



The Colorado Desert

# Archaeology

Society Bulletin

December and  
January 2022/23

## NOTES FROM THE PARK

### LAND

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, Cupeño, and Payómkawichum/Luiseño are the Original peoples of the Anza-Borrego Desert, Palomar Mountain, and Cuyamaca Rancho state parks. These traditional homelands in the Colorado Desert District are rich with their heritage and cultural tradition. The Colorado Desert Archaeological Society acknowledges these places as the Peoples’ homelands and offers gratitude for their stewardship of these lands from time immemorial through the present and into the future.

**Hayley Elsen**

**Associate State Archaeologist and CDD Tribal Liaison**

It’s been a month full of worthwhile Archaeology events and important fieldwork for CDAS.

Members volunteered at “Arch in the Park,” the San Diego County Archaeological Society’s annual event held at Los Peñasquitos Ranch house, and “Archaeopalooza,” an educational outreach experience sponsored by the Copper Mountain Community College District at Joshua Tree. Both events were great opportunities to inform the public about the archaeology of the Colorado Desert — and to share the work that CDAS does with the park. Thank you to everyone who helped staff the tables at these events!



Field technicians assisted with two surveys in October. On October 10, we surveyed on Palomar Mountain. Three sites were relocated and updated during the visit. The most recent update for these sites was in 1988. It will be fantastic to have updated site records and photographs of these sites in our records.



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### Final 2022 CDAS Public Education Program!

#### “Airplane Crash on Japacha Ridge”

December 7, 2022, 7 p.m. by Zoom

Have you heard about the 1922 Airplane crash that occurred in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park? Air travel was a dangerous endeavor in those early days of flight. A well-trained U.S. Army pilot was tasked with transporting a U.S. Cavalry Colonel from a San Diego base to a unit in Tucson in a DeHaviland biplane.



They did not land as expected and a multi-week hunt began. Sign up to attend this Zoom presentation and learn more about the interesting history of both the flight and the search that followed. See page 4 for details.

# CALENDAR

**COVID UPDATE**  
The mask mandate has been lifted

**LAB DAY**  
Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**LIBRARY**  
Every Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**ARCH TECHNICIANS SURVEY WORK**  
Friday, Dec. 2 • Time: TBA

**FALL PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
“Airplane Crash on Japacha Ridge—Honoring its 100 Year Anniversary”  
December 7, 2022 7 p.m.  
Virtual, via Zoom

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Friday, Dec. 16, 1:30 p.m.  
Virtual, via Zoom

**ARCHAEOLOGY DAY**  
Saturday, March 4,  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
State Park Visitor Center

**SENTENAC CIENEGA RESTORATION SYMPOSIUM**  
Saturday & Sunday  
Dec. 10 & 11  
For information,  
please visit [www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org)

# NOTES FROM THE PARK--CONTINUED

Mary Lou White, MJ Lewis, Chris Blake, and John Case were amazing and collected great notes and photographs for the updated site records. Later in the month, we hiked up to the airplane monument in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to update the site record, which was recorded and filed with the Southern Coast Information Center in 1981.



PHOTO BY MJ LEWIS

CDAS table at Arch in the Park on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Los Peñasquitos Ranch house

Alex Bevil, retired State Park historian, will be speaking on the history of the site on December 7, which is the 100th anniversary of the airplane crash. Recording the monument was quite the switch in archaeological skills, going from ruins and artifact scatter to recording an intact built feature.

John Case, Theresa Harrison, Dale Harrison and Lance Deibler did an amazing job recording this unusual feature and Lance drew a couple of very detailed sketch maps which will

help with the update and the work that Alex Bevil is doing with the site.

I was on vacation for the first half of November, but the second half is already turning out to be busy. I met with multiple tribes this week for various projects in the pipeline at parks, as well as presenting during a livestream for Native American Heritage Month. The recording can be viewed on the ABDSP Facebook page. The presentation focused on California Native Americans at state parks.

Events to look forward to in December include survey work on December 2 for arch technicians and the presentation by Alex Bevil on December 7.

The Anza-Borrego Foundation will also be hosting a symposium for the Sentenac Cienega restoration strategy on December 10 to 11.

I will be giving a presentation on the land use history of the area and Michael Connolly Miskwish will be presenting on Kumeyaay rock drops. He presented on this topic at one of the CDAS cultural symposiums. It is a fascinating topic and likely one of the main strategies for the restoration.

Other researchers will present on the geology, hydrology, botany, and animals in the wetlands. Registration for the event can be done through Anza-Borrego Foundation.

— Hayley

**Save the date!**

**ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 2023**

Saturday, March 4, 2023

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

State Park Visitor Center



**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 pre-historic and historic cultural resources.

★ **HAYLEY ELSKEN**

ASSOCIATE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST/TRIBAL LIAISON  
 COLORADO DESERT DISTRICT  
 760-767-4403 [hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov](mailto:hayley.elsken@parks.ca.gov)

**2022/23 CDAS STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Steering Committee convenes once a month during the season. Meetings, which are virtual, 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:** Theresa Harrison  
[tfowlerharrison@gmail.com](mailto:tfowlerharrison@gmail.com)
- Vice Chair:** Lois Carlson  
[loiseleanor@gmail.com](mailto:loiseleanor@gmail.com)
- Secretary:** LLouise Jee  
[llwalking@yahoo.com](mailto:llwalking@yahoo.com)
- Treasurer/Webmaster:** Eugenie Newton  
[evnewton8@gmail.com](mailto:evnewton8@gmail.com)

**Public Education Chair: Open**  
**Continuing Education Chair: Open**  
**Members at Large on the Steering Committee:**  
**3 Open Positions now, 5 Open Positions as of**  
**January, 2023**

Please contact **Theresa Harrison** at [tfowlerharrison@gmail.com](mailto:tfowlerharrison@gmail.com) for information on any role you are interested in. Your help is truly needed!

**CDAS BULLETIN**

- Co-Editor:** Barbara Barnes  
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**COVER BANNER: HARPER CANYON AREA, NOVEMBER 2018**  
**PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES**

**NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**

**Theresa Fowler Harrison**



There are many things one can start or finish in an hour.

Read a book.

Watch TV.

**Complete a report for Hayley.**

Knit a scarf.

Paint a landscape.

**Help plan the CDAS Annual Meeting.**

Cook a meal.

Crochet a blanket.

Run, bike, swim.

**Complete a report for Hayley.**

Call a friend.

Take a hike.

**Complete hours on Better Impact.**

Practice a new language.

Take a Yoga class.

**Plan a CDAS Public Education presentation.**

Plant a garden.

Nap.

**Attend a CDAS committee meeting.**

What one hour would you be willing to give to CDAS? Drop me an email or give me a call!

Thank you to the CDAS members, especially Sally, Barbara, Laurie, and Sherry, who offered their time for this bulletin. Thank you, too, to the CDAS members who are spearheading Arch Day in March.

Thank you, Eugenie, for leading an insightful discussion at the Kickoff and developing the survey for CDAS members. We are truly at a crossroads. Thank you, Lois, for your help with the Kickoff, and always, thank you Hayley and LL for disseminating information.

—Theresa

# PUBLIC EDUCATION



THE COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY PRESENTS



# Airplane Crash on Japacha Ridge

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

1922 – 2022

Award-winning historian and preservationist Alexander D. Bevil will use historic photographs and maps to reveal a forgotten monument to America's military aviation history in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park's modern history: the search for missing U.S. Army aviators.

The presentation will also focus on the leadership role Rockwell Field's pilots and observers played flying outdated aircraft over forbidding mountain and desert terrain from San Diego to Tucson, Arizona. It will also discuss the role these men played in recovering Webber and Marshall, and the erection of an earlier monument at this site in their memory.

## About the Speaker

Mr. Alexander D. Bevil, a graduate of San Diego State University, with a Bachelor's degree in History. Before, during, and after his 20-year tenure as a California State Parks historian, he had worked diligently trying to save historic resources both in and outside the California State Parks system.

**December 7th @ 7:00PM via Zoom**

**Free and open to the public**

To register, please visit:  
<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/airplane-crash/>



Current Airplane Crash Monument. Photo by John Case



Major Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, Rockwell Field's Commander. Courtesy of the San Diego Aeronautical Museum.



Example of the DH4B aircraft.



Bronze Dedication Plaque, Airplane Crash Monument. Courtesy of Alexander D. Bevil.



The remains of the DH4B were found just below and east of Japacha Peak. May 1923. ©SDHS, UT-1097, Union-Tribune Collection.

# THE SEASON BEGINS!

CDAS KICKOFF, OCT. 23, 2022



Some of the set-up crew, from left to right: Sherry Mitchell, Lois Carlson, Eugenie Newton, Eli Vasquez, Mandi Carter and Brenda Wills



Theresa and Dale Harrison, and Denise DuBrevil



Fran Wade, Mary Lou White and Lance Deibler



Theresa Harrison, CDAS Chair, opening the meeting



Hayley Elsken and Mary Duffy



A splendid turnout

*Story and photos by Sherry Mitchell*

CDAS Site Stewards and Archaeology Technicians were excited to meet in-person in the newly renovated Old Julian Cuyamaca Fire Station. The social hour consisted of visiting with old friends and new comrades while feasting on fabulous food dishes.

Theresa Harrison, CDAS Chair began the business meeting by reading the Land Acknowledgement. She thanked all who came and gave praise to the planning committee. Attendees each introduced themselves.

Sally Bickerton, Co-Editor of the Bulletin, asked for photographs and stories of interest for publication in the CDAS newsletter. Send items to her at [sallybic@cox.net](mailto:sallybic@cox.net).

Hayley Elsken, CDAS Archaeologist, informed participants of upcoming events. Highlights were: Lab Days at Begole Archaeology Center every Tuesday and she requested volunteers email before they come; November 29 “Clean

the BARC Day;” the hiring of two seasonal archaeologists, through June 2023; the distribution of volunteer passes through Better Impact; and gratitude for the site stewards as extra eyes on the sensitive areas of the park. CDAS Site Steward Coordinator, Pat Downing, shared statistics and photos of newer stewards. In January of 2022, 16 people completed training to become new stewards. Thirteen mentors helped to do twenty site set-ups. Special accolades go to Pat Downing for her expertise and guidance.

The final portion of the gathering was facilitated by Eugenie Newton, CDAS Treasurer, on the topic of “Moving Forward with CDAS.” Current participation in the organization’s leadership has diminished. There are only four on the Steering Committee and two of those members will be terming out at the end of 2022.

This is a challenge as well as an opportunity. A few questions she posed for discussion were:

- *Do we want a Steering Committee? Do we need one?*
- *What do we want to accomplish? How do we want to do it?*
- *Do we want to do something different? How? Who?*
- *What are YOU personally willing to do? What specifically?*

All participants brainstormed these questions at their tables, then shared with the group. Positive energy for change and moving forward was generated.

Eugenie asked who would Zoom with the Steering Committee to continue the dialogue, and a list of interested people was started. If you would also like to be involved, contact Eugenie at [evnewton8@gmail.com](mailto:evnewton8@gmail.com).

Theresa closed the meeting with gratitude for everyone’s attendance and participation.

*Exactly how YOU can help?  
Please see Eugenie’s letter on Page 6.*

# CDAS Moving Forward: Solutions

CDAS members are discussing changing our leadership format from having a Steering Committee to one that better meets where our membership is now. (See the CDAS Kickoff article.)

With the information from the Kickoff meeting and a questionnaire that was sent to members who could not attend, a follow-up Zoom meeting was held on November 10. A new format was discussed.

It would be a smaller advisory group made up of a Coordinator, a Secretary-Treasurer, and one representative from each of our activity working groups, such as the CDAS Bulletin, Archaeology Day, etc. The Coordinator would lead the monthly member meetings and be Hayley's liaison to CDAS membership.

Instead of a centralized steering committee that initiates activities, the new advisory member group would consist of volunteers who are working directly on member-initiated activities.

If CDAS members would like additional activities, (continuing education classes for example), they could form a working group to plan and carry them out. A representative from that group would then participate in the Advisory Group.

In the last three years, the steering committee nomination and election process has resulted in more members declining to serve than accepting. We need five members per our bylaws. In January, we will have only two. CDAS members are willing to volunteer for projects and are very generous in giving their time to CDAS. But they do not seem interested in the Steering Committee!

What to do? That has been the conversation.

Right now, we are looking at initiating the advisory group format and suspending the Steering Committee for one year. The Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer would volunteer for one year, without nominations or elections. Member meetings would be monthly from October to March, and be at a day and time that would allow the most member participation.

What happens next? A proposal about this format will be sent to all members during the week of November 28. We will have two Zoom meetings during the week of December 5 – 10 to answer questions. Between December 12 - 30, we will clarify and finalize the concept based on member input. Language to suspend the bylaw provisions pertaining ONLY to the Steering Committee for one year will be worked out. Members will vote on this January 9-16.

We are looking for two member volunteers to be Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer for one year. Let us know who you think might fill those spots. **Please don't pass on this opportunity, thinking someone else will do it.** Got questions? Email Eugenie at: [evnewton8@gmail.com](mailto:evnewton8@gmail.com)

Want to know more about the November 10 meeting? A recording is posted on the Member page of our website.

— Eugenie Newton



## COLORADO DESERT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

“To keep you current  
as we explore the past”

[anzaborregoarchaeo.org](http://anzaborregoarchaeo.org)



# CDAS SITE STEWARDS



PHOTO BY PAM WIENKELLER

Sixteen new volunteers (above) were trained in January 2022. All have now visited and been trained on their specific sites to monitor, and several will be monitoring more than one site. From left to right: John Downing, Lauren Otsuki, Steve McMillan, Chris Blake, Stephanie Rose, Ken Cater, Denise DuBreuil, Bill Phillips, Eli Vasquez, Jim McGinley, Chris Maust, Pat Downing, Dave Herbert, Kathy Pratschner, JC Niesley, Kathy Wollman, Adam Niesley and Fred Wollman. Not pictured: Brenda Wills.

Pat would like to thank the dedicated group of mentors who helped train the new volunteers—it couldn't have been done without them! They are: Josh Breslow, Mandie Carter, John Case, Lance Diebler, John Downing, Don Endicott, Mike Hurley, Scott McClintock, Patty McFarland, Sherry Mitchell, Sam Webb and Pam Wiedenkiller.

The season is off to a great start with many site visits and reports coming in. It's important to get out to monitor your site after the long summer. If you have not yet planned your fall visit, now is the time! If you are unable to visit your site, please let me know so perhaps we can find a substitute.

If you find an impact at your site, please submit the impact form, photos and photograph record in a separate email to Hayley and me. This helps me better monitor and resolve impacts when the email is separate from your regular visit reports and photos.

Many of you find new and interesting things at your site. Earlier this year, Hayley clarified what she would like to see as diagnostic artifacts, and the reporting diagnostic artifacts document provides information to capture for them. **Please see the CDAS members section on the website to review the list, or better yet take it into the field you.**

Enjoy your fall visits and remember, I am here to help you and to answer any questions.

— Pat Downing  
pdsnewmail@gmail.com

<https://www.anzaborregoarchaeo.org/membership-login/>

*Here are some of the Site Steward forms and guides you will find on the website:*

**BASIC FIELD SAFETY**

**SITE STEWARD REPORTS**

- Site Steward Guidelines 1-22
- How to Submit a Site Report 1-22
- How to Set Up Photo Stations 1-22
- Tips for emailing Site Steward Photos & Reports 1-22 1-22docx

**MANDATORY FORMS**

- Photo Station
- Steward Monitor Report.

**OPTIONAL FORMS**

- Steward Impact Report
- Site-Action-Guidelines-rev-01-2022
- Photograph Record
- Reporting Diagnostic Artifacts
- BRM Record Form DPR 523

**RESOURCES FOR VOLUNTEERS**

- Archaeology Pictionary Glossary 2018-01
- Better Impact Instructions
- Graffiti removal instructions
- Rock Art Conservation for Site Stewards Presentation
- Substitute site stewards 2021-22

# MEMBER ACTIVITIES

## EDUCATION

PHOTO BY DON ENDICOTT

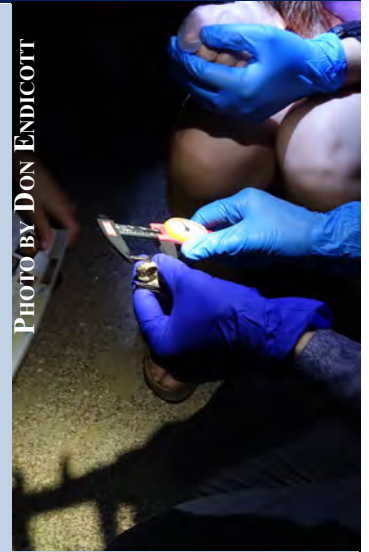


Canyon Bat

Don Endicott was recently invited to participate in the Bats of the Southwestern Deserts class held at the California State University Desert Studies Center, Zzyxx Mineral Springs, near Baker. The audience included field biologists, land managers, and bat rehabilitators from throughout the region. Don provided field assistance with setting up and monitoring mist nets, presented on bat acoustics, and gave a photographic tour of bats as a final class “quiz” for species identification. Saturday night they set up four mist nets along Salt Creek just outside of Death Valley. They live-captured and released California myotis and Canyon bats. Each bat was identified and measured, and tissue and saliva samples were taken to be used for future analysis. Don offers bat programs throughout San Diego County, including at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground—keep your eye out for the next one!

— Sally Bickerton

PHOTO BY DON ENDICOTT



Measuring Canyon Bat forearm

## ARCHAEOPALOOZA

### Volunteerism & its Unexpected Rewards

Archaeopalooza—what the heck is that? But whatever it is, it sure sounds fun! CDAS members, Lance & Mary Lou, discovered that to be the case when they represented CDAS on October 1, in Joshua Tree. This educational outreach was sponsored by the Copper Mountain Community College District. Its purpose was to teach young people about the science of archaeology and the Native Americans who live in the Southern California deserts. There were interesting lectures by Dr. Joan Schneider and Hayley Elsken, as well as hands-on activities for kids and adults.

Lance and Mary Lou learned the location of some nearby pictographs from local site stewards. They were willing to share, as they knew the two would appreciate this unique cultural display without being a threat to its preservation. After reaching the site, they “watched the sun fill the slot canyon and illuminate the panels on the rock faces as they walked, and felt privileged to be present in this magical space full of whispers from the past”.

Mary Lou’s message to us all: Aristotle (384 BC) said “*The essence of life is to serve others and do good.*” There are all sorts of ways to help inside and outside of CDAS. Find yours and make your own discoveries of unexpected gifts.

— Mary Lou White



PHOTOS BY LANCE DEIBLER

## YAQUI PASS



PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

It’s always a thrill to catch a glimpse of the Peninsular Bighorn. This ewe and lamb were spotted at Yaqui Pass on October 28, 2022.

— Barbara & Steve Barnes



PHOTO BY BARBARA BARNES

**EDITORS’ NOTE:**  
**WE WELCOME YOUR ACTIVITIES, TOO!**  
 ALL CDAS MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHARE NEWS, STORIES, AND PHOTOS IN OUR BIMONTHLY BULLETIN, PUBLISHED OCTOBER THROUGH JUNE. PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO SALLY BICKERTON AT: [SALLYBIC@COX.NET](mailto:SALLYBIC@COX.NET)