

***Santa Cruz Archaeological Society:  
Fifty years of Community Activism in Santa Cruz County, Ca.***

Archaeology, local history, native peoples today and in the past, cultural resource protection, and public education have been the focus of 50 years of activism by the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society. SCAS has partnered with, stood up against, advocated, publicized, and educated the County government, multiple City governments and regulators, CRM Firms, the University of California, Cabrillo Community College, and the public at large on these important realities. (1)

**Introduction**

The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society was organized in 1972. From the beginning, Society members were committed to the ideas of public education, historic preservation, and the necessity for the community to take responsibility for the past. (2) People throughout the community joined because of a fascination for archaeology and with a deep interest in their own community's past. (3)



**Micki Ryan, Star Gurcke, Jean Stafford, Howard Bickford - among the first SCAS members.**

The impact of these "community lay archaeologists" over the years has been extensive and effective. Membership has fluctuated between 50 and 200 members, averaging over 100 at any given time. (4) Many members came after taking a college course in Introductory Archaeology. Some had field school experience. Some came because "they always wanted to be an archaeologist". SCAS's professional advisors, from the local Community College, University, the Bureau of Land Management, and private CRM firms, provided connections between the Society and the world of professional archaeology.

For many years the Society met at the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum where society members gained skills inventorying and cataloging in-house museum collections and historic archaeological materials from the Kimbro adobe. The Society also funded several museum exhibit projects and members designed, built, and maintained artifact kits for teachers to check out from a museum to use in their classes. Members also regularly volunteered to visit local school classes. (5)



Sue Kerr, Lab. Director

## In the Beginning: Sprinting into Action – Survey and Salvage

The 1960s and early 1970s were a time when many **Federal and State environmental and heritage laws** were being passed. The expansion of these laws and subsequent regulations created the necessity for archaeological growth in academia and in the private sector. However, in the early 70s, there were not enough “accredited experts” to meet the need.

Members of SCAS were bright, competent, and knowledgeable activists monitoring the political and regulatory systems and how such laws were interpreted by local agencies such as local cities and counties or by regional agencies, such as the Coastal Zone Commission. Recognizing the importance of **regulatory action**, SCAS was instrumental in getting the County of Santa Cruz to pass an ordinance to include archeological consideration into the permit process to take effect in January 1975. (6) Then, as a service to the community, they arranged a contract with the **Santa Cruz County Planning Department** to do volunteer (cost only) preliminary surveys for the local permits. SCAS provided training programs for members on how to carry out (presence or absence) survey, which if proved positive, then a professional archaeologist was to be consulted. SCAS continued this service from 1975 to 2005, completing 1,040 surveys, which increased the County's capacity to surpass CEQA requirements while reducing the cost to local landowners. Volunteer surveys were also conducted for the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola.



Joe Carroll,  
one of the  
many Survey  
Coordinators

Santa Cruz Archaeological Society folk carried out a major prehistoric survey on the **Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation** in 1972 (7) and volunteered on a salvage dig at the historic **Dutton Hotel County Park** in 1976, both in southern Monterey County. The County of Monterey acknowledged with an appreciation for the Society's contributions to the protection and preservation of the Dutton Hotel, a National Register property.



**Allan Lonnberg**  
Hunter Liggett  
survey report author

SCAS members responded to the need for trained people to carry on the new work that grew from changes in the laws. Society members organized **volunteer salvage** at two important sites near Watsonville in 1974 (at **Valley Catholic cemetery**, CA-SCR-44 (8), and at CA-SCR-107, the **Lee Road** construction site in 1975). Lee Road is where a construction permit had been issued prior to an archaeological ordinance going into effect. (9, 10) The County had asked the Society to do an initial survey. Site destruction and human remains were found. A volunteer effort by SCAS to mitigate the destruction began in January 1975. (11)



**Rob Edwards (C.C.), Micki Ryan,**  
and **John Fritz (UCSC),** at Lee Rd.



**Ella Rodriguez, Patrick Orozco, and Ann Marie Sayers**

Local Indians, including Ella Rodriguez and Patrick Orozco, heard about the effort and came to claim responsibility to speak for the site. The Society later raised funds and supported the Indians in their efforts. Patrick Orozco and AnneMarie Sayers later agreed to be Native American Advisors to SCAS.

## The 1980s: Santa Cruz Archaeology on Mission Hill

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, SCAS joined many local groups in effectively protesting a major development being permitted on the hill of the historic **Santa Cruz Mission**. (12) SCAS was one of the founding members of what became “**the Adobe Coalition**” and this coordination with the local historical community changed how the City of Santa Cruz handled development on Mission Hill and in the city.



Edna Kimbro, Chair of the Adobe Coalition and Charr Smith, President of SCAS



For eight years SCAS members participated in the Adobe Coalition’s annual “**Mission Fiesta Days**” which were events for public celebration, advocacy for protection, and archaeological education outreach. This collaboration, and the cooperation with the California State Park staff, contributed to the scope and effectiveness of the development of the **Santa Cruz Mission State Park**.

Noli Wilfong showing children how to screen at the Adobe Fiesta,

Continuing SCAS’s attention to the history of Mission Hill, SCAS members, under the guidance of the **Cabrillo College Archaeology Program**, carried out several years of unfunded salvage excavations and initial analysis of an unknown “**Lost Adobe**” of the Santa Cruz Mission. (13) This long-term effort successfully documented the existence of a previously unknown, large adobe structure just below the surface of the ground. (14)



“**Lost Adobe**”, **Class of 1984**. From left, Back row: Harry “Renter”, Bill Weber, Lyn Fields, Bill Osmer, Andy Barber, Rob Edwards, and Jim Tefertiller. Front row: Bonnie Keeshan, Judy Husted, Linda Roberts, Ruby Tefertiller, Mary Ellen Irons, and Charr Smith.

## 1980s: Scotts Valley: the oldest site on the Central Coast

A major, significant, and very ancient (*9,000 - 10,000 years old*) prehistoric site, CA-SCR-177, (15) was deliberately bulldozed in 1981 by the **City of Scotts Valley** to allow the construction of a City Hall parking lot. SCAS led the effort to preserve the heavily impacted site and force the city to comply with environmental law. The Society membership joined together with the local historic community, including the Scotts Valley Historical Society and the statewide **Society for California Archaeology (SCA)**, to provide leadership, raise funds, carry out a campaign of education and political action, and finally, when all else failed, institute legal proceedings against the city of Scotts Valley. (16) The local courts recognized SCAS as a stakeholder in this case because of their history of involvement and commitment to local heritage. The legal battles lasted three years (1981-1983) and finally concluded when the Society accepted an out-of-court settlement from the City of Scotts Valley of \$27,500. (17), (18) The Society used these funds to arrange for background research and special data analysis. By getting many professional archaeologists to volunteer their services, SCAS expanded the effect of the funds.

SCAS then organized a **volunteer salvage excavation** of the site under the supervision of qualified professional archaeologists. This volunteer mitigation was an extraordinary, large-



**Charr Smith and  
Diane Gifford Gonzales**  
– Field Directors

scale salvage effort of more than 125 people a day over four days. (19) Archaeological volunteers, professional and avocational, came from across California to help in this project which produced sufficient data to verify the early date and importance of the site.



**Scotts Valley  
Crescent**

SCAS's work in Scotts Valley did not end in 1983. Members spent time and effort over the next five years to get **historical and archaeological ordinances** passed and educate the Scotts Valley city staff to preserve their heritage and follow the State of California's environmental requirements. (20)

In 1987, the Society coordinated another massive volunteer effort (21) when additional construction had to be done on the site to complete the Scotts Valley City Hall CEQA requirements. The Final Report on this remarkable site was funded in part by SCAS. (22)

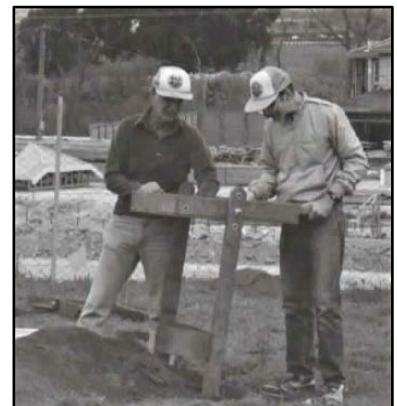


The "Big Dig" Co-coordinators: Charlene Duval, Jennice Singer, Charr Smith, and Kate Harper

## Continuing On into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: SCAS Members Keep Volunteering

Over the years, society members continued to volunteer on multiple archaeological surveys, excavations, and salvage projects in the three local counties: **Santa Cruz;(Bonny Doon, Capitola, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley (23) Monterey, (U.S. Army Fort Hunter Liggett survey, Dutton Hotel mitigation, and Buena Vista Adobe excavations); and Santa Clara (Los Gatos), excavations, and Lexington Reservoir, site re-recording).**

After Scotts Valley, members of the Society went on to volunteer both as a group and as individuals on several projects statewide. After working on a site near Clear Lake in **Anderson Marsh SHP** in 1984 on a Labor Day dig, members were invited to work later that year at **Fort Ross SHP** by State Park Archaeologist Breck Parkman. (24) Breck recently remembered them as;" Great people, great archaeologists, great memories." (25)



Gerry Dudley, Kevin Hildreth,  
at Buena Vista Adobe,  
near Salinas



from left. Standing; Peter Hawley, Julie Huddleson, Lynne Moritz, Rebecca Levy, Bonnie Keeshan, Kate Harper, & Linda Jordon, Kneeling; Gail Parleto, Judith Husted, and Linda Dinsmore volunteering at Ft, Ross State Historic Park supervised by State Park Archaeologist Breck Parkman.

Even while all this was going on, SCAS members continued to work throughout the State. Noli Wilfong and Karen Loeffler volunteered to record at the **Painted Cave Archaeology site** in Monterey with Monterey-based archaeologists Gary Breschini and Trudy Haversat. They then led a major project to document the **Rock Art at Hospital Rock** in the Tulare foothills. This involved several trips with SCAS members over several weeks in 1978-9. (26)



Karen Loeffler



Anna Marie Leon-Guerrero  
at Lexington Reservoir

Society members were active in the **California Archaeological Site Stewards Program** as site stewards in several Counties in Central California. (27) They volunteered at **UCSC's Cabin B** of the **Cowell Quarry** in 2009. At the **Lexington Reservoir** in 2010 a recorded site that had reemerged from the water due to drought, was re-recorded by SCAS members under the supervision of Anna Marie Leon-Guerrero. Society members made adobe bricks for restoration purposes and carried out archaeological surveys at the **Castro Adobe State Historic Park**.

## Public Education, Outreach, and Recognitions

Since its inception in 1972, SCAS has continued to publish a bi-monthly newsletter, **The SCAN**, with both local, national, and international news about the field of archaeology and about the activities of the membership. The SCAN was awarded **“Best Vocational Newsletter”**, in 1995 by the Society for California Archaeology. The newsletter continues in a digitized format.



Judi Cole, SCAN Editor



Tom King speaking on the Amelia Earhart “mystery”.

Ten times a year, free **public lectures**, began in 1972 with Ohlone Elder, Phillip Galvan (28) and have continued to this day. Professional archaeologists, historians, and Native Americans have shared their perspectives and data from projects around the world, across California, and locally.



SCAS Outreach and Map Sale at Saturday Farmer's Market at Cabrillo College 2014. (Below) SCAN editor Mary Gerbic, President Karin Johansson



The Society participates in **California's Archaeology Month** with special events, exhibits, and distribution of the exceptional annual posters. Members regularly attend and support the local **“Ohlone Days”** at Henry

Cowell State Park (29) and other native culture and historical events. Even the local Farmer's Market has been the site for regular community outreach and education booths.

The Society has received multiple awards, small and large, in recognition of its public outreach and education work. In 1978, the Society participated in the **Santa Cruz County Fair** in Watsonville and won a first-place Purple Ribbon for its public education booth. In 1983, after the Scotts Valley excavation, the **Society of California Archaeology** gave a special award to SCAS for *exceptional achievement in public education and preservation*. SCAS also received awards in



1984 from the **Scotts Valley Historical Society**, the **Santa Cruz Historical Society**, and the **Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**, recognizing their work in historic preservation. The **Santa Cruz Historical Society** awarded a Certificate of Commendation to SCAS for *significant contributions to the preservation of the Santa Cruz Heritage*. In 1992, SCAS again received an award from the **Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors** for service to the community and an award from the Monterey Historical Society.



In 1994, SCAS was awarded the **Governor of California's "Award for Volunteer Organizations"**. And, in 1995, the **Society of California Archaeology** again honored the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society with The **Helen S. Smith Award for Avocational Society Achievement**.

(30)

Above: Rob Edwards, Jerry Dudley, Hedy Schmidt, Charr Smith, and State Senator, Bruce McPherson receiving the Governor of California's Award for Volunteer Organizations.

Right: Lynn O'Neal, Jim Fruitt, Judy Cole, Chris Corey and Cathy Phipps, receiving the SCA Avocational Society Award.



## Reaching out and giving back



Professional Advisor: Eric Zaborsky. SCAS leaders: Lyn O 'Neil, Karen Johansson, Cathy Phipps and Candance Ensinger.

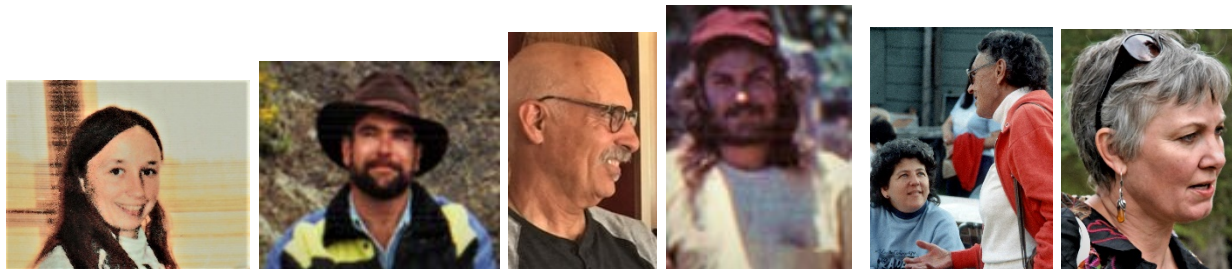
Over the decades the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society has raised funds in the community for a variety of supports for archaeology. They have funded and awarded two ongoing **college scholarships**, the Howard Bickford, and the Ruth Edwards scholarships for students at Cabrillo College, and funded various **student project grants** over the years. In 2014, continuing their sense of responsibility for local cultural

resources, the Society initiated the "**Lost Adobe Fund**" to support the ongoing analysis and reporting on the collection and archival materials from the "Lost Adobe excavations", continuing their commitment to take responsibility for local cultural resources. (31) Funds have also been raised and awarded for special local research projects and to support an archaeology project in Peru in 1990.

Many SCAS members have gained professional archaeological and public advocacy skills, and some have gone on to careers in Archaeology or Historic Preservation. But for all who have been part of the Society; their minds have been stretched, their lives have been enriched and many life-long friendships have been developed.



Robbie Gleaton, Amanda Trujillo, Dawn Hubbs, Holly Hoods, Cathy Phipps, George Smith, Carolyn Hamilton, and Mary Ellen Irons



Arlyn Golder, Patrick Cave, Chris Corey, Joe Morris, Julie Edwards, Thelma McGregor, and Lolly Vann.  
*"So many more faces and places remain in my mind."*

## Moving into the Future

SCAS members continue their public outreach and education. The newsletter is now published online with a few paper copies for those who are not yet computer folk. Monthly lectures are still arranged, publicized, and produced (on Zoom during the pandemic). Outreach continues in the local "Ohlone Days" at Henry Cowell State Park, and with participation in local History Fairs. Members go on attending and participating in meetings of the professional Society for California Archaeology and in annual California's statewide Archaeology Month activities.

**Professional advisors** have guided and will continue to support the Santa Cruz Archaeological Society over time. SCAS has had several **Professional Advisors** over the Years both from the academic and professional communities. From Cabrillo College: Rob Edwards, Martin Heickson, and Chuck Smith. Larry Bourdeau was a private consultant and Eric Zaborsky from the Bureau of Land Management. From UCSC: John Fritz and Diane Gifford Gonzales, and currently Tsim Schneider.



Rob Edwards, Larry Bourdeau, Diane Gifford Gonzales, Eric Zaborsky & Tsim Schneider  
 Sadly, I don't have photos of Martin Heickson, John Fritz, or Chuck Smith.,

The Society has benefited from the friendship and support of so many California Archaeologists, Historians, and Native Californians over the years. I would like to thank them all.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Gary Breschini and Trudy Haversat, two of my dearest friends and colleagues, who have spoken to SCAS many times and led surveys, and excavations in which Society members have learned and participated. Their research has been shared so many times in meetings, in the field, at SCA meetings and whenever asked.



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