Allen, M.W. (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)

**Two Decades Between: Report on Archaeological Investigations at the Coso Junction Ranch Site (CA-INY-2284) and at the New House Spring Site (CA-INY-6789/H)**

The first part of this presentation will focus on work conducted by the author and colleagues at UCLA in the mid-1980s at the Coso Junction Ranch Site (CA-INY-2284). This is a vital site for understanding key changes in technology, economics, and social organization during the last few thousand years. The site is frequently cited as a key obsidian biface production locus, and is familiar to most specialists of the Western Mojave or Owens Valley regions. However, publication of major excavations and several detailed analyses is woefully inadequate. The second part of the presentation will detail recent work at a protohistoric site in the Argus Range of the North Range of China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. Test excavations conducted at the New House Spring Site (CA-INY-6789/H) in 2006 revealed a house likely occupied by Native Americans during the last half of the nineteenth century.

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

**Understanding Pre-Newberry Cultural Chronology in the Inyo-Mono Region**

Temporal periods and diagnostic marker artifacts of the pre-Newberry era (>3500 BP) remain poorly resolved. It seems increasingly evident that conventional models fail to adequately characterize regional developments during the early- and middle-Holocene, which appears to have been a time of significant cultural, stylistic, and perhaps techno-functional variability. Data are briefly examined in an effort to better understand chronological parameters of this interval.

Brady, R.T. (Albion Environmental Inc.)

**Prehistoric Use of Lowland and Upland Wetlands: A View from Owens and Mono Lakes**

The important role of wetlands for Great Basin hunter-gatherer populations has been much discussed in the ethnographic and archaeological literature. Wetlands can be placed into one of three categories: riverine, marsh, or lakeshore. Within the last decade it has been proposed that rather than focusing on wetland vs. non-wetland areas, differences in the use of lowland and upland areas would be a better avenue of study. Following these perspectives, the present effort compares the archaeological record associated with Owens Lake and Mono Lake. While both have developed lakeshore wetland habitats, they can also represent lowland (Owens) and upland (Mono) habitats. Both the ethnographic and archaeological record point to more intensive and long-term occupation at Owens Lake than at Mono Lake. This paper investigates the archaeological assemblages recovered at the two areas in order to identify differences in activities undertaken at the respective localities.

Davis-King, S. (Davis-King & Associates), and T. Mills (California Department of Transportation)

**Observations on Relocating and Rephotographing Historic Indian Sites in Bodie**

Photographer Andrew Forbes made images of Bodie Indian camps, thereby providing interesting glimpses into the lifeways of native people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His photographs depict traditional brush shelters and baskets, with non-native items, such as cloth, tinned canisters, and
tools scattered about the structure. Some of the photographs have sufficient information to allow a rephotography, that is, an attempt to locate the historic image and photograph what the place looks like today. Our discussion will focus on the story behind one or two of these photographs, our successful attempt to relocate the camps using photographic evidence, and the stories we have been able to uncover about the Indians in the photos. Surprisingly, the camps are relatively undisturbed, with tremendous depth of material culture surviving, and provide fodder for investigation of historic era settlement patterns, land use, site development, and more.

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

**Adventures in Neverland**

Costly signaling, central place foraging, and exchange models that purport to explain various aspects of the Eastern Sierran archaeological record and human behavior on the basis of one or a few select sites or settlement categories must be viewed with suspicion, given the larger corpus of material identified over more than four decades of research in the region.

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

**The Tale of Two Tablelands**

The Volcanic Tableland north of Bishop, CA, a 100,000 acre rhyolitic plateau, formed by the eruption of the Long Valley caldera ~738,000 ± 3 ka has long been viewed by the public and archaeologists as a desolate, dry and uninhabitable landscape. It has been called a “marginal” environment (Basgall and Giambastiani 1995; Giambastiani 2004) by archaeologist due to the seeming dearth of subsistence resources and sites (Giambastiani 2004; Nelson 1996, 1999). This paper discusses analyses on the Tableland over the last ten years utilizing GIS modeling and five seasons of ground truthing the model. The analyses show a different story of prehistoric hunter-gatherer use than previously portrayed. Site densities are four to five times greater than formerly published with complex village sites found in seemingly desolate locations. The artifact assemblage is dominated by milling equipment and features and sites occur predominantly along or near the north/south trending fault block systems that slice across the Tableland. This paper presents another tale of the Volcanic Tableland and provides an alternative view that reveals a landscape which offered one of the best subsistence patch choices at various periods of time in the Holocene during the winter and spring.

Haverstock, G. *(Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office)*

**Stones and Bones: Recently Identified Rock Features of the Owens Valley Region**

This informal paper highlights archaeological remnants of two cultural traditions in the Owens Valley region. Initially, a series of newly identified rock alignment features will be described. These features are located near Westgard Pass and are within the pinyon-juniper habitat. Next, the previously reported rock features of the Keeler dunes (Halford 2003, Halford and Carpenter 2005) will be assessed in light of recently identified site analogs, newly exposed site loci, and Paiute informant interviews. Time permitting management issues regarding the protection of these features will also be discussed.
Hildebrandt, W.R., and K.R. McGuire (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.)

The Rise of Logistical Hunting Organization in California and the Great Basin: A View from the Inyo-Mono Region

We have been studying the rise of logistical hunting organization in prehistoric California and the Great Basin for 15 years. This work has resulted in many publications, including some that have focused on the Inyo-Mono region. These papers have elicited a wide range of responses, most positive but some not so positive. Some of our strongest critiques have come from recent presentations given at the Keeler Conference and the 2009 SCA Meetings. The goal of this presentation is to provide an historical review of the empirical and theoretical foundations of our work, which will hopefully lead to useful debate and a better understanding of prehistoric adaptations in the local area. Key topics will include settlement pattern change, logistical hunting, archaeofaunal remains, organization of flaked stone technology, obsidian production and exchange, rock art, and applications human behavioral ecology to the archaeological record.

Johnson, L. (Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.), M.A. Giambastiani (ASM Affiliates, Inc.), and W. Pierce (Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento).

Ongoing Investigations at INY-5702/H, the Historic Indian Camp at Scotty’s Castle, Death Valley National Park

Indian Camp, near Upper Grapevine Springs in Death Valley National Park, was occupied by Native American workers from the mid-1920s to the early 1930s during the construction of Scotty’s Castle. The camp was shut down when Death Valley became a National Monument in 1933, and since then the site has been impacted by road construction and cleanup efforts.

Excavations were conducted at Indian Camp in 2004 to determine if intact cultural deposits at the site could be damaged by road improvements and to recover artifacts for obsidian sourcing and hydration analyses, as well as for technological studies. Research goals were to estimate the length of occupation and to determine the character of and relationships between cultural components. According to Julian Steward, the ethnohistoric village Mahunu was situated near the springs in Grapevine Canyon. It is hypothesized that, prior to Indian Camp, Shoshone families lived at the site when using the nearby springs. Archival research and oral histories interviews were conducted to enhance archaeological interpretations. Interviews with Shoshone elders who, as children, lived with their extended families at Indian Camp are ongoing.

Kerwin, W.C. (Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office)

Sub-Alpine Archaeology and Aboriginal Trail Systems of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains

Prehistoric archaeology and ethnographic information support aboriginal use of trail systems for trans-Sierran travel and trade. Archaeological data, though limited in area and scope, assists us in refining and developing our notions of trans-Sierran obsidian procurement, mobility and chronology in this high altitude region on this margin of the western Great Basin. While the scope of this project is limited both in terms of budget and time constraints, it is hoped that the findings will generate further archaeological interest in this study area and further research will be carried out.
Prehistoric Riverine Adaptations in Owens Valley: Final Results of the Owens River Project

This discussion presents the final results of a non-site survey of the Owens River Drainage conducted in the summer of 2005 as part of the authors’ thesis research. Examination of different sections of the riverine corridor revealed continual use of this environment since the early Holocene. It also disclosed significant variation in the distribution of archaeological remains that imply important shifts in how native populations exploited riparian and adjacent desert scrub habitats. These patterns reveal important implications for current models of regional subsistence-settlement organization in the Owens Valley.

If (Pai)you(te) Milled It They Will Come: Preliminary Results of the 2009 Bircham Fire Survey at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, California

In winter and spring of 2009, ASM Affiliates conducted pedestrian survey of approximately 1900 acres near Bircham Spring at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. Site densities proved surprisingly high, with crews identifying ~200 archaeological sites. The sites range from simple lithic scatters to large habitation sites, and are notable for their size and complexity. The majority are petroglyph complexes that also contain portable and bedrock milling gear, projectile points andolithic debris. Particularly interesting are the presence of varying petroglyph production methods and superimposition not only of petroglyph motifs but of petroglyphs and milling features. This paper compares archaeological patterns noted in the nearby Coso Rock Art District with emergent patterns in the newly gathered Bircham Fire Survey data.

Recent Archaeological Investigations on the North Ranges of Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake

Epsilon Systems Solutions has been providing cultural resource management and other environmental services to the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) since 2002. The cultural resources found on both the North and South Ranges represent some of the most intact archaeological landscapes to be found in the Western United States. This paper summarizes recent undertakings by Epsilon and affiliated companies on the North Range, an area which has proven to be particularly significant for a wide range of research questions, including the development of pinyon processing, shifts in faunal exploitation, the production and exchange of Coso obsidian, the nature of terminal Pleistocene/early Holocene land-use patterns within the Lake China Basin, and the distribution and age of rock art motifs. Recent work by Epsilon in support of the Navy’s ongoing Research, Design and Testing (RDT&E) mission at China Lake is discussed, and future planned fieldwork is summarized.

Using Ecological Carrying Capacity to Test Ethnographic Population Estimates of the Owens Valley

Carrying capacity has been used by both biologists and archaeologists to predict populations around the world. Here, a developed carrying capacity model is used to test ethnographic human population estimates of Owens Valley. Ethnographers have suggested figures between 1000 and 2000 individuals,
but how realistic are these figures when taking into account available resources? A combination of archaeological, ecological, and ethnographic data is consulted to answer this compelling question.

Rogers, A.K. (Maturango Museum)

**Dating the Coso Petroglyphs**

The Coso Rock Art National Landmark contains the richest display of petroglyphs in the Western Hemisphere, interspersed with archaeological sites. A bewildering variety of motifs is represented, with representational motifs dominating, notably bighorn sheep and patterned-body anthropomorphs (PBA). Patterns of artistic development in the bighorn sheep motifs have been long noted, but establishing credible dates has proven difficult. This paper proposes a chronological sequence for six of the motifs in the Coso region by integrating three independent data sets: obsidian hydration dating of single-component archaeological sites containing petroglyphs, XRF dating of images, and cation-ratio dating of images. A remarkable concurrence of the three data sets is observed: abstract images and the primitive bighorn sheep images (Campbell Grant’s “early period”) start in the Pleistocene-Holocene transition, some 10,000 years ago; PBA and atlatl images first appear in the early Newberry period, with one outlying PBA in the late Little Lake period; “Classic Coso” bighorn sheep are Newberry in age; archer scenes are Haiwee in age; and no motifs are Marana in age. Further, it is found that atlatl and archer scenes do not overlap in time, suggesting that the atlatl was superseded as a weapon, or at least lost its symbolic significance.

David L. Wagner, Independence, California

**Tectonic, Climatic, and Anthropogenic Influences on the Drainage Patterns in the Ed Powers Project Area, near Bishop, Inyo County, California**

The Ed Powers project area lies at the northern end of the Owens Valley, a fault-bounded basin that has been subsiding since late Miocene time. Immediately to the north is the Volcanic Tableland, the geomorphic surface of the Bishop Tuff, a sheet of volcanic ash erupted from the Long Valley Caldera ~760,000 years ago. The Owens River has cut a deep gorge that separates the Ed Powers project area from the Tableland. The river has apparently changed its course at least once in response to uplift along a regional flexure geologists call the Coyote Warp. Valley subsidence and deformation along the Coyote Warp continue today. Horton, McGee, Birch, and Bishop creeks drain the rugged Sierra Nevada escarpment to the west and pass near or through the project area. Each of these creeks has changed its course during the Pleistocene in response to faulting associated with valley subsidence, warping as well as regional climate change and Pleistocene glaciations in the Sierra Nevada. Inspection of old maps indicates that Birch Creek and possibly a branch of McGee Creek flowed through a village site (CA-INY-1384/H) along Hwy 395 until the mid 20th century. Stumps remain from the riparian vegetation and there is historic trash along the abandoned course of Birch Creek. Abundant historic trash was also found along the ephemeral branch of McGee Creek. Inspection of more recent maps shows that Birch Creek was diverted to the north circa 1950 when the Rocking K subdivision was developed. Construction of Hwy 395 would have ended any possibility that water could flow down the branch of McGee Creek. There is evidence from air photos that the north fork of Bishop Creek once flowed north of its present course and could have flowed through CA-INY-1384/H in prehistoric time.
Wall, B.R. (Archaeological Research Center, California State University, Sacramento)

Historic Period Changes in Native American Diet in Owens Valley

Recent studies in the Inyo-Mono region have focused on reintegrating the once closely related fields of history and prehistory, highlighting the native experience during the early historic period. In an effort to contribute to this research, my paper explores dietary preferences among native populations during the early history of Owens Valley (1870-1920). Information derived from regional store ledgers provides a detailed record of commercial subsistence pursuits, allowing for a comparison between store-bought and traditional foods. These data also provide the means with which to reevaluate diet breadth and other models of subsistence change.