



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Rancho Cuyamaca State Parks / **DECEMBER 2019**

CALENDAR

LAB DAY & LIBRARY OPEN

Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
NEW: Library will also be open on Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
BARC Library

CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Fri., Dec. 13, 1:00 p.m.
BARC Library

STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATION

"We Are Birds — A California Indian Story": A documentary film by Albert Chacon.
Fri., Dec. 20, 11 to 12 p.m.
ABDSP Visitor Center Theater

NEW SITE STEWARD TRAINING

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 18 & 19
Steele/Burnand Research Center

CDAS ANNUAL MEETING

Sun., Jan. 26, 2020 TIME TBA
Steele/Burnand Research Center

CONTINUING EDUCATION

"Artifact Illustration Classes"
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 17 & 18
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
BARC Library
See Page 8

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 29 & Mar. 1
ABDSP Visitor Center
Details TBA

INSIDE

- You're invited to the Holiday Bash! Page 2
- Upcoming film on Bird Singing Page 3
- Report on Rock Art Conservation Management Workshop Page 4
- Artifact Illustration Class in February Page 8

And more!



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

John Downing

Pat and I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We certainly have so much for which to be thankful.

We had full attendance at our first continuing education class of the season, Rock Art Conservation Management. Be sure to take a look at our next class on Artifact Illustration by Donna Walker in February. Even if you don't consider yourself to be artistic, this is a very informative class. I am certainly not an artist, but when I attended a few years ago, I learned so much about the details of lithic artifacts, projectile points, tools and ground stones.

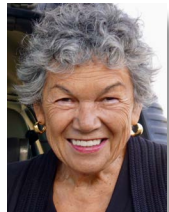
Please note that the date of our annual meeting has been changed to Sunday, Jan. 26, due to

facility availability. What would you like for this meeting to include? We are open to suggestions and could use some assistance on the planning committee. Send me an email with suggestions or to volunteer.

We will have two openings on the Steering Committee and elections will be conducted in December. I urge you to consider nominating yourself and assisting us in the management of our society. There are only seven meetings per season and, if you live on the coast, you can telecommute the meetings. New members are certainly welcome. If you don't have the time to be on this committee, please take a look at our open positions on page 2 and select an area where you can be of help.

Best wishes to all for a joyous holiday season.

— John Downing



NOTES FROM THE PARK

Robin Connors

Hello All!
Welcome to the Holiday Season. It is so nice to see folks who have been out of town returning to

Borrego Springs and signing up for volunteer opportunities. The weather is cooperating nicely with warm sunshine and some much needed rain.

We have been fortunate in picking up some wonderful shelving for our BARC storage room. It was an extra from State Parks, free, but Hayley had to drive all the way to Malibu to pick them up. Expertly assembled by Rick and Paula Huls, the installed shelving looks great! The next job is for us to get in there and re-organize things. Hayley and I will be sorting, boxing, storing and throwing out the leftovers.

We have had great volunteer turnout for Tuesday Lab days and pictured here we have the usual 10 a.m. break with treats. Astrid Webb is opening an ice cream container for root beer floats! Around the table from the left, we have Linda Mercurio, Patrick Trussell, Diana Langley, Paula Huls, Llouise Jee, Joel Fitzpatrick, and Astrid. Rick Huls is out of the picture. Please join us on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or any time in between. You can even just come in for the treats! Thanks to all who dedicate their time in the lab to maintain and record our collections and the library.



Treats at Tuesday Lab Day

Photo by Hayley Elskén

We have been doing a lot of monitoring for construction projects. I am planning to teach a class to explain the basics and have hands-on demonstrations of monitoring, how it works, what is required and documenting and most of all, staying safe. Lance Deibler and Mary Lou White have been doing this now for a few months and sometimes we have two (even three) projects scheduled for the same day. We could use the help! Training time TBD.

NOTES FROM THE PARK *Continued from Page 1*

Last week Hayley and I went to Encinitas to pick up a wonderful collection of artifacts donated by the collector's daughters. They were collected in the 1930s and 1940s, long before any protections were in place for taking these invaluable resources from their context. We plan to use them as an educational tool to explain how each has a story to tell, but the

story is long lost. We will be inventorying them during Tuesday Lab days.

The Holiday Bash will be at the Roadrunner Club on Tuesday, Dec. 10 and will feature Karaoke after dinner. Please see the information below.

Happiest of Holidays from Robin and Hayley!

— Robin Connors



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION

The Colorado Desert District includes Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Palomar Mountain State Park.

COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

The CDAS mission is to assist park staff with the documentation, preservation and protection of the district's prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

Robin Connors

Associate State Archaeologist
robin.connors@parks.ca.gov
760-767-5790

Hayley Elskén

Associate State Archaeologist
hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov
760-767-4403



CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee convenes once a month during the season (October through April). Meetings are open to all members. If you have any comments or suggestions and cannot attend a meeting, please contact one of the following members:

Chair: John Downing

714-615-2137
johndowning2014@outlook.com

Vice Chair: Dennis Connors

dennis_connors@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Eugenie Newton

evnewton8@gmail.com

Secretary : Paula Huls

randphuls@gmail.com

Member: Chuck Bennett

desrtratz@aol.com

Member: Rick Huls

randphuls@gmail.com

Volunteer opportunities

One of the best ways to learn more about archaeology and Colorado Desert District is to join one (or more) of the many ongoing CDAS programs and activities. Benefits also include making new friends, many of whom have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field. Positions are:

Field Trip Coordinator

4-8 hours per trip/1-2 trips per season

Identify and organize archaeology related field trips of interest to CDAS members, follow up on member suggestions, assist members in organizing field trips. (Example, past field trips: S.D. Natural History Museum, La Rumorosa Rock Art Site, and Indian Hill.)

Contact Pat Downing: pdsnewmail@gmail.com

Membership Data Coordinator

1-2 hours per month

Maintain and update membership list in Excel. Provide data for activities as needed, such as: voting list, communications, etc. Contact Pat Downing: pdsnewmail@gmail.com

Archaeology Weekend Committee

10-20 hours/Nov. through Feb.

Next year's event will be held on February 28, 29 and March 1

Theme: Current Archaeology Research in CDD - Begole Grant Contribution

Join a working group that will plan, organize and conduct Archaeology Weekend. We already have seven committee members: Sally & John Bickerton, Chuck Bennett (Co-Chair and Speaker Recruiting) Rick Huls (Co-Chair), Sam Webb (Mentor/Advisor), Scott McClintock (Set-up & Take-down), and John Downing (Publicity). Contacts are Chuck Bennett: desrtratz@aol.com and Rick Huls: randphuls@gmail.com

Steering Committee

10-20 hours per month

There will be at least two openings on the steering committee starting January 2020. Duties include preparing for and attending one meeting per month. Meetings can be attended remotely via Skype. The term is three years. Contact Eugenie Newton: evnewton8@gmail.com

HOLIDAY BASH!



*Come celebrate the holidays with the
Colorado Desert District staff and volunteers!*



Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019 • 5:30 to 9 p.m.
RoadRunner Club House • 1010 Palm Canyon Drive

A delicious dinner catered by Kendall's Cafe will be followed by Karaoke
• Adults \$25 • Children under 12: \$ 15

**To make reservations and to select meals, please call Caroline at CDD
no later than THURSDAY, DEC. 5 at 760/767-4037**

Please make checks payable to Wendie Wallace.
Mail payment to: Colorado Desert District, 200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004 ATTN: Caroline
Or you may pay at the door.

**Please note: All reservations must be honored with payment due to the
dinners being ordered prior to the event. Thank you for your cooperation.**

MENU

- Tossed Green Salad
with Ranch Dressing
- Your Choice of
 - * Beef Brisket
 - * Boneless BBQ Chicken
 - * Ortega Chile Quiche
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Mixed Vegetables
- Roll & Butter
- Assorted Cheese Cake
- Punch and water provided
(Bring your own other beverage)



Photo courtesy of Albert Chacon

Award-winning documentary film highlights SoCal Native American bird singers

“We Are Birds — A California Indian Story” explores the rich tradition of bird singing and features members of the Cahuilla, Morongo, Agua Caliente and Soboba tribes

- 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 20
- ABDSP Visitor Center Theater
- Open to the public

California State Parks and CDAS are honored to present the film “We Are Birds — A California Indian Story” as December’s featured presentation at the theater in the Visitor Center.

Produced by Albert Chacon, this “visual anthropology project” tells the story of bird singing, a Native American cultural tradition in Southern California that has survived for thousands of years and flourishes today.

Allegorical in nature, bird songs are said to be originally composed by the Creator and sent via a bird to people on earth to help them live together harmoniously. The songs convey ancient stories and beliefs and are passed down from generation to generation.

As noted by the producers, “Bird singing brings people together from different tribes and is an integral part of social gatherings, seasonal rituals, mourning practices and cultural teaching. It is indeed the very foundation of the culture itself.”

“We Are Birds” focuses on the Head

Bird Singers “who are currently leading the tribes in their cultural traditions.” Of special interest is the inclusion in the film of tribes near ABDSP, such as the Desert and Mountain Cahuilla, Morongo, Agua Caliente and Soboba.

Please arrive early, because seating is limited in the theater, and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

*This presentation is one of a monthly series co-sponsored by CDAS and California State Parks. **Please note:** The \$10 parking fee will be waived if you show your current Volunteer Card.*

Items needed for

FUNdraiser Event/Silent Auction!

It's time to clean out those unwanted, lightly used, quality items from your closets and cupboards and help raise funds for CDAS! We will be accepting items from now until Feb. 13, at the BARC library on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Not sure what to donate? How about an extra pass to the San Diego Zoo or a local concert? Know someone who would be willing to donate an art lesson or cooking lesson or a guided walk? Perhaps you have an abundance of gently used tools taking up valuable space on your workbench in the garage?

For further information or questions, please contact Rick or Paula Huls at randphuls@gmail.com.



CDAS MYSTERY!



Look what we found!!!

While cleaning out the storage room, we found this cute little canteen in the small refrigerator! Can any one shed some light on this, please? Perhaps where it was collected or when? Please take a close look and maybe some one will remember something. Please contact either Robin or Hayley with information. Many thanks!

Rick and Paula Huls, The Gray Nomads

Finer points of rock art management and conservation revealed during two-day workshop

Story and photos by Laurie Brindle

Archaeologist Jeremy Freeman knows a lot about rock art. A whole lot. This was immediately evident the moment he began his classroom presentation on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Steele/Burnand Research Center.

Jeremy opened the day-long session with a quote by Ernest Siva of the Morongo Band: *“The first rock art was put there by the people that came before during the time of the stories. The rock art was created to prepare the world for those who were to come.”*

Jeremy emphasized that rock art sites were sacred before the art was created, and that we must always approach them cautiously and with great respect. This is not always the case with visitors, especially with popular sites such as the Disney Glyphs at Joshua Tree National Park, where people regularly climb over fragile rock faces to get a selfie.

Rock art management and conservation has evolved to preserve and protect these ancient artifacts through better cultural awareness, partnerships with local

tribes, expanded assessment protocols, more carefully controlling public access, and advanced technology.

Although rock art was likely not created to last forever, Jeremy said that there are many factors that can hasten a site’s deterioration, such as vandalism, over-visitation, insects (wasps), lichen, climate, livestock, wildfire, alteration of natural drainage patterns, pollution, landscape modification and well-intentioned — but ultimately disastrous — attempts by archaeologists to preserve a site. Techniques have included applying latex, a variety of chemical concoctions and chalk. We learned that water, either from the environment or as a cleaning agent, is one of the most destructive agents and can ruin delicate pictographs.

Subsequent topics covered in-depth included assessing color, surface moisture and temperature, microscopic analysis, and intervention methods. All this prepared us for our visit to the Blair Valley pictographs the next day.



Archaeologist Jeremy Freeman

Our group gathered on Sunday at the post office at 7 a.m. to carpool passengers for the 45-minute trip.

Once there, Lisa Pridmore gave a comprehensive overview of the two sites we were going to see, including the known history and significance.

As we walked up the trail, Jeremy discussed how you should always stop several

yards before the site to notice any disturbances or footsteps, carefully observing the surrounding area, too. Your eyes are invaluable tools.

Once at the site, he asked us for our observations. Then, to the delight of the group, he opened his back pack and pulled out his collection of high-tech gadgets and demonstrated how he uses them to assess a rock art site, including the surface temperature, moisture content and composition. He said to note pigment color of the image, which can change depending on conditions, and measure ambient weather conditions.

Jeremy also stressed the importance of photographing a site each and every time you visit to more accurately monitor changes that can quickly occur.

It was definitely an information-packed weekend. What we learned will allow us to be better stewards of sacred sites through heightened observation, increased knowledge of — and respect for — rock art and the cultures it represents.



In Blair Valley ready to see some pictographs are: Front row, L to R: John Downing, Rick Huls, John Case, Paula Huls and Jolie Matteis. Second row: Jeremy Freeman, Lance Deibler, Sherry Mitchell, Chuck Bennett, Randy Redfern, Lisa Pridmore, Lois Carlson, Eugenie Newton and Pat Downing. Back row: Richard Shepard and Neil Cadwallader.

Continuing Education



Lisa Pridmore led the hike on Sunday to view two pictograph sites in Blair Valley. Pictured from left: John Case, Randy Redfern, Lisa Pridmore, Lois Carlson, Richard Shepard and Paula Huls



Jeremy Freeman shows how to analyze surface content by attaching a microscope to an iPad.



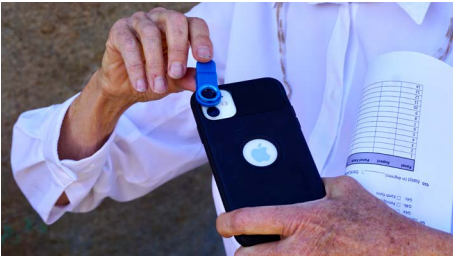
John Downing measures the pigment color, carefully avoiding the actual pictograph.



Neil Cadwallader checks the surface humidity of the rock face that is displayed on an iPad.



Paula Huls documents the site visit by keeping impressively meticulous notes.



A wide-angle attachment for cell phone cameras easily clips on to the lens.



Lois Carlson and Jolie Matteis review photos.



Chuck Bennett holds a light meter and read-out instrument that are connected via Bluetooth.



Lisa Pridmore uses the Ambient Weather WM-3 which can measure wind speed, temperature, humidity, wind gust and Beaufort Scale.



Chuck Bennett uses the Maka thermal imager to measure surface temperature of the rock.



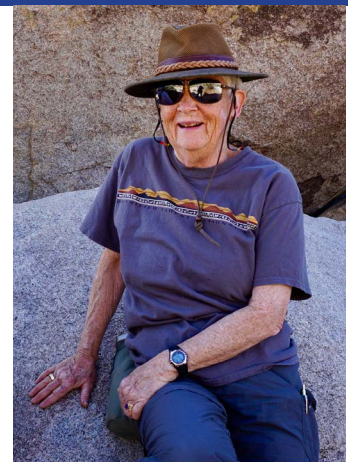
L to R: Richard Shepard, Neil Cadwallader, Jolie Matteis and Lisa Pridmore study an iPad image.



Continuing Education



Jeremy Freeman discusses the best way to approach a rock art site at the Blair Valley pictograph site.



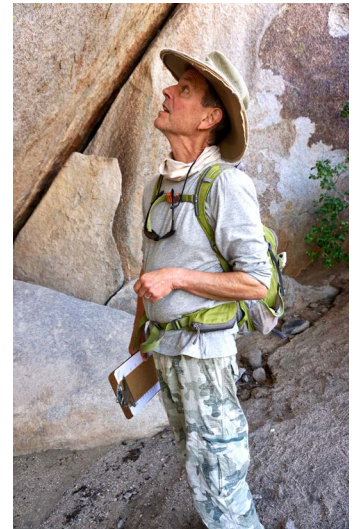
Eugenie Newton



Sherry Mitchell



Rocks make good resting spots, too. L to R: Chuck Bennett, Rick Huls and Pat Downing. Seated behind (L to R) are Eugenie Newton and Sherry Mitchell.



Richard Shepard checks for signs of water flow/drainage down the face of the rock.

Did you know?

The BARC Research Library is open twice a week during the winter season! Hours are Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. So, if you're doing a bit of research or looking for information about archaeology, the Native Americans of the area, the history of Borrego Springs, or other related topics, we invite you to explore the books and publications in our Research Library!



Nominations Now Open!

CDAS has two open positions for Steering Committee members. Nominations and elections for these positions will be held prior to our Annual Meeting on Jan. 26.

We are asking for your participation in the nomination process to fill these two committee openings. *Do you know anyone who would be a helpful voice in guiding CDAS? Maybe it's you!*

The Steering Committee helps organize archaeology activities to support CDAS volunteers and provide vital assistance to Park archaeologists Robin Connor and Hayley Elsken. Meetings are on the third Friday of the month from October to April.

Active CDAS members who have completed and recorded at least 40 hours of

volunteer activities, or two (2) or more site stewardship visits during 2019 are eligible to be on the Steering Committee and to vote.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM DEC. 2 – 28

Please consider nominating yourself or another member! You may send your nomination to Eugenie Newton at evnewton8@gmail.com or Sally Bickerton at sallybic@cox.net.

If you have any questions about being a member of the Steering Committee, send those to Eugenie or Sally, too!

*Eugenie Newton and Sally Bickerton
CDAS Nominating Committee*

RICK AND PAULA HULS

By Sally Bickerton

Rick and Paula Huls lead a travel-filled life all summer long, building Habitat for Humanity homes throughout the U.S., but in the winter, we are glad they make Borrego Springs their home!

They have become very active members and leaders of CDAS, and recently added site stewardship to their long list of CDAS activities.

Both Rick and Paula worked for the Boeing Company for many years. Rick was a software engineer and manager who always had an interest in history, as well as geology. He still remembers the college instructor in Mesa, AZ who sparked his interest in archaeology.

Paula was a contract specialist who negotiated military contracts for Boeing. She enjoys reading mysteries, and finds archaeology just as fascinating – similar to solving a mystery because artifacts hold so much hidden information about a culture.

They visited ABDSP first in 2010, and enjoyed a week’s stay. The following year, they began staying longer – infested with the “Borrego Creep!”

During one winter, they enrolled in Dr. Joan Schneider’s Citizen Scientist



Paula hiking at Slot Canyon in Borrego Photo by Rick Huls



Rick and Paula Huls in front of Indian Head Photo courtesy of Rick and Paula Huls

class and were hooked.

They have been wintering here since 2013/14, and actively participating in field and lab work since then. Both Paula and Rick serve on the CDAS Steering Committee, which they find very rewarding. They encourage others to take the challenge, and help plan and lead CDAS events and activities by being a Steering Committee member.

Having enjoyed their work with CDAS, they decided in 2018 that it was time to become site stewards to add depth to their archaeology experience.

As newer stewards, they are still getting to know their site, affectionately called “Flat Cat.” Paula and Rick hope to explore the site in more depth with Randy Redfern and Lisa Pridmore in the near future, as Randy and Lisa are already familiar with it. This

site was originally surveyed by Malcolm Rogers, so they hope to update records of the site, which includes milling features and a possible tool manufacturing site.

As Paula states, they “travel with a purpose” in the long summer months. In 2019, they traveled more than 13,000 miles in their RV, from Florida



The Huls working on a Habitat for Humanity House in New Mexico, Photo by Meagan, a H4H construction manager



Rick photographing a Borrego bloom Photo by Paula Huls

to eastern Canada, through the Midwest and back through the Southwest to California. Paula said though they spend many hours assisting with Habitat for Humanity builds, they also find time to explore archaeological and historical sites and museums. Some of her favorite experiences include being invited to



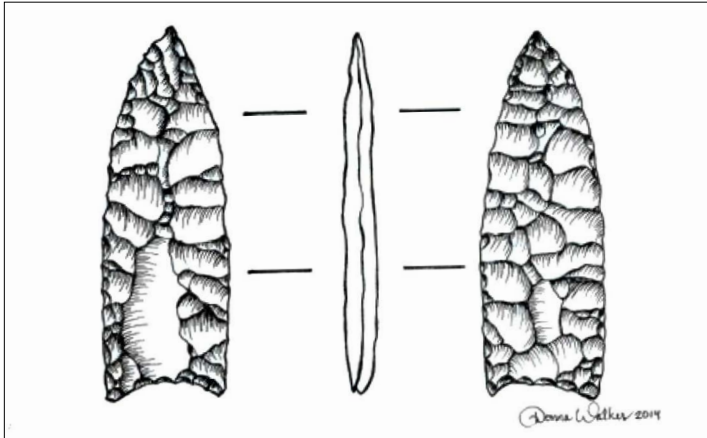
The Huls receiving their volunteer pins with John Laird, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency Photo by Robin Connors

attend a Blessing Ceremony of a sacred mound, The Man Mound, in Wisconsin. Also, seeing an atlatl that was 11,000 years old in the Beringia Museum in White Horse, on the way to Alaska.

Another favorite was a visit to L’Anse aux Meadows, where the Vikings established a colony in the New World, pre-Columbus! Located in Newfoundland, many amazing artifacts have been found, including their favorite, an ornate cape pin, found buried under a hearth.

Sounds like some awesome adventures, “Gray Nomads!”

Continuing Education



Artifact illustration classes scheduled for February

Artists and non-artists alike are encouraged to attend this fun and informative class

The second in our series of CDAS Continuing Education classes this season, Artifact Illustration, will be offered on Saturday, Feb. 15 — and again on Feb. 16 — at the Begole Archaeological Research Center Library. Each class will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. with a one-hour lunch break.

This step-by-step class will enable you to produce a good illustration and representation of a stone tool, showing its “wear zones” and worked areas. You’ll also find out how to measure and draw artifacts to scale; pen-and-ink techniques; and rules of technical illustration.

It’s a great skill to have whether you are in the field or in the lab — or you just want to know more about how to draw artifacts.

Both artists and non-artists will be able to complete a drawing during the class. Hand-outs with sample drawings and measuring techniques will be provided.

The instructor for this class will be Donna Walker, a contract artist with 15-plus years of experience. Donna has studied both Art and Native American Studies and is very involved with the archaeological profession.

Her love for nature, archaeology and art has enabled her to combine them all in an expression of historical and contemporary drawings. She creates artifact illustrations of stone tools found throughout the Southwest region. Her work appears in professional archaeological reports and presentations.

Donna teaches illustration classes for various educational facilities and archaeological societies, which include the San Diego Archaeological Center, Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center, Palomar College, as well as the Colorado Desert Archaeological Society.

Donna is currently a contract illustrator for the anthropology department at the University of California, San Diego, where several of her illustrations are being published for research reports.

You can sign up for either the Saturday or Sunday class on Better Impact or contact Chuck Bennett at desrtratz@aol.com. Each class is limited to 15 students, so sign up early to get your choice.

Regional Events & Resources

Barona Cultural Center and Museum
“Holiday Kids Craft Class” Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019
 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. • \$5 Fee
<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

California Rock Art Foundation
“The Great Murals of Baja California — Sierra de San Francisco”
 Three trips scheduled in March 2020: 1-8, 12-19, 22-29
www.carockart.org

Imperial Valley Desert Museum
“Annual Meeting of Membership”
 Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019
 2:30 to 5 p.m. Free event
“Stargazing! Winter Solstice and Ursid Meteor Shower”
 Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019 Free community event
 6 to 9 p.m.
<http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org/>

Malki Museum
<https://malkimuseum.org/>

San Diego Archaeological Center
“Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest”
 Friday, Jan. 10, 2020
 7 p.m. Free admission
“Shrouded Heritage, Island of the Blue Dolphins” by Thomas Holm
 Saturday, February 8, 2020
 11 a.m. \$2 Admission • Free admission for members
<https://sandiegoarchaeology.org/category/events-and-more/>

San Diego County Archaeological Society
“Celebrating the Art in Archaeology Art Show Exhibition”
 Monday - Friday, through the month of December
 California State Parks office in Liberty Station, San Diego
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.SDCAS.org

Society for California Archaeology
<https://scahome.org/>

Site Steward Resources

Be sure to check out all the helpful information and forms on the CDAS website for site stewards.
<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login>

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

If you have events or items that you would like included in future publications of the CDAS Bulletin, please send them to Laurie Brindle at CDASBulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

COPY DEADLINE: The 25th of each month, September to April (Bulletin publishes October through May)



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

“To keep you current as we explore the past”



Be sure and visit our website often for past CDAS bulletins, resources, photos and additional helpful information!

www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org