Please join our efforts to preserve the past for the future

The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society...

is dedicated to the preservation of our county's ancient and recent history.

For thousands of years...

the Santa Cruz region was home to numerous groups of Ohlone-speaking peoples. Ohlone people drew from the bounty of the coastal mountains, valleys, and shorelines for their livelihood. Their camps, villages, workshops, and ceremonial places all left archaeological traces that can be studied to help answer questions about past technological traditions, climate change, diet and trade, among other topics. The Ohlone way of life, and the natural environment they nurtured, changed with the influx of European and



American colonizers, who brought grazing livestock and introduced plants and harmful diseases to the region. At first, during relatively brief and sporadic 16th-century encounters and, later, with the establishment of colonial missions, ranchos, and towns starting in the late-1700s, the Ohlone people were challenged by the encounters but some Ohlone communities still call Santa Cruz home.

The Santa Cruz region also has had a rich and diverse historical past. Consider Mexican ranchos becoming cities...the quarry site which provided lime for the rebuilding of San Francisco after the 1906 quake, is now the home of a world-class university. Santa Cruz is also the first surfing site on the mainland, where Hawaiian princes caught waves at the San Lorenzo river mouth on surfboards created from local redwood. All of this and more is Santa Cruz County heritage.

Since 1975, The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society...

has produced a quarterly newsletter which reports on the latest happenings in archaeology and historic preservation. In more recent years, the Society has extended its outreach to include local schools, as well as more in-depth public programs. In partnership with California State Parks, the Society has helped create visitor workshops at the Santa Cruz Mission that introduce locally significant archaeological ideas and processes to adults and children alike.

Society Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the Live Oak Grange on 17th Avenue in Santa Cruz, California. Presentations on local and general archaeological topics by archaeologists and professionals in related disciplines are free to the public. Anyone with an interest in archaeology and the desire to learn more about our priceless heritage is invited to attend.

Name:		Phone:	Email:
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