



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



Serving the Anza-Borrego, Palomar Mountain and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park / **OCTOBER 2020**

CALENDAR

Starting in October, the CDAS Library and Lab will be open, but on a limited basis due to specific COVID-19 protocols.

All visits must be scheduled via Better Impact prior to your planned arrival.

STATE PARKS/CDAS MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS

On hold until further notice

ANNUAL KICK-OFF MEETING

(Virtual)
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 3 to 4 p.m.
Please see Page 5 for details.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

(Virtual)
Friday, Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m.
All members are welcome. Please contact Hayley Elsken if you plan to attend and she will send you a link.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

(Virtual)
"Online Primary School —
Creating a Primary Site Record in the
Field and in the Office"
By Susan Gilliland
Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
See Page 8 for details.



AT THE KICK-OFF MEETING: CDAS Member Stan Rohrer will discuss what went into the documentation of this remarkable site with photos — and will provide a mathematical overview of what goes on during the year.

Photo by Deborah Corbett

Notes from the Park



Hayley Elsken

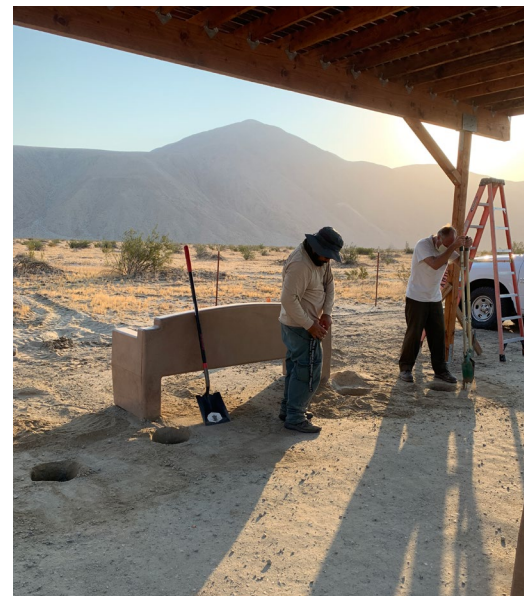
May 1 – Sept. 30, 2020

Summer has flown by and social distancing, face masks, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes have become part of the

daily routine at the Park. This summer has allowed time to write up procedures and plans to protect volunteers and employees so we can have an enjoyable and active season.

This summer was very lonely without Robin — and without volunteers being able to come in. I monitored for new constructions at the entrance to Coyote Canyon and Hellhole Canyon, and looked at the condition of historic buildings and features built after World War II or by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC).

In early September, I responded to a call for READs (Resource Advisors) to assist Parks in Northern California with the many fires.



Workers install a shelter and bench at the entrance to Hellhole Canyon.

Photo by Hayley Elsken

INSIDE

- From the Chair
Page 3
- Site Steward Updates
Page 4
- CDAS Kick-Off Meeting
Page 5
- Archaeology Publications
Page 6
- Member Profile:
John Downing Page 7
- Regional Archaeology
Museums and Centers
Page 8
- Continuing Education —
Online Edition Page 8

Continued on Page 2

Notes from the Park

Continued from Page 1

I worked at Fort Ross State Historic Park, Austin Creek State Recreation Area, Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park and Limekiln State Park. As a READ, I surveyed newly made dozer lines for archaeological sites that might have been uncovered by the dozer work and made recommendations for the repair of dozer and hand lines. I was in Northern California for two weeks and was happy to come in and help these parks in a time of disaster.

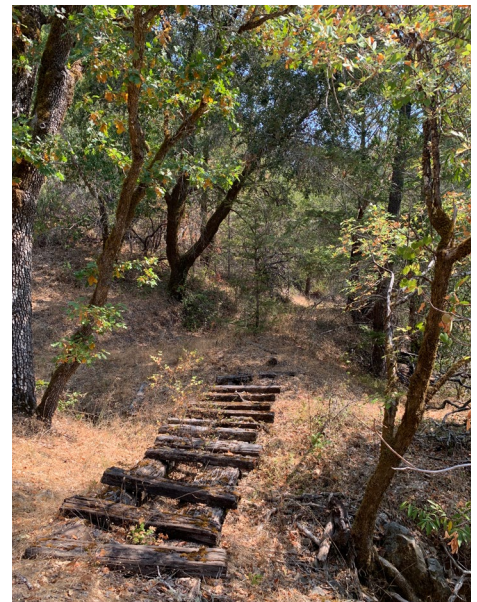
Work at the Apple Orchard this summer proceeded as planned. The orchard was weeded, apples were thinned, fences were fixed — all with the amazing help of the Natural Resource crew at the district. Pruning of the trees will take place in the late fall and early winter.

The Colorado Desert District received grant funding to have a basket expert evaluate and study the baskets that are

stored at the BARC. This will include an analysis of the baskets' designs, as well as recommendations on the preservation and conservation of the baskets. The District received one other grant for the excavation of a fire-affected rock feature found in the southern area of the park on surveys last year. The grant has funding for Native American monitors as well as two types of dating techniques that might be used.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who put activities on hold this season. I hope everyone is excited to come back for a busy 2020-21 season. Site stewardship, surveys, lab days and excavation work are all in the plans. Procedures for lab days at the BARC have been sent out and lab work will start on Oct. 6. I am looking forward to the season and everyone's support as the only Associate State Archaeologist at the Colorado Desert District.

— *Hayley Elskén*



Narrow Gauge railroad bridge in Austin Creek State Recreation Area



Repairing a dozer line in Fort Ross State Historic Park



U.S. Forest Service firefighters prepare for helicopter assistance filling a water tank at the top of a hill in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

Photos by Hayley Elskén

Before you return to the BARC:

There are a couple of points to know before you can come back to the BARC:

1. You must read the BARC COVID-19 Prevention Plan that was emailed to all members.

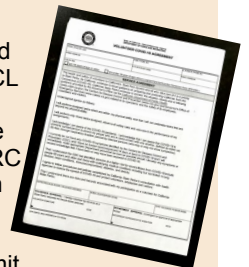
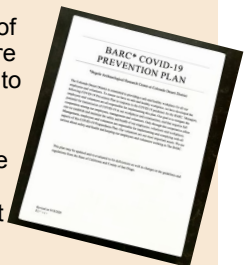
2. You must sign and return the DPR208CL form. I will have printed copies at the entrance to the BARC that people can sign the day of.

3. There will be a limit of six volunteers allowed in the BARC lab and library. The six spots will be reserved on Better Impact. This means you MUST sign up for lab shifts on Better Impact and if all six spots are full - you cannot come to the BARC that day. If we consistently have six people sign up, I will look into creating two lab days a week.

There are many conditions and guidelines in the BARC COVID-19 Prevention Plan, please read through, and if you have any questions feel free to email me.

Thanks!

Hayley Elskén



From the Chair



RICK HULS

It has been a very interesting year with many changes. CDAS has had a number of challenges due to COVID-19.

In case you haven't already heard, California tax revenues are projected to be down due to the pandemic shutdown — and Governor Newsom ordered all

departments in his May Revise of the State Budget to cut their budgets to make up for a projected \$54 billion deficit.

Due to this, three staff positions in the cultural resources department that were supposed to be filled will be put on hold. State Parks is currently planning to open the Visitor Center in October, but it will not be business as usual.

So, what are we going to do this 2020/2021 season? And how are we going to plan our events? Well, we must remain flexible and keep a positive attitude as we begin this season.

We held an early "virtual" Steering Committee meeting on Sept. 18. As always, we invited all CDAS members to attend. Business was conducted in the same format as an in-person meeting with everyone having an opportunity to speak.

The response was amazing. A total of 18 members attended, which is great since we typically have only two to three non-committee members. A number of very important items were discussed and actions were taken. Minutes of the meeting will be published shortly on the Members page of the CDAS website.

Next month's Steering Committee meeting (also virtual) will be on Oct. 16 at 1:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, please let Hayley know and she will send you a link.

The Annual CDAS Members Kick-off meeting is scheduled for Oct. 14, and yes, it will be a virtual meeting! Please look for details on Page 5.

We will be resuming field and BARC work on a limited basis starting in October. Hayley will be publishing these volunteer opportunities, as well as the new requirements and procedures.

If you would like to participate in any of these activities, please follow Hayley's instructions in her announcement or contact Hayley directly.

Site monitoring/site stewardship of the Colorado Desert District is now allowed by California State Parks. This activity is open to all site stewards – members just need to follow the new protocol and contact Hayley before visiting your site.

Just a reminder – please update your information in Better Impact, which is the official method the Park communicates with its volunteers.

When life hands you lemons, make lemonade, which is an old saying and I think is so very true this year. We all have been handed a bushel of lemons and people are making the best of it. Some are learning or re-learning basic skills (i.e., baking, canning, sewing, carpentry, and woodworking). A lot of home projects are getting done and some are even taking classes online.

Let's raise a glass of lemonade to toast the increased attendance at our first virtual Steering Committee meeting — and refocus on the main task of helping our Park Archaeologist achieve the stated goals and programs.

A special shout out to Susan Gilliland, Joan Schneider, Patty McFarland and Barbara Barnes for forming the Continuing Education Subcommittee!

Perhaps all future Steering Committee meetings should be virtual — and maybe some of the training/educational opportunities as well.

If you have any questions or want further information about the Steering Committee, please contact me (via e-mail randphuls@gmail.com) or any of the other Steering Committee members.

In the meantime, please stay safe and focused upon our families, friends, and loved ones.

— Rick Huls



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

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

HAYLEY ELSKEN

Associate State Archaeologist

HayleyElsken@parks.ca.gov • 760-767-4403

CDAS Bulletin Editor: Laurie Brindle
bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org

CDAS Site Stewards

Need for CDAS site monitoring even greater during pandemic

Welcome to a new and challenging season. While the rules have changed, the need for the protection and monitoring of archaeological sites in the park is even greater. With fewer visitors about, sometimes vandals take advantage of the situation. Just to reiterate the rules for Site Stewards:

At this time, the park is open and volunteers may visit their site(s) or participate in site set ups, as long as they maintain social distancing as much as possible — and wear a mask when they cannot, unless they are members of a “family” group. Carpooling is discouraged unless it is not feasible. If you carpool with a non-family member, you must wear masks. Don’t forget to request and sign a Covid form from Hayley.

As we begin the season, we are in need of stewards for six sites and steward partners for another five. Should you want to take on a new site, or change your existing site, please let me know. There may be more available as I continue to poll stewards as to their current availability.

Thanks to all of you for the important work you do in protecting the park!

Pat Downing
Site Steward Coordinator
pdsnewmail@gmail.com



CDAS Archaeology Technician and Site Steward John Case monitors a rock shelter at one of his sites. Photo by Laurie Brindle



Improving and Expanding Site Stewardship

The First National Site Stewardship Workshop

October 14–15, 2020
Online and no cost



For information and to register, please visit: <https://www.sitestewardship.org/workshop.html>

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Colorado Desert Archaeology Society presents the annual

Members “Kick-Off” Meeting



To be held **VIRTUALLY**



**Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020
3 to 4 p.m.**

Featuring:

- Colorado Desert District Superintendent
RAY LENNOX
- Associate State Archaeologist
HAYLEY ELSKEN
- Steering Committee Chair
RICK HULS
- Site Steward Coordinator
PAT DOWNING
- Special Member Presentation
STAN ROHRER

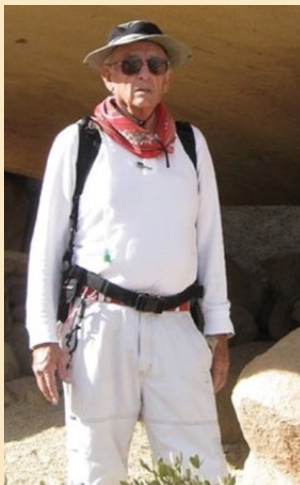
All CDAS members are encouraged to attend this important meeting as we begin the 2020/2021 official desert season. Learn what’s ahead for Parks and the Archaeology Department — and how YOU can be a part of the vital work being done in the Lab and out in the field. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations.

NOTE: A unique log-in link will be emailed to all CDAS members before the event. We hope to “see” you there!

anzaborregoarchaeo.org

“Documenting a Solstice Rock Shelter”

Featuring CDAS Member STAN ROHRER



Stan Rohrer at the Solstice Rock Shelter circa 2009
Photo by Deborah Corbett

CDAS proudly presents Stan Rohrer as the meeting’s educational speaker. Stan will talk about one of the most intriguing archaeological sites in the Park — a large rock overhang covered in pictographs that are presumed to be solstice markers. Using mathematics, Stan has meticulously mapped the images to better understand their significance throughout the year.

Stan is a former Air Force officer who spent 1 ½ years in Korea — and a retired high school physics and math teacher. He is also an avocado rancher and an amateur radio operator who has lived in Valley Center with his wife, Barbara, since 1970.

Stan was leading hikes in ABDSP in the early 2000s when he first saw some Indian pictographs that caught his attention and interest.

In 2007, he completed a Site Steward training class with State Parks archaeologist, Dr. Joan Schneider, and then partnered with Deborah Corbett to steward several sites in the south end of ABDSP.

Stan, a DAKA (double above-the-knee amputee) since 2014, can no longer hike to the sites he once stewarded, but he has not slowed down. He enjoys riding his hand-operated, three-wheeled “trike,” playing wheelchair tennis, kayaking San Diego County lakes, Mission Bay, the Colorado River and reservoirs. He has even built his own Fiberglass kayaks, which he can live out of for several weeks.

Stan said that he has always had a fascination with numbers and spreadsheets, which he has used extensively to document the various pictographs.

We look forward to the presentation!

This story contains excerpts from Sally Bickerton’s profile of Stan that published in the January 2019 CDAS Bulletin.

Archaeology Publications

For those of you who enjoy archaeology publications, here are some recommended offerings from CDAS Steering Committee members Dennis Connors and John Downing. If you have articles that you would like to share, please send them to Dennis at dennis_connors@yahoo.com for inclusion in upcoming issues.

“Prehistoric Trails of the Colorado Desert”

ABSTRACT:

Archaeologists in southern California have attempted to identify and interpret the physical remains of the prehistoric travel routes that extended within and beyond the Colorado Desert. A review of some of the approaches that have been used, the problems that have been encountered, and the results that have been obtained may be of interest to those who are dealing with similar landscape features on the Baja California peninsula, including those associated with the prospective UNESCO Cultural Route of El Camino Real de las Californias.

https://www.academia.edu/37695546/Prehistoric_trails_in_the_Colorado_Desert_a_review_of_archaeological_research

“Three Hypotheses to Explain Pai Origins”

This paper authored by Don Laylander discusses three hypotheses for Pai origins and is based upon linguistic (primarily) and archaeological science. Why are Pai origins important to our understanding of the Colorado Desert history, pre and post contact? The Kumeyaay, which include subgroups Tipai and Ipai, are related at the very least by language to the Pai. Their languages share the same basic origin as part of the Yuman linguistic family.

One of the hypotheses described in the conclusion is related to Lake Cahuilla and its periodic inundations. This “one concrete scenario” offered by Laylander provides a very interesting possibility for the migrations by Pai/Yuman speaking peoples within the Colorado Desert in the late archaic period.

NOTE: My suggestion, if you aren't particularly interested in the details of the linguistic evolution of the Pai branch of the Yuman family, is to skim through the paper, paying particular attention to the “Relative Cultural Similarities” (p. 123), the “Evidence from Archaeology” (p. 125), and “Explanatory Models” as well as: “Conclusions and a Scenario” (p. 126-127). Happy reading! John Downing

https://www.academia.edu/27308570/Three_Hypotheses_to_Explain_Pai_Origins?email_work_card=view-paper

Lake Cahuilla's Little Sister: Exploring the Role of Laguna Macuata in Colorado Desert Prehistory

ABSTRACT

Laguna Macuata is a southwestern branch of the Colorado River's delta. It lies between the Peninsular Ranges' Sierra Juárez to the west and the lower-elevation Sierra Cucupá and Sierra Mayor to the east. Like the much larger Salton Basin immediately to its north, Laguna Macuata's floor extends below sea level, and it has been flooded at intervals with waters from the Colorado River and possibly also from the Gulf of California. The importance of Laguna Macuata in the prehistory of the Colorado Desert still remains largely unexplored. The modern characteristics of the basin, its early historic record, its ethnographic record, and the archaeological evidence available so far are reviewed here, and some research opportunities are suggested. Laguna Macuata's likely role in Colorado Desert prehistory is compared and contrasted with that of its neighbor to the north, Lake Cahuilla. Both lakes offer important research opportunities for case studies of aboriginal adaptations to productive but exceptionally unstable natural environments.

https://www.academia.edu/27308670/Lake_Cahuillas_Little_Sister_Exploring_the_Role_of_Laguna_Macuata_in_Colorado_Desert_Prehistory

Of special interest: Archaeology Southwest

As stated on this website: “Archaeology Southwest is a private 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Tucson, Arizona. For three decades, Archaeology Southwest has practiced a holistic, conservation-based approach to exploring the places of the past. We call this Preservation Archaeology. By exploring what makes a place special, sharing this knowledge in innovative ways, and enacting flexible site protection strategies, we foster meaningful connections to the past and respectfully safeguard its irreplaceable resources.”

<https://archaeologysouthwest.org/>

JUST FOR FUN!

* Facebook users may want to join the facebook.com group “Mystery Artifact Identification Group”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MysteryArtifact/?ref=share>



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



Member Profile

JOHN DOWNING

By Sally Bickerton

Our adventurous former chair, John Downing, has such an interesting story to tell about his path to becoming a CDAS volunteer and Site Steward. The take-charge attitude we've learned to appreciate so much in him is obviously present in all his very active, competitive, and successful life endeavors.

Raised in San Bernardino, he joined the Navy right out of high school and served three tours in Viet Nam. He then studied business management, accounting, and finance while honing his skill in data networks, drive-through technology, and music and paging systems. His business, Downing Sound and Communications, was sold after many years to one of his competitors, Muzak! John then became an active Red Cross volunteer in its National Disaster Relief Service, training and then serving after Hurricane Ike in 2008.

John met his wife of 38 years, Pat, at a skydiving meet at Lake Elsinore. They competed together and achieved two world records, of the five world records he holds in the sport. He started flying sailplanes in 1998, and he, with Pat's



The telescopes and ccd cameras that John uses to monitor the dimming of faint stars.

Photo by Pat Downing

support on the ground and in chase crews, has set numerous records for long distance cross country sailplane flights.

In 2007, John attended an underwater field school and began participating in underwater surveying and excavation of shipwrecks with the Anglo-Danish Maritime Archaeology Team. After several years working as an assistant to Dr. Simon Spooner on shipwrecks off the Dominican Republic, he lead expeditions on additional shipwrecks, also training archaeology professionals and divers in the techniques of underwater archaeology.

John and Pat also are active Palomar



Rock art at the Grand Canyon — John observes petroglyphs over pictographs attributed to the Anasazi (ancestral Puebloans) during the 2019 American Rock Art Research Association Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona. Photo by Pat Downing

Mountain State Park volunteers, serving as fire lookouts, lookout trainers and docents. He continues to sail and enjoys astronomy, — collecting data for the American Association of Variable Star Observers and NASA's Exoplanet Watch Project.

His love of the desert started as a child, as he spent time in Yucca Valley at his grandparents' home. This has been a shared interest with Pat, as they both enjoyed learning about the geology, biology, history and pre-history of the desert on their many camping trips to the East Mojave. After moving to San Diego County, they started visiting Borrego Valley. And one of those first visits included a tour of the Mortero Trails led by Sam Webb. That is when they first heard about CDAS and an upcoming training class.

John and Pat attended Dr. Joan Schneider's class in January 2013, and have been active in CDAS ever since then. They have served as site stewards for a Pinyon Wash site, as well as one in Indian Hill. They have seen sherd piles and areas where people have scraped the earth looking for artifacts at these sites, but no damage to the rock art.

We all know how many hats John has worn since joining the CDAS Steering Committee – including treasurer, chair, Archaeology Weekend chair, and public programs coordinator. We are so thankful for his leadership skills! John shared that one of the most rewarding aspects

of his work with CDAS is assisting Pat with the recruiting and training of new site stewards and their site set-ups. In his words, "Taking stewards to their new site and showing them the features and artifacts to be found and monitored is such a pleasure. Their enthusiasm is contagious and we have such and enjoyable time."

And these new stewards surely enjoy John and Pat's positive, fun, and enthusiastic attitude!



ABOVE: John documents a cement cast in Key Biscayne National Park. Photo by Kim Walker

BELOW: John and Pat's first skydiving world record together in 1980 Photo by Norman Kent



Regional Museums and Arch Centers

Although many of these outstanding organizations are temporarily closed due to the Coronavirus, their websites have a wealth of information and beautiful photography. We encourage you to visit them often!

Barona Cultural Center and Museum

The museum will re-open on Thursday, Oct. 8. COVID-19 protocols will be in effect to guarantee visitors' safety. Hours: Thursday and Fridays, Noon to 5 p.m.. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<https://www.baronamuseum.com>

California Rock Art Foundation

For status of their November Cultural Adventure tour to Baja California Sur and the Spring tours, please visit:
www.carockart.org

Imperial Valley Desert Museum

Closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus.
www.ivdesertmuseum.org

Malki Museum

Closed until further notice due to COVID-19.
malkimuseum.org

San Diego Archaeological Center

Virtual Lectures:
• "Geoglyphs of the Desert Southwest"
By Anne Morgan
Thursday, Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m.
Cost: Pay what you wish.
• "Chicano Park: San Diego's Sistine Chapel"
By Martin Rosen
Wednesday, Oct. 14, Noon / Cost: FREE
• "Amelia Earhart Archaeology — Testing the Nikumaroro Hypothesis"
By Tom King
Thursday, Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m. / Cost: Pay what you wish
sandiegoarchaeology.org

San Diego County Archaeological Society

• Virtual Event "Arch in the Park 2020"
Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• Virtual Lecture: Archaeology of Epidemics"
By Karen Lacy and Sandra Pentney
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
<https://sdcas.org>

Society for California Archaeology

October is Archaeology Month
<https://scahome.org>

Continuing Education — Online Edition



Susan Gilliland
Photo by Laurie Brindle

Online Primary School: Creating a Primary Record: In the Field and in the Lab 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020

CDAS is adapting to the online world and will now offer this class (postponed from last spring) by using an online format. The one-day class, taught by past CDAS Steering Committee Chair Susan Gilliland, will give participants

the tools needed to document and record a new archaeological site with a Primary Record. Archaeologists use this fundamental skill to ensure a site is properly described and placed into the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

One of the primary goals of the CDD Cultural Resources program is to survey and record new cultural sites. CDAS volunteers can help to document and protect our cultural resources by learning how to do this on their own.

During the online portion of the class, we'll review archaeological site-recording terms, recommend the necessary equipment to carry, teach participants how to look at a site, and

break down the required data to collect in the field.

We'll then go outside to practice recording "sites." Given our distance-learning format, this could be a vase "olla" in your backyard, or a cutting board "metate" on your deck. "Local" CDAS members might be able to come to the Park, but that would have to be arranged. After that, we'll go back online together to demystify and simplify filling out the DPR Form 523a – Primary Record – and go over how to submit the information to Hayley.

You will need to have a notebook, pen/pencil, GPS (if you have one), compass (if you have one), tape measure (if you have one), and a camera or smart phone.

Details to follow. Class materials will be available digitally or for in-person pick up several days before class.

To register for this class, please sign up with Better Impact. To ask questions, please contact Susan Gilliland by email at shgilliland@mac.com.



We want your news, photos and more!

If you have events, items of interest, photos or "Tales from the Trail" that you would like included in future publications of the CDAS Bulletin, please send them to bulletin@anzaborregoarchaeo.org **COPY DEADLINE:** the 20th of each month, September to April. The CDAS Bulletin publishes October through May.