Basgall, M. (Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento)

**Some Implications of CA-INY-1384/H for Newberry Period Prehistory**

Ongoing excavations at INY-1384/H are poised to significantly extend our understanding of social organization and residential strategies at and before the Newberry-Haiwee transition (ca. 1800-1200 BP). Nine house floors dating to this interval have been exposed thus far, three others slated for investigation in the coming weeks, almost tripling the sample of structures for the larger region. Characteristics of the houses are briefly described and discussed in terms of their regional implications.

Delacorte, M.G. (Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento)

**Newberry Villages?**

Revisionist models arguing for the importance of Newberry Period (Middle Archaic) costly signaling, inter-group trade, and logistical forays over 100 miles or more share, as a basic tenet, the idea that eastern California populations of this interval lived in essentially year-round settlements. But data offered in support of this model are in many cases erroneous and clearly at odds with much of the long-standing and more recent information coming out the region and elsewhere. Thus, neither the Newberry village nor its purported implications are supported by even a modicum of real-world data, but seem more a concession to trendy theory.

Halford, F.K. (Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office)

**A Reevaluation of the Bodie Hills Obsidian Source: New Information of the Spatial Extent and Chronological Use of the Source**

Since Singer and Ericson published their paper on the Bodie Hills obsidian source in 1977, all subsequent discussions on the chronological use and spatial extent of the source thread back to this baseline study. In 2000, a new source location was recorded two miles to the west of the main source and, in 2007, the spatial extent of massive cobble flows was mapped. Studies by the author, in 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2007, show that the cobble flow material was utilized extensively and that pre-Newberry quarrying activities are prevalent. This paper will discuss new data on the spatial extent of the Bodie Hills obsidian source and its use through the Holocene.

Johnson, L. (Epsilon Systems, Inc.)

**Some Thoughts on Late Prehistoric Obsidian Procurement in the Inyo/Mono Region: Northern Death Valley National Park Case Studies**

Data from XRF analysis of Desert series projectile points recovered from Death Valley IV (Marana) Period archaeological contexts in northern Death Valley National Park reveal obsidian procurement patterns quite different from those for adjacent Owens Valley. Source profiles for Marana Period assemblages from Owens Valley are relatively straightforward, typically comprising obsidian from the nearest geologic source. By contrast, obsidian source profiles for late prehistoric assemblages from areas east of Owens Valley considered in this study are complex. Several explanations for these differences are
found in ethnographic literature for the region. Geologic distributions of toolstone quality obsidian may also be a factor.

**Kerwin, W., G. Haverstock, and F.K. Halford** *(Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office)*

**Early Archaic Habitation of Adobe Valley, California**

This paper present the results of analyses conducted to determine the effects of wildfire suppression activities at eleven prehistoric sites in Adobe Valley, California. Obsidian samples submitted for XRF sourcing show that Glass Mountain (53%) and Truman Queen (40%) were the dominant sources utilized by the prehistoric inhabitants of the valley. The hydration profile indicates pre-Newberry use of the project sites was prevalent. These data are employed to address prehistoric land-use patterns in Adobe Valley with an emphasis on chronology and mobility.

**Larson, W.** *(Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento)*

**Obsidian Use Along the Owens River: Hydration Results from a Distributional Survey of the Owens River Corridor**

This paper discusses obsidian hydration results for artifacts collected during a survey of the Owens riverine environment, as part of the author’s thesis research. More specifically, this discussion focuses on the use of Fish Springs, Truman-Queen, Casa Diablo, and Coso obsidian sources by analyzing the hydration data for collected projectile points and debitage. These data provide and interesting peek into obsidian use within this environment and how it has changed since the early Holocene.

**Laylander, D.** *(ASM Affiliates)*

“…Periods … Finis…?”

Interpreting the archaeological record in terms of names “periods” has been a long-standing practice in the Inyo-Mono region and elsewhere. It may be time now to consider whether such reified chronological entities as “Haiwee,” “Saratoga Springs,” “Rose Spring,” “Baker,” and “Death Valley III” have outlived their usefulness. The advantages and drawbacks of such periodization, and more generally, the use of polythetic but not rigorously defined typologies, are briefly considered.

**Mills, T.** *(California Department of Transportation, District 9)*

**The Coyote Site: Discussion of the Use of a High Altitude Site on Coyote Flat from the Early Holocene Period to Present**

In the Fall of 2002, I was asked to survey a private parcel in-holding at high elevation (9000 feet amsl) within the Inyo National Forest, for a private property boundary fenceline. During the survey an archaeological site was located in the middle of the parcel. The site was recorded in 2003 and excavated in 2005. Findings show continuous use of the site from the pre-Newberry period into modern times. The site held a small, but interesting cache of time-marker artifacts, including Elko Side-notched and Rose Spring projectile points, and an interesting concave base point dating to 3250-1250 BP. The site also gave up an interesting historic artifact, which gives the site its rather unusual name.
Moore, S. (Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento)

Uses of Technological Analysis to Sort Early Surface Assemblages at China Lake

The interpretation of surface archaeology at KER-2143 present a challenge in that artifacts representing multiple components lay side-by-side on a deflated surface. A proposed examination of both the morphological and spatial characteristics of the associated flake tools should shed some light on this problem. Our current understanding of the flaked stone procurement and reduction trajectories in other sites in the region provide several expectations for a typical “clean” component of the Great Basin Concave Base (GBCB) or Great Basin Stemmed (GBS) variety. This may in turn help us identify differences in the use of the lakeshore locality through the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene.

Polson, N. (Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento)

Population Fluctuations in the Owens Valley and Volcanic Tablelands

Population change in the Owens Valley has long been looked at through the eyes of the ethnographer and other early historic accounts. In this paper, I will explore the changing population levels based on archaeological evidence compiled form survey and excavation projects completed over the past half century. Important insights on land use patterns and changing environmental factors will be addressed in the context of population fluctuations during key temporal periods defined within the project area. In sum, a more dynamic picture of population densities can be painted via a thorough examination of the past using multiple lines of evidence.

Scott, D. (National Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest)

The Monument Valley Game Drive

Abstract not available.

Wagner, D. (California Geological Survey)

Geological and Geomorphic Investigation of Sites in the Aberdeen-Blackrock Project Area, Inyo County, California: Archaeological Implications of Debris Flows

A primary objective of this geologic investigation was to provide a Holocene geologic, geomorphic, stratigraphic, and environmental context for cultural materials at the Aberdeen-Blackrock Project sites. During the investigation it became apparent that bioturbation, usually given as the explanation for the lack of stratigraphic integrity of temporally diagnostic artifacts, is not the sole factor in the disruption of the original superposition. This investigation stresses the importance of noting the sedimentological characteristics of the deposits exposed in excavations. Debris flows, the dominant mode of emplacements of alluvial fans in Owens Valley, typically scour materials, including artifacts, and redeposits them downslope. That is not to say all diagnostic artifacts in debris flow depositional settings should be ignored, but they should be carefully evaluated. In the Rapid Recovery Unit at CA-INY-5275/H, the stratigraphic integrity of the artifacts is compromised, but the stratigraphy of the deposits in which they occur is not. Clearly most of the disruption of the artifacts is due to a burial, which appears to have occurred late in the history of this site; however, it is not the only cause. It follows then, that the mere presence of an old artifacts may not, in itself, necessarily indicate old occupation.
Wall, B. (Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento)

Initial Impressions from Recent Excavation of Three House Features Near Manzanar

Recent work conducted by the Archaeological Research Center during the fall of 2007 disclosed three house features at INY-5888, located east of Highway 395, across from the Manzanar National Historic Site. Each of these features yielded considerable amounts of debitage, bone, and formal tools, including projectile points, beads, and ceramics that suggest these houses date to the late prehistoric Marana period (650-100 BP). Initial comparison between the individual feature assemblages reveal a number of noteworthy difference that may reflect variation in temporal placement (i.e., early vs. late Marana), seasonal occupation, or the nature of other pursuits. Also, at least one of the Manzanar house floors seems to diverge from the general assemblage profile of other Marana-age houses in the southern Owens Valley (e.g., INY-30, INY-3769 Locus 13). Implications of these data are explored.

Zelazo, E., J. Minor, and M. Lerch (Statistical Research, Inc., Woodland)

Transmission Line Towers and Cultural Resources in Owens Valley

In 2005-2006, Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) surveyed and monitored the first two phases of the Control-Haiwee-Inyokern 115 kV Tower Footing Repair Project, which extends from Lone Pine south to Little Lake, in Inyo County, California, a distance of about 72 miles. Altogether, 451 towers were surveyed and monitored during repair work. Prehistoric and historical period archaeological resources were identified in the vicinity of 313 towers. These were recorded as 196 sites and 103 isolated finds. Of the 196 sites, 183 are newly recorded and 13 are updates of previously recorded sites. As a result of the monitoring, all cultural resources were successfully avoided, and the project had no effect on National Register or California Register properties. The results of this linear study provide a unique opportunity to gain a regional perspective of an area that has been instrumental in the development of Great Basin archaeological method and theory.