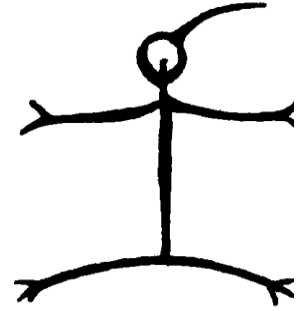


NEWSLETTER
 ANTELOPE VALLEY
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 4233
 Lancaster, CA 93539-4233
www.avarchaeologicalsociety.org



VOLUME 41

JANUARY 2011

NUMBER 1

The Antelope Valley Archaeological Society is an avocational, educational, and scientific organization dedicated to the interests of archaeology in the Antelope Valley and surrounding areas. General meetings are normally held at 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The public is invited to attend all meetings. Membership in the Society is open to all persons with an interest in the field of archaeology. Annual membership begins on June 1 of each year. View the AVAS Code of Ethics and access the Membership application via our website.

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| MEMBERSHIPS: | <u>REGULAR</u> | <u>STUDENT</u> | <u>FAMILY</u> | <u>PATRON</u> | <u>LIFE</u> |
| | \$15.00 | \$10.00 | \$20.00 | \$50.00 | \$500.00 |

CALENDAR

AVAS MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

January 17, 2011: 6:30 P.M. General Membership Meeting, to be held at Antelope Valley College (3041 W. Avenue K, Lancaster, California), in the Archaeology Classroom, Room LS1 124. AVAS member Mark Campbell will present his recent findings on an archaeological site complex south of Gem Hill. This talk will serve as an introduction to the field trip planned for January 22, 2011.

January 22, 2011: 9:00 A.M. Field trip to Gem Hill area, led by Mark Campbell. We will meet at the Taco Bell in Rosamond at 9:00 A.M. (2547 W Rosamond Blvd, Rosamond, CA). If you need more information, contact Barbara Tejada at btejada75@yahoo.com. This should be an interesting and fun trip!

February 21, 2011: General Membership Meeting. Details unconfirmed at press time and will be announced at a later date.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

JANUARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, 2011! Well, another calendar year has passed – they seem to go past so quickly these days. The beginning of a new year always holds such promise and the best intentions at new goals. So my goal this year for AVAS is to incorporate more field trips into our schedule – at least four a year! Field trips are always popular, and bring together AVAS members in an air of camaraderie.

So we will begin 2011 with a bang – our own Mark Campbell will be the speaker at our regular January meeting, and then follow up on the weekend with a tour of the Gem Hill area he will be discussing. This will be a great opportunity to learn about a project and then to see it first-hand, kind of like a mini-class! We also hope to schedule follow-up trips to Red Rock Canyon State Park and Moody Springs, and throw in a museum visit or two.

Also coming up before you know it will be the AV Poppy Festival. Let's start thinking about how we can participate this year and have some educational activities for kids, and get the word out about our group to a diverse crowd. The festival usually happens in April, but it's never too early to start the planning, and booth applications are due in February.

The next year should be an exciting one for AVAS and I hope to see many of our regular, and maybe not so regular members, get involved this year!

--Barbara

THIS MONTH: JANUARY 17, 2011, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Be sure to attend the meeting which begins at 6:30 PM. We will meet in the "Lab", at Antelope Valley College, the Archaeology Classroom, Room LS1 124. AVAS member/Past President Mark Campbell will present his recent findings on an archaeological site complex south of Gem Hill. This talk will serve as an introduction to the field trip planned for January 22, 2011.

LAST MONTH

December 20, 2010: The AVAS Annual Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction

The Silent Auction/Holiday Potluck was a success once again. AVAS Board Member, Jay Tremblay, outdid himself again as the gracious host for our 2010 Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction. The garage at the Lazy T Ranch was bedecked for the holidays, and despite the rainy weather, a good crowd of revelers came out to celebrate! Roger made a fine turkey as a centerpiece for the festivities (Thank you, Roger!) and everyone else brought a dazzling array of other tasty treats. We had a good showing of items for our silent auction as well. Every item received a bid, and a few had some bidding wars involved! In all, we raised some \$150 for the AVAS, which is a good amount to refill our coffers! Many thanks to all who provided the wonderful food and who donated items for the auction. And remember, it's not too early to start setting aside items for next year's auction!



Fun at the Lazy T



Ho Ho Ho

NEWSBRIEFS

TEXAS: Nondestructive Radiocarbon Dating: During the last 20 years, Marvin Rowe, a chemist at A&M University, has developed a nondestructive method of carbon dioxide extraction, to be used in radiocarbon dating. He has further refined the method during the last year to use on objects coated in sticky hydrocarbons, such as the resins which cover Egyptian mummy gauze. The object to be dated is placed in a vacuum chamber and a supercritical fluid (a hybrid gas/liquid) is applied as a solvent. Next, plasma (electrically excited ionized gas) is passed over the artifact. This process selectively strips carbon from the sample which is fed to an accelerator mass spectrometer to measure the decay of radioactive carbon 14, thus giving a radiocarbon date without destruction of the artifact. The technique may have limitations, but so far the dates obtained from samples of wood, charcoal, animal skin, bone and ostrich eggshell have agreed with regular radiocarbon dating.

CALIFORNIA: Renewable sources of energy are clearly needed, but the planned construction of vast solar farms in the deserts of south-eastern California is causing alarm as they may damage or even permanently erase prehistoric Native American sites. Opponents of the solar farms believe there has been inadequate archaeological testing and evaluation of sites and that construction will threaten many sites in the region. The planned construction will not affect the famous Blyth Geoglyphs directly, but the surrounding area will be altered forever.

ETHIOPIA: A partial *Australopithecus afarensis* skeleton, the so-called “Kadanuumuu”, or “Big Man” found on a plain in Ethiopia seems to indicate that *A. afarensis* stood fully upright. Starting in 2005, the first fragment of the fossil was discovered, with subsequent excavations yielding various bones including a complete knee, a clavicle, first rib, scapula, a humerus, and a partial pelvis. According to Bruce Latimer, of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, one of the co-leaders of the dig, the fossil is of a male, five and a half feet tall, and used its arm differently than would an ape, which suggests it was fully bipedal. Kadanuumuu is approximately 2 feet taller than the famous Lucy, supporting the view of a high degree of sexual dimorphism in the species.

DEAN WEBB: IN REMEMBRANCE

We wanted to let you know of the passing of one of Red Rock’s long time volunteers and advocates, Dean Webb. Dean was the Vice-President and Acting Secretary on the Board of Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association. Dean worked tirelessly on numerous conservation issues in Antelope Valley and the Mojave Desert and was a very strong environmental advocate. Dean was associated with a number of other State Parks, conservation groups and had a strong passion and involvement in still photography. Dean’s contribution to Red Rock Canyon State Park was very important to both the protection and the enjoyment of the park. Dean’s commitment and dedication were matched by his passion and joy of our great outdoors. He was a special friend and a respected colleague. Dean will be greatly missed by all.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, EXHIBITS AND LECTURES & PLACES TO GO

ANTELOPE VALLEY INDIAN MUSEUM: The Antelope Valley Indian Museum reopened to the public on September 18, 2010. The museum is open on weekends from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is \$3 for adults. Children age 12 and under are free. The museum reopening comes after completion of a \$2 million, 4-year project to install a geothermal heating and cooling system in the museum and stabilize the historic building. The museum offers exhibits, hands-on activities, a gift shop, and a nature trail. The museum is located at 15701 East Avenue M, in Lake Los Angeles, east of Lancaster, California. From the 14 Freeway in Lancaster, go east on Avenue K to 150th Street East, then follow the signs to the museum. For more information, phone the museum at (661) 946-3055, 711, TTY relay service, or visit the website at www.avim.parks.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CASSP)

Two CASSP volunteer training workshops are scheduled for January 2011:

- January 23–24, 2011, at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for the Vallecito Cultural Preserve. Joan Schneider, California State Parks archaeologist, will be the host.
- January 29–30, 2011, at Joshua Tree National Park. Dave Henley will be the host for this workshop at the Park headquarters in Twentynine Palms.

There is a fee of \$25 per person to attend a CASSP initial training workshop. Prior registration is required as space is limited. You can register by sending your name and contact information to Beth Padon at bpadon@discoveryworks.com or 562-431-0300. You can find more information about the workshops at the CASSP website: www.cassp.org.

AMERICAN INDIAN TECHNOLOGY, The Autry in Griffith Park, January 15, 2011, 1:00-2:30 P.M. Paul Apodaca, Ph.D. (Navajo/Mixton) will discuss technological developments of American Indians across two continents. **Free** with museum admission. Information: 323-667-2000 or <http://theautry.org/>.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYING AND SITE RECORDING, by Wanda Raschkow, February 26-27, fee \$60 (members \$50) and **ROCK ART OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**, by Daniel McCarthy (Tribal Relations Program Manager, San Bernardino National Forest), February 27, 8 am-6 pm, fee \$60 (members \$50). Classes of the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park. Information and registration: www.desertinstitute.homestead.com, or 760-367-5535.

INTRODUCTION TO FLINTKNAPPING AND STONE TOOLS (ANT 495), by Daniel J. Reeves, a two-day introduction to flintknapping, incorporating background lectures with hands-on activities. The course assumes no previous knowledge of stone tools and is designed for the beginning archaeologies and for avocationalists. Offered through Extended and International Education, CSU Dominguez Hills, April 23-24, 8 am-5pm. Fee: \$218. To enroll, call 310-243-3741. Contact: Jerry Moore, jmoore@csudh.edu. Information: www.csudh.edu/ee/flintknapping.html.

SPRING AND SUMMER FOODS, MATERIALS, AND CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON NATIVE MEDICINES, by Kristie Orosco. Kumeyaay Ipai Interpretive Center, Poway, March 12, 2011. 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Fee: \$40 (members of SDAC or KIIC \$40 and \$25). Information: www.sandiegoarchaeology.org. Classes are limited; registration required. Contact: Annemarie Cox, 760- 291-0370 or acox@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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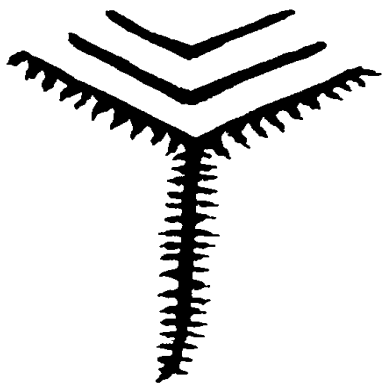
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JANUARY 13, 2011

**ANTELOPE VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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