mailto:johndowning2014@outlook.com">johndowning2014@outlook.com</a> 714 615-2137
Vice Chair	Julie Nyssen <a href="mailto:janyssen@gmail.com">janyssen@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Mary Lou White <a href="mailto:Maryloulizard@gmail.com">Maryloulizard@gmail.com</a> 760 765-2331
Treasurer	Rick Huls <a href="mailto:randphuls@gmail.com">randphuls@gmail.com</a>
Member	Gary Holmes <a href="mailto:GHBorrego@pobox.com">GHBorrego@pobox.com</a>
Member	Paula Huls <a href="mailto:randphuls@gmail.com">randphuls@gmail.com</a>
Member	Eugenie Newton <a href="mailto:Evnewton8@gmail.com">Evnewton8@gmail.com</a>



One of the tools sent to VML lab for analysis.



Blade core, with sharpened-edge. May have been used as a core and then re-used as a tool.

Thanks to all of you who have signed up for the All Due Respect Class. We have another class coming up for those of you who wish to lead hikes, as I hope many of you do, to our interpreted sites such as Mine Wash and Ghost Mountain. This will be the orientation for volunteers and the module on interpretation. This is a class that runs from 10am-5pm on Friday Nov. 30th, and on an alternate date, Monday Dec. 3rd. As this is a requirement for all hike leaders, I do hope you sign up. Your help with this important outreach component is so important to our park visitors.

We have sent three stone tools to the VML dating lab thanks to a generous grant by the Center for American Paleolithic Research. We are eagerly awaiting the results from Dr. Tanzhuo Liu in New York. (Note: What is VML? Varnish Microlamination. The lab attempts to date desert varnish. <http://www.vmldating.com/>) Robin

## Visitor Center CDAS Speaker -Michael Ables “Artifacts That Speak Volumes”

Michael Ables, executive director of the General George S. Patton Memorial Museum at Chiriaco Summit, 30 miles east of Indio along Interstate 10, will speak on Friday October 19th at 11am about the military training activities in this area over many years. This is evident not only due to the wide impact on landscape but also due to the wide distribution of artifacts throughout the area. A major contributor to this was General Patton's desert training during World War II, initially established for the upcoming invasion of North Africa. Over a million troops went through those camps during the war. Patton, who would be on any short list of America's greatest combat commanders, is a California guy, having been born in San Gabriel in 1885. It is said he first met his future wife as a youth on Catalina Island, so his roots in this state are well established.

Gary Holmes

## Mongolian Adventures of 2018

Since 2009, an archaeologist from Colorado Desert District has been making an annual trip to Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia, Anza Borrego Desert State Park's® Sister Park. Dr. Joan Schneider started the involvement of cultural staff in assisting the sister park to manage cultural resources. During these years, volunteers from around the world including many members of CDAS have travelled to Ikh Nart Nature Reserve to help the park manage their cultural resources through inventory surveys and excavations.

In summer 2018, I had the privilege and pleasure of going to Mongolia as the representative of Anza Borrego Desert State Park® and to continue our sister park relationship. I assisted Jennifer Farquhar, a doctoral candidate at the University of Pittsburgh, who has been coming to Ikh Nart since 2013.

I spent 11 days in the Ikh Nart Nature Reserve with Jennifer, two other Californian professional archaeologists and three Mongolian archaeologists. Jennifer is looking at the dispersal of certain types of artifacts across the entirety of Ikh Nart Nature



Hayley at ruins of Buddhist monastery in Ikh Nart.



Rock Art in Ikh Nart includes anthropomorphic figure, an ungulate and a branding symbol.



Inside of a Ger (Yurt) at Red Rock Camp, Ikh Nart.



John Case, Carol Black and Laurie Brindle in 2017 parade.

Reserve to make conclusions about population density and dispersal overtime in the Ikh Nart area. To help accomplish this, we surveyed as many 100x100 meter squares across the park as we could. Unfortunately, we had some windy weather that kept us at the camp for large parts of the first three days, but once the weather calmed down our team really got moving and created a system that allowed us to rapidly set-up and survey the selected squares. With our group of seven, we were able to test out and decide on the best strategies for completing as many survey areas as possible with the goal of finishing all the sample plots next field season. The archaeology in Mongolia is something I will never forget. The diversity of artifacts lying right next to each other, from metal arrow tips to Neolithic pottery, was mind -boggling.

After the week and a half at the Ikh Nart Nature Reserve, I spent a couple days in the capital of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar. There I visited the national museum and learned more about the features and artifacts that I had seen in the field, as well as the modern history of the Mongolian people. I extended my time in Asia for a relaxing vacation in South Korea. I spent another week and a half on the Asian Continent where I ate food, hiked, explored UNESCO world heritage sites, visited national museums, practiced Korean, hung out at the beach and all around had an amazing time.

Hayley Elsken

## Better Impact: The New Online Volunteer Timekeeper and More!

All over California, State Parks is transitioning to Better Impact, an online volunteer management program, in order to better track volunteer hours, make it easier to sign up for activities and improve communication between volunteers and park staff. Some of you have already started to use Better Impact and we appreciate your efforts as we work out how we want to utilize Better Impact to best serve the park and the CDAS membership.

Not everyone has received an email to sign-up, but we are hoping to get everyone into the program by early November. Please feel free to email Hayley ([hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov](mailto:hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov)) if you have not received a sign-up email and would like to be placed into the system sooner, feel free to email Robin. ([robin.connors@parks.ca.gov](mailto:robin.connors@parks.ca.gov)) or Hayley with any questions about Better Impact. We think that once we work out some of the beginning hiccups and get used to this program it will make it easier for everyone to sign up for field days and keep track of their volunteer hours.

New opportunities for fieldwork in December have been added to Better Impact, so make sure to check out the website and sign up! [www.MyVolunteerPage.com](http://www.MyVolunteerPage.com)

## Want some Fun? Be Part of the Parade!

Please join us and help promote CDAS in the annual Borrego Days Desert Festival on Sat., Oct 20th. All that is required is wearing your official blue CDAS shirt and waving to the throngs of happy people along the parade route. We will carry two banners



Palomar site set up with Pat Downing, Neil Cadwallader and Scott McClintock.



Little Petroglyph Canyon

and pass out flyers about our archaeology programs. It's tons of fun! For information and to sign up, please email your name and contact information to: [lbrindle@roadrunner.com](mailto:lbrindle@roadrunner.com)

## With All Due Respect

All volunteers are required to take a training called "With All Due Respect". This class is geared towards effectively communicating with co-workers and the public. It's required every two years and is being offered on the following dates and times:

Thursday October 25th from 8am-12pm or 1pm-5pm

Tuesday October 30th from 8am-12pm

Wednesday October 31st from 8am-12pm or 1pm-5pm

Thursday November 1st from 8am-12pm

Classes will be held at La Casa Del Zorro Conference Room.

Robin encourages all to attend. Please let her know ASAP which class you would like to attend so that she can get that information to Admin staff. The due date was Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 831-515-9128 or [robin.connors@parks.ca.gov](mailto:robin.connors@parks.ca.gov)

## Events hosted by other groups:

### San Diego History Museum:

Lessons from the Past: Archaeological Insights on the Interactions of the Kumeyaay People and their Environment.

Thursday October 18 6pm

<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/events/>

### San Diego Rock Art Association:

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rock Art Symposium

Saturday November 3 9am - 4:30pm

<https://www.sandiegorockart.org/symposium.html>

### California Rock Art Foundation:

Field trips to Little Petroglyph Canyon

Saturday November 17 and Sunday November 18

Registration deadline Saturday October 23

<https://www.carockart.org/field-trips.html>

### San Diego County Archaeology Society

Arch In The Park

Saturday October 20 10am -3pm

<https://sdcas.org/arch-in-the-park/>

### Imperial Valley Desert Museum:

<http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org>

*Photo Credits: Robin Connors, Hayley Elsken, Dan Burger, and John Downing*