



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks / **MAY 2020**

CALENDAR

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to plan specific programming dates at this time.

We will keep you updated throughout the summer. Stay tuned!

LAB DAY & LIBRARY

Closed until further notice

STATE PARKS/CDAS

MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS

To be announced

CDAS STEERING

COMMITTEE MEETING

To be announced

CDAS KICK-OFF MEETING

TENTATIVE: Sunday, Oct. 25
(Please watch for updates.)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

To be announced

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An April snow on the Santa Rosa mountains

Photo by Laurie Brindle

A Look on the Bright Side



Cactus blooms explode with color in the garden of CDAS member Randy Redfern, providing a welcome bit of cheer.

Photo by Randy Redfern

Notes from the Park



Robin Connors

It's fun to try and guess who's under the wildly variable masks we've seen. The BARC is no exception. Hayley has more than one — her little watermelon mask is impressive.

My mask has red chili peppers.

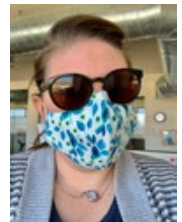
The State Park is maintaining flexibility as they respond to the latest directives and requirements from Sacramento regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Following is information from the Park that they think the public should know. Please visit the website listed for the Park's recent response.

• State Parks has developed a one-stop resource center — www.parks.ca.gov/FlattenTheCurve to provide the latest safety and closure information, as well as the messaging and graphics from the "Flatten the COVID-19 Curve at Parks" social media awareness campaign. Please check this webpage regularly for updates.

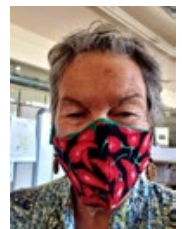
• These are unprecedented times. We are all in this together. State Parks will continue to monitor visitation and social/physical distancing at all State Park units. If the safety measures implemented thus far are not sufficient to protect public health, additional measures may be taken to fully close additional parks, including trails, bathrooms, and other amenities.

As always, thanks for your own patience and vigilance as we, too, adapt to these difficult times.

We have a couple of projects waiting in the wings for better times: the Palomar Orchard Project and rehabilitating the Cuyamaca Camp Store.



Hayley and Robin in their stylish office attire.



Continued on page 2

Notes from the Park

Continued from previous page

We are reviving the Palomar Orchard project and making plans for the seasonal round of spring weeding and mulching. Chris Ruiz, Water and Sewer Specialist for CDD, will turn on the water and repair the irrigation system. We can count on a seasonal worker from Natural Resources to pitch in and help.

In the summer, we'll be weeding ferns, adding more mulch and doing more with the irrigation to make sure all of the trees are getting the water they need.

Fall is apple-picking time and pruning suckers and water shoots (sprouts).

Winter finds us preparing the water system for freezes and breaks. We will need plenty of volunteers for this project, and we expect help from the Botany department and CDAS. This is an important historic cultural resource and should be protected and preserved.

We're also in the beginning stages of rehabilitating the Cuyamaca Camp Store. This includes developing a budget and gathering funds.

The plan is to put on a new roof, install new windows and apply a fresh coat of paint. The interior needs to be completely gutted, so new ceilings, drywall, electrical, plumbing and a nice new floor are required.

The end result will provide a Welcome Center for Park visitors and create office space for the interpreters. There will be displays of cultural resource materials from pre-contact to historic times.

Hopefully, we will be able to contract the work out, and there may be other work on the building that can be done "in house."

We look forward to seeing a wonderful and useful historic building.

I'm taking this as one last opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and support. I'm proud to have known you over the last five years, and feel good about ending my career having worked with people like you.

Me kealoha pumehana (with a warm friendship),

— Robin Connors



Above and below: The historic Cuyamaca Camp Store. Plans are underway to restore the structure so it can serve as the Welcome Center for Park visitors and create office space for Park interpreters. There will be displays of cultural resource materials from pre-contact to historic times.

Photos by Michele Hernandez



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 Emeritus
April 30, 2020

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

2020/2021 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: Rick Huls randphuls@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Dennis Connors dennis_connors@yahoo.com

Secretary: Paula Huls randphuls@gmail.com

Treasurer/Webmaster: Eugenie Newton
evnewton8@gmail.com

Member: Lois Carlson loiseleanor@gmail.com

Member: John Downing johndowning2014@outlook.com

CDAS Bulletin Editor: Laurie Brindle
CDASBulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org



Colorado Desert Archaeology Society

"To keep you current as we explore the past"

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

www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org

Archaeology Resources

From Joan Schneider, PhD

“The Arrow Site — Close Up”

The latest Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology contains an article titled “The Arrow Site—Close Up” by Joan Schneider and Steven James. Yes, it is our very own Arrow Site. The article will tell you all about it except where it is located. You will also learn about the types of arrows used most commonly by the Native peoples of the area.

If you would like a digital copy, email Joan and she will send it to you. joanschn@gmail.com

From Sam Webb

Sam recommended this article:

“Flandmark + 40: What Have We Learned about a Potential Pacific Coast Peopling of the Americas?”

If you would like a copy, please email Hayley at:

hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

“Volunteer in the Parks Program Orientation Class”

Dennis Stephen is running a VIPP (Volunteer in Parks Program) Orientation Class. Many of you have attended the orientation class with Dennis in the past.

Due to social distancing requirements and shelter-in-place orders, the classes will be offered online.

The June Colorado Desert District VIPP Orientation - Online is now scheduled in Better Impact. You will need to sign up in advance in Better Impact. Dennis will send the link to the volunteers the week of the training.

You will need to attend all four sessions, which are scheduled every Thursday in June from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

This is for volunteers who have not yet attended the district orientation.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, most of the organizations below have postponed their upcoming events. Please continue to check their websites for updated information.

Barona Cultural Center and Museum
<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

California Rock Art Foundation
www.carockart.org

Imperial Valley Desert Museum
www.ivdesertmuseum.org

Malki Museum
<https://malkimuseum.org>

San Diego Archaeological Center
<https://sandiegoarchaeology.org/category/events-and-more/>

San Diego County Archaeological Society
www.SDCAS.org

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

From the Chair



Rick Huls

Hello, fellow CDAS Members! I’m Rick Huls, the current chair of the CDAS Steering Committee.

As reported last month by Vice Chair Dennis Connors, the CDAS operational year was split up into three time slots to better share the leadership role.

I was scheduled for the October through December period and will now pick up the summer months. Lois Carlson will take over for the spring.

We plan to be collaborative and supportive of each other; two heads are better than one, right?

The Steering Committee plans on getting together by email a couple times over the summer, just to see how things are going. If any of you would like to be included in this email traffic, drop me a line (randphuls@gmail.com) and we will include you in the CC.

So, what are we going to do next season? And how are we going to plan our events with COVID restrictions? Well, we will remain flexible and keep a positive attitude as we get closer to the beginning of our next season when we typically conduct our annual kick-off meeting— and resume field and BARC work.

While there is no guarantee that things will return to “normal” in five months, our annual kick-off meeting is **tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Oct.25**. It may be in person or virtual, so be sure to keep an eye out for updates in the Bulletin, our website (www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org) and Better Impact, as well as emails from Hayley for future activities and guidelines.

Remember that archaeological site monitoring/site stewardship is currently considered an essential function by the Colorado Desert District.

So, if you would like to visit your site, this option is open to all site stewards. Please refer to Hayley’s recent instructions for procedures and planning on **Page 12** of this bulletin.

Please email me or any of the steering committee members with questions or clarifications any time.

May you, your family and friends continue to stay safe, and I hope to see you all in the fall.

— Rick Huls

Colleagues bid a fond farewell to retiring State Park Archaeologist Robin Connors

On Thursday, April 30, Robin Connors officially retired as State Park Archaeologist at the Colorado Desert District after more than five years of outstanding leadership. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a memory book that fellow archaeologist Hayley Elsken had compiled for her, and a festive drive-by parade the following afternoon at Desert Sands Vintage RV Park.



Hayley writes about the presentation:

“The Park had a small group of ten people cram into the BARC library to let Robin know how much every discipline appreciated working with her. We all wore masks and maintained a 6-foot distance. I presented Robin with the book that contained lovely photos and good wishes from her colleagues and friends at CDD and CDAS.

Each attendee said one thing they were going to miss the most — and appreciated the most — about Robin. A strong theme was Robin’s team attitude. She worked with the Natural, Paleo, Maintenance, Administration, Law Enforcement and Interpretation departments to make sure their projects could happen, as well as help other disciplines understand the importance of the cultural resources.

Robin could always be counted on as a reliable person to assist with any project that came to the district. Throughout the day, other employees who were not able to safely attend the gathering, stopped by one by one to offer their congratulations and thanks to Robin for the lasting positive effect she had on the CDD. Everyone agreed that Robin will be greatly missed at the park and the BARC will never be the same without her.”



Attending the gathering at a safe distance were Ray Lennox (Superintendent), Wendie Wallace (District Administration Chief), Danny McCamish (Senior Environmental Scientist), Lisa Kramer-Gonzales (Environmental Scientist), Lyn Murray (Paleontologist), Terry Gerson (Supervisor for Cultural Resources), Lydia Stinson (Interpreter), Dennis Stephen (District Interpretive Specialist), Hayley Elsken and Paulette Morales (Environmental Scientist).

Photo by Dennis Stephen



Robin Connors on a site visit to Cuyamaca (June, 2018) Photo by Laurie Brindle

A review of Robin’s accomplishments

By Chuck Bennett

Robin started as District Archaeologist Oct. 1, 2014. Since then, she has worked diligently building and improving the Cultural Resource Management Program for the Colorado Desert District. For years, she trained, mentored, and managed the archaeology volunteers and has been integral to the success of the archaeology program.

Soon after arriving at CDD, Robin developed a far-reaching and comprehensive plan for CDD Cultural Resources. Prior to this, no comprehensive plan existed.

Under her leadership, CDAS volunteers completely remodeled the Begole Library, providing a welcoming meeting area, artifact displays and a research library.

She initiated an inventory of the artifact collection. Noting the probable antiquity of a number of artifacts, she reached out to recognized lithic researchers who used relatively new testing methods to establish very early dates for these artifacts.

Robin found the division between archaeology technicians and site stewards to be counterproductive and integrated the two groups into a single cohesive organization.

Robin worked with the paleontology group to perform a joint excavation of a mammoth fossil. This combined effort forged new ground and established a benchmark for future projects.

Robin led several teams of CDAS volunteers to rehabilitate vandalized archaeological sites in Cuyamaca. Today, after these efforts, no evidence of the vandalism can be detected.

In 2018, Robin was awarded the 2016 Frederick Law Olmsted Leadership and Vision Award by the California State Parks Director for her ability to motivate and inspire others to positive action. She has consistently demonstrated long-term commitment to the ideals and values of our department and has been passionate about protecting the archaeological resources of our parks and preserving the cultural landscapes of the previous inhabitants.



Cars lined up to wish Robin well during the drive-by parade. Photo by Laurie Brindle



Transitions — Robin Connors



District Archaeologist Robin Connors poses next to the BARC sign in 2014.

Photo by Sam Webb



Hayley Elsken and Robin at Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia in 2019. Photo by John Case



Robin and John Case at the 2019 CRSP Burn Survey

Photo by Chris Blake



Robin with cultural ranger "Choi" at Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia

Photo by John Case

A note from Hayley —

"Robin and I have worked together for three years as of May 1. I am so happy that Robin saw potential in me when I was hired in 2017. Robin has been an amazing co-worker, mentor, and friend. She has taught me so much about running a cultural resource program, including community involvement and how to speak up for resource protection. I will miss her greatly in the office and field. I hope she can use retirement to enjoy all the fieldwork and not worry about the paperwork!"



Welcoming attendees at the 2019 Early Man in the Americas conference

Photo by Sam Webb



At the 2020 CDAS annual meeting

Photo by Laurie Brindle



Robin and Dennis at Archaeology Weekend 2020.

Photo by Laurie Brindle



When the scheduled monthly speaker at the Visitor Center didn't show up, Robin gave an impromptu presentation on local archaeology to the delight of the audience.

Photo by Sam Webb

Retiring volunteer Chuck Bennett leaves an extraordinary legacy of service to the Park and CDAS

As Chuck Bennett retires from his more than 20 years with Colorado Desert Archaeology Society, we want to thank him for his decades of outstanding service to California State Parks and CDAS.

Chuck started volunteering in the Park in 1985 — building bighorn sheep guzzlers, helping with trail work and assisting in rebuilding the pupfish pond after it was vandalized.

In 2001, he and his wife, Mary, took a volunteer training class with renowned archaeologist, Dr. Joan Schneider, which was the beginning of his cultural resource work at CDD.

Over the years, Chuck has been a driving force in the establishment and growth of the archaeology department, including the planning, construction and completion of the Begole Archaeology Research Center in 2005.



Chuck Bennett
Photo by Joan Schneider, PhD

He also helped develop the Cultural Heritage Preservation and Protection program at Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia, as part of Ikh Nart's Sister Park relationship with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Chuck has served as president of the Anza-Borrego Foundation, chairman and member of the CDAS Steering Committee, and site steward of five sites in Harper Flat for 15 years. Chuck and Mary each received the prestigious Directors Gold

Medallion Award from California State Parks in 2006.

Chuck's leadership, knowledge and extraordinary talents have been instrumental in preserving and protecting the rich cultural resources of ABDSP and beyond. He has been an inspiration and mentor to so many of us over the years — and we will always be grateful. We wish Chuck and Mary the very best.

Following are photos and comments from people who have known and worked with Chuck over the years.



Left to right: Chuck and Mary Bennett, Joan Schneider, PhD, and former District Superintendent Mark Jorgensen at Park Headquarters (2003)
Photo by Sam Webb



Chuck Bennett and the late Bob Begole unveil the sign at the dedication of the BARC in 2006.
Photo by Sam Webb.



Mark Jorgensen with Chuck and Mary as they both receive the Directors Gold Medallion Award from California State Parks in 2006. Photo by Sam Webb



Chuck installing the metal numbers into rocks that identify the various Morteros Trails feature locations. (2012)
Photo by Sam Webb



Installation of cultural preserve sign in Little Blair Valley in 2012. L to R: Roger Riolo, Chuck, Astrid Webb and Sam Webb.
Photo courtesy of Sam Webb

Transitions — Chuck Bennett



Chuck (top left) and ABDSP colleagues viewing petroglyphs of argali sheep on tour of Mongolia. (2008)
Photo by Diana Lindsay



A little humor from a past CDAS Bulletin. That's Chuck, BTW.

Photo (and text) by Sam Webb



While in Mongolia in 2008, Chuck taught the locals how to smoke a cigar. Photo by Diana Lindsay



At Ikh Nart, Mongolia in 2011, Chuck leads other volunteers in recording a Late Bronze Age burial feature called "Shargoliin Bulsch." Photo by Joan Schneider



Chuck, Sally Bickerton and seasonal Park staffer Steve Russell extracting artifacts

Photo by Don Endicott



Needing to see the screen while piloting a camera-equipped drone, Chuck blocks out the light with a cloth.

Photo by Lisa Pridmore



After learning how to build a yurt in Mongolia, Chuck taught 5th-grade camp youth kids in Borrego how to do it.

Photo by Diana Lindsay



Chuck and Mary at Jeanne Binning's flintknapping class at the BARC in 2015

Photo by Susan Gilliland



Chuck and Sally Bickerton preparing a sign board

Photo by Don Endicott



Chuck (front left) helping excavate a hearth site in Carrizo Wash

Photo by Don Endicott



Taking a snooze after a survey in Fish Creek (More info on Page 9)

Photo by Lisa Pridmore

JOAN SCHNEIDER, PhD

Chuck and Mary Bennett took their CDAS field technician and monitor training with me in the first years I came to the Colorado Desert District and ABDSP. After that, I do not think that there was a project in which Chuck was not involved -- in fact, he was often the driving force behind it, indispensable, and always creative. I have come to know Chuck and Mary quite well over the years since then, and they are my next-door neighbors! Shall I list everything I can remember in which Chuck played an important part?

1. He designed templates for the curation boxes used to store the BARC's collection of ollas at the time when they had to be removed from the old BARC in the maintenance yard, as well as staff offices and corners of storage closets at CDD Headquarters.
2. Chuck served as the general contractor for the building of both the BARC, and several years later, the BARC Library. He even traveled to Sacramento to speak at a California State Parks meeting where he promoted a grant to pay for our movable storage units at the BARC.
3. Chuck was the site steward for important sites in Harper Flat for many years and brought me to that area for my first visit.
4. When we did the restorative work at the Bailey Earthen Structure, Chuck helped map and collect the historical materials surrounding the structure and acted as an advisor in the construction of the Bailey shelter and interpretive kiosk.
5. He served on the Begole Archaeological Research Grant committee, reviewing BARG grant proposals and following up with grant recipients regarding final reports and pushing the completion of the grant projects.
6. Chuck has also served on the CDAS Steering Committee, and as its leader at various times during CDAS history, from the time he joined in the early 2000s to this year.
7. He helped place signage and did fieldwork during 2009 and 2010 when seven new Cultural Preserves were designated in ABDSP.
8. Chuck also participated in developing the Cultural Heritage Preservation and Protection program at Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Mongolia, as part of Ikh Nart's Sister Park relationship with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

9. He played a major part in the development of the Morteros Village Interpretive Trail. He made large boulders move!!

10. Speaking of moving — when we closed the Piedras Grandes area to motor vehicles in 2003, I wanted to put up an interpretive sign at the “Horse and Rider” pictograph rock shelter after the rock art in the shelter had been professionally conserved. Since we could no longer use a vehicle, Chuck arranged a method to “schlepp” in the heavy stone sign, its 8-ft-long metal post, a sack of dry cement, water to mix the cement, and shovel and other tools to set the post for the sign underground in a cement block so that it would not be stolen. Oh yes, there was also an archaeological screen so we could screen the dirt that we removed for the post hole and cement block. Chuck recruited a mobile gurney and three other volunteers, and we set off. It is about a mile each way from the head of what once was a jeep trail to the rock shelter. It was a very hot day and I thought that hike was the end for me. I got sunstroke and water did not help very much—mostly, I sat by the side of the trail while Chuck and his crew did the job. They managed to get me out, too!. Afterwards, I drank a whole jar of salsa and managed to replace my electrolytes.

There are many more projects in which Chuck participated or for which he was the lead. During my tenure as Associate State Archaeologist (2001-2011), Chuck was an indispensable asset to California State Parks, the Colorado Desert District, and Colorado Desert Archaeological Society. It was a time when we accomplished the tremendous amount of work, which put us in the position we are today – the Greatest Cultural Resource Volunteer Organization in the Parks system.

THANK YOU, CHUCK (AND MARY, TOO) FOR YOUR ENDLESS SUPPORT!

SAM & ASTRID WEBB

We would like to thank Chuck and Mary Bennett for their actions in getting the BARC (Begole Archaeological Research Center) built, which for the most part was done with volunteer labor. Chuck was the project manager and he and Mary rolled up their sleeves along with the other volunteers, stacking the straw bales, painting, etc., but most importantly, Chuck coordinated all this with Bob Begole.

Thank you Chuck, we will miss you and Mary in CDAS.

MARK JORGENSEN

I'm proud to call Chuck and Mary Bennett best friends and travel partners.

I first met Chuck and Mary when they were program coordinators for the North County Group of the Sierra Club in the 1980s. They were always most gracious when I spoke to their group every Spring. Chuck began “wanting to do more” as he often does, and offered to put together a team of volunteers once a year to do resource management projects in Anza-Borrego.

The Sierra Club volunteers built the bighorn drinker system at Dave McCain Spring, which is still in use 33 years later. They also did a major resource protection project in the First Palm Grove of Borrego Palm Canyon.

Chuck single handedly maintained four bighorn guzzlers for over a decade. He flew numerous helicopter missions to work on guzzlers and do aerial archaeological surveys.

Kelley and I have done four cruises with the Bennetts to Alaska, Cuba and Haiti, and the Panama Canal. I've never met more gracious and generous people in my life — they give of their time and skills and are true friends for life.

At age 81, Chuck still walks several miles each morning, and to make up for that, afterwards he and I smoke a cigar and have a cup of coffee to work out the world's problems.

CAROL BLACK

Chuck has always been our North Star in regard to CDAS matters.

I remember a time when our small group was tasked with a survey of the Campbell Barn. It was a sad situation in that the structure had fallen in on itself, requiring a measured demolition. The intent was to restore, but the protocols prescribed by the Park were conflicting. The barn was disappearing and thieves were salvaging what they could.

CDAS went into action. We began and it was hard work, sifting nasty manure piles in the wind, pulling and saving every rusty nail, but we endured. However, in the end, politics demolished the project. It languished, forgotten and now only a skeleton remains.

Chuck would constantly remind us that it was all about the work. We did our job and we did it well!

Transitions — Chuck Bennett

DIANA LINDSAY

Chuck was always great to work with while I served on the ABF board. I always thought it strange that he sometimes referred to me as “Kiddo.” The Mongolia adventure was really special. Chuck took extra time to study how the yurts were put together so that they could put them together for the youth camp in Borrego.

He is quite the woodworking guy. He helped make the foundations for the original yurts. The photo (on Page 7) shows Chuck helping to put up the original yurts for the 5th Grade Camp in Borrego after learning how to do it in Mongolia.

SUSAN GILLILAND

Chuck has been an amazing mentor, a kind and calm friend and the best kind of CDAS volunteer since I first met him in 2011. His willingness to teach me the ropes on the steering committee was a lifesaver when I first joined. He gave me a script and the benefit of his wisdom when I first started giving BARC tours during Archaeology Weekend. His enthusiasm encouraged me to make my first of four journeys to Ikh Nart, Mongolia.

Throughout the years, he has charmed all of us with his tales, given us confidence with his knowledge, and made us smile with his warmth and good cheer.

He has worked tirelessly as a wide-ranging CDAS volunteer. In addition to his work in the field, the lab, arranging speakers, classes and events, he managed the Begole Grant program for many years as the unsung champion of valuable new archaeological research in the Colorado Desert.

I'm honored to be friends with Chuck and Mary and will deeply miss seeing them around the BARC.

DON ENDICOTT

Chuck has long served as an iconic Anza-Borrego Desert State Parks volunteer and Colorado Desert Archaeology Society plank holder. Always generous with his time and counsel, exceptionally well prepared, and always a delight to team with, Chuck is a treasured colleague and mentor whose friendship will be long remembered by those he has touched.

FRED & LLOUISE JEE

A committed volunteer with great vision and perseverance to keep the mission alive.

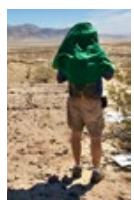
One of a kind.

LISA PRIDMORE



I took this pic of Chuck on Dec. 4, 2016, on a survey he did with us and CDAS in Fish Creek. That was the survey where we found the fresh mountain lion kill of a big horn sheep in the wash below our site. Pretty exciting day!

Chuck took a well deserved snooze after lunch. I don't think he has ever seen this picture. It's one of my favorites of this humble and talented man.



These two photos were taken by me in May 2017 when Randy and I drove Chuck to the Medicine Wheel site in the southern part of Anza-Borrego so he could film it with his drone.



It was only the three of us and we had a great time. Randy and Chuck talked the entire hour-and-a-half drive

both down there and back about the many adventures and places they have both been. I loved listening to Chuck's stories of his hikes in our park; what an adventurer he is!

RICK & PAULA HULS

Chuck Bennett is leaving some Seven-League boots to fill! He has shared his vast depth of knowledge and leadership skills with CDAS and the Borrego Springs community at large. He will be missed on the Steering Committee board. He always encouraged new ideas and then stood back to examine them more closely, then gave his opinion. We really appreciate Chuck's respectful manner and sense of humor.

EUGENIE NEWTON

Chuck is a stalwart of the archaeology volunteers. To say he will be missed is an understatement. Chuck is my model for a professional archaeology volunteer, which is not the contradiction it sounds like.

He is curious about the field, active and diverse in his archaeology interests, offers his expertise to support the group and the professional archaeologists he has worked with over the years. I am still in awe of his numerous contributions to bring the Begole Archaeology Research Center to life. We have all benefited from Chuck's participation. I will miss his presence among us.

KATHY BRYSON

I remember well the trip into Coyote Canyon with Chuck Bennett and Joan Schneider a few years ago when we planted new archaeology signs that Joan designed. Chuck was courageously and slowly driving the Begolemobil, as we bucked and thumped, and swayed like a pro-rodeo bull ride.

Joan and I were hanging on to the seats, whooping and whoa-ing as Chuck, undaunted, navigated the terrible road. It was a memorable day of archaeology, meeting site stewards, and exploring a lesser traveled area of ABDSP. His adventuresome nature and archaeological expertise will be sorely missed.

PATTY MCFARLAND

Chuck did so much for the District and its parks; everything from working to protect cultural resources, to maintaining water guzzlers, to the work performed on the BARC and the library, and more.

The effects of his contributions will be appreciated by Park staff and visitors for years to come.

Put your creative and collaborative ideas to work for CDAS!

Nominations now being accepted for CDAS Steering Committee

If you would like to help protect the vital cultural resources of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and continue the archaeology volunteer excellence of CDAS, please consider nominating yourself or a fellow member for the open

position on the Steering Committee. Meetings are monthly from October through May. You may attend in person or remotely.

If interested, please contact Eugenie Newton at: evnewton8@gmail.com



Site Steward Report



The late Mel Sweet points to a metate at the high desert site in ABDSP in 2009.



In 2012, a yerba santa plant had grown over the metate, almost obscuring it.



In 2013, the drought killed the yerba santa plant.



Only sticks remain of the yerba santa in 2016.



Abandoned railroad cars near a shelter in 2010



In 2017, graffiti covered the cars.



In 2017, a drawing similar to the train graffiti was discovered inside the shelter and removed in 2018.



Illegal trail-making on ABDSP land that is adjacent to private property in 2015.



By posting new signs that designate ABDSP land in 2016, illegal trail-making has stopped.

Site-steward photo stations provide vital visual history

Story and photos by Sherry Mitchell

“Every Picture Tells a Story” by Rod Stewart is one of my favorite songs. I see the truth of this statement using the same CDAS site stewardship photo stations for each site visitation.

Having photos taken from the same locations, as well as extra photos of the surrounding areas, show before-and-after documentation when an impact to cultural resources is found. This visual history can prove to be invaluable in years to come.

I have been monitoring seven sites in the high desert of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park since May of 2009. My partners and I have photographed changes over time, as well as site impacts.

Landscape and plant changes are obvious. For example, in one site, a yerba santa plant growing near a metate showed growth each year until it almost totally covered the metate. This healthy plant eventually died from the drought, and is now only dried sticks. Biannual photographs of the same areas show

seasonal changes of the plants and flowers, as well as wet years and dry years.

In 2017 Don Endicott and I discovered a fire pit and graffiti in a shelter that has painted anthropomorphs. Immediately upon our discovery, Don phoned District Archaeologist Robin Connors, who reported it to a ranger.

In January of 2018, Robin, Don and I went back to remove the damage. Robin worked on the charcoal drawing while Don and I carried out the burned rocks and debris.

In the photo record, we had photos of the abandoned train cars on the railroad tracks, the graffiti changes to each compartment, and even graffiti artists.

The railroad cars were visible in the photos taken from the site where the damage occurred. Our belief was that the vandals walked in from the tracks.

Thankfully, the pictographs were not damaged. The graffiti image could still be seen by those of us who knew it had been there, but now it is an indentation only,

and not a black outlined figure. Taking a photo station shot of the removed image and the pictographs in the shelter at each visitation since that time continue to show that the image is fading even more.

Because our sites are adjacent to private property that has mobile homes, an office, restaurant, and motel, some of the impacts we found were related to improved trails that started on their property. Again, Robin Connors acted quickly to our impact reports and went to the office to speak to the owners of the park. She took a ranger with her and posted new archaeological signs. Our regular photo documentation shows that the trail-making on ABDSP property has not continued.

I am honored to be trained to steward these sites. Of all my volunteer commitments, I believe site-stewarding is the most important one that I have. I plan to take more pictures at the photo stations in these sacred places to add to the archaeological record.

CDAS Member Profile

JEAN PAUL CARRERE

By Sally Bickerton

Jean Paul Carrere, a CDAS member since 2018, first came to the United States from his native France to surf California waves in the 1970s.

His hometown is picturesque Biarritz, a popular beach town on France's southwestern coast. Biarritz is in the Basque country, just north of the Spanish border and near the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains.

Jean Paul explained that surfing came to the area when the classic movie, "The Sun Also Rises," was filmed there in 1956. While on location, screenwriter Peter Viertel lent his surfboards to the local body surfers. The sport caught on and continues today.

Having grown up surfing in France, Jean Paul came to California for the waves — and never left.



Jean Paul checks GPS coordinates of milling site on a recent hike.

Photo by John Case

He lived in Costa Mesa prior to retiring.

During that time, Jean Paul continued to visit the desert and had friends who lived in Borrego Springs. When it came to retirement, it was a natural transition to move to one of his favorite towns.

While hiking in the desert over the years, he saw traces of the area's earlier inhabitants and was curious to learn more about them. In 2018, he took the Archaeology Technician course with State Park Archaeologist Robin Connors to gain knowledge about the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla people and their cultures.

Becoming a site steward was the next logical step, and he now stewards sites in Cougar Canyon.

Jean Paul says it is a rich cultural area, a bit remote and protected. As it is well known, it does get some campers, but he says for the most part they are respectful and cause no damage to the beautiful canyon.

Jean Paul enjoys being part of CDAS and working with all the dedicated volunteers.



ABOVE: Jean Paul gives his signature thumbs-up sign after coming across an impressive pot drop.

Photo by Randy Redfern



Jean Paul holds a weighty big horn sheep skull found on a trail.

Photo by Randy Redfern

He settled in coastal North San Diego and remembers first visiting the desert with a group of friends to camp and hike.

He has memories of visiting the wind caves in the southern part of ABDSP, and fell in love with the desert.

Jean Paul moved to Orange County in the 1990s where he worked in the construction business for many years.

Hopefully, we will all be out hiking and actively stewarding soon in our beautiful state parks!

RIGHT: Another thumbs-up after being designated an official member of the ABDSP volunteer patrol for a day during the Park's closure.

NOTE: Jean Paul was not allowed to keep the magnetic car sign.

Photo by Laurie Brindle



New site-visit guidelines provided during COVID-19 Park closures

By Hayley Elskén

After talking with Superintendent Ray Lennox and Supervisor for Cultural Resources Terry Gerson, we have agreed the site stewardship for archaeology sites is an essential task. Site stewardship visits can continue, but there will be certain restrictions and check-ins before your visit.

All three parks in our district along with all state parks across California are currently closed to vehicle traffic. Many of the roads and day-areas are closed with locked gates or barricades.

Before you visit, I need an email at least three to four days before your planned visit with the following information:

- 1) The day you are planning your visit.
- 2) A description of where you park to reach your site: what road with estimated mileage if possible, pull-out, or parking area, etc.).
- 3) The make, model and color of your car.
- 4) Site visits must be scheduled Monday through Friday only —not on weekends due to increased visitor traffic that the rangers have to deal with.

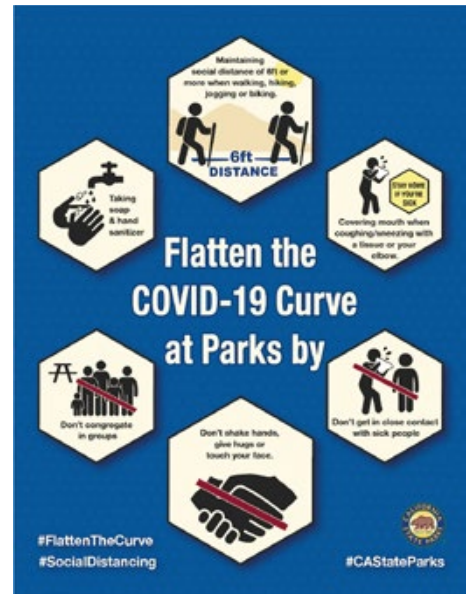
After you send me your information, I will forward it to the supervising ranger for the park you are visiting. If the location that you normally park is barricaded, we will discuss if you need a code to a locked gate, an alternative parking spot, or maybe the site visit can wait. I will then send you a confirmation if you can go on your visit.

You will also need to stop by the BARC to pick up a “Volunteer Patrol” magnetic sign for your vehicle — and a COVID-19 parking pass to place in your windshield.

All camping is prohibited in the park, including dispersed camping in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This is currently being enforced.

When site visits are being made the proper precautions need to be followed that the CDC and California State Parks have outlined. People need to remain six feet apart, including in vehicles, unless they are members of the same household.

Stay home if you are sick or are a member of a high-risk group.



And please be sure to wear your face mask in appropriate situations.

Don't forget to log your hours on Better Impact

This is another gentle reminder to please make sure you log all your hours for your site visits and your paperwork submissions. It is important to CDAS that we are recognized by Parks for all of the volunteer hours our dedicated volunteers perform.

If you are having Better Impact issues please contact Hayley at hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov

If for some reason you don't have a partner for future visits, you will find a resource of people who have volunteered to be substitute Site Stewards on our website. Please visit <https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/>

Pat Downing
pdsnewmail@gmail.com

Tales from the Trail



CDAS Site Stewards Scott McClintock and Mike Hurley encountered this boulder blocking vehicle access when doing a site visit to Indian Hill in April. Photo by Scott McClintock

“So you guys tore down the fence? Try to get around this boulder!”

When CDAS Site Stewards Scott McClintock and Mike Hurley went to Indian Hill for recent site visit, they found a hefty boulder blocking the entrance trail.

Last December, Randy Redfern had discovered that vandals had removed portions of original permanent fencing, metal stakes and the “No Vehicles” sign.

In January, Scott and Mike put up a barrier. Scott wrote, “We planted a bollard

and erected a stone cairn to block the breach. However, these temporary measures can be easily defeated.” Apparently, their efforts weren't enough and illegal vehicle traffic on the roads continued.

So somebody with heavy equipment got serious about protecting the Park and its resources and deposited a 5x4x4-foot boulder where the breach was.

It appears to be working. Hooray!



Please keep an eye out for CDAS and Park updates this summer. Stay safe and stay well and we hope to see you in the Fall!