



Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the
Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560

October, 2017

Meetings:

Regular Meetings: 2nd
Thursday, monthly
(except July & August).

Business Meeting: 5 pm, at
the Wanda Kirk Library
3611 Rosamond Blvd.,
Rosamond, CA. All are
welcome. Exceptions to
this location will be
announced in the
newsletter and at our
website.

Program: 5:30 pm, following
the business session.



photo from NAWS-CL website.

October Meeting: Thursday, October 12 at 5 pm at the Wanda Kirk Library.

KAHS is pleased to announce this month's speaker - Nancy Pahr, from the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. She has been an archaeologist since 1990 and has been employed as a private contractor and by the US government. She has surveyed and recorded many sites to determine eligibility status for the National Register of Historic Places. These inventories have been on areas as small as an acre and up to several thousand acres.

Nancy's titles include Principal Investigator, Project Manager, District Archaeologist, and Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. She was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, but has worked in many of the western states, including Alaska, California, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. She has both a BA and an MA from the University of Montana, Missoula.

Nancy Pahr will be sharing a PowerPoint Presentation on the "Little Pet" (Little Petroglyph) Canyon, part of the Coso Rock Art National Historic Landmark (NHL). This NHL is the most extensive and best preserved concentration of rock art in the United States (36,000 acres) and the only historic landmark of its type located on lands maintained by the United States military.

Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons

These two canyons are part of the Coso Rock Art District, where there are over 20,000 documented images in Little Petroglyph Canyon, alone. These images may have been created by the earliest people inhabiting North America or by native Americans of more recent times. This concentration of rock art is located in the Coso Mountains of the northern Mojave Desert and is now within the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (NAWS China Lake) which may account for how remarkably undisturbed they are.

In 1964, the area was declared a National Historic Landmark. NAWS China Lake recognizes the historic value of these petroglyphs and that they should be shared. Little Petroglyph Canyon is open to the public for tours.

You will want to be at the meeting, Thursday, October 12, as Nancy will be presenting information on how we can participate in one of these guided tours to view the petroglyphs.



You say petroglyphs, I say pictographs . . .

Depending on what we're referring to, we are probably both right. So what is the difference? First of all, they are both what we call "Rock Art". Before people had written languages they "wrote" by scratching or carving into stones. Sometimes they painted on rocks. The method usually depended on the sources available. Did they have something to paint with like charcoal, minerals (like chalk) or blood from animals? Or how hard was the

rock they wanted to draw on?

Petroglyphs refer to the paintings made by scratching, or carving, into a rock. It made an indent. Sometimes this was only enough to wear away the weathered surface of the rock or by making a deeper gouge, which of course would last longer. *Pictographs* are drawings on the rock surface. These were less permanent but in sheltered areas, especially in dry climates, many have survived.

Guidelines for a Visit to the "Little Pet"

- All visitors must be US citizens as this is on a military installation.
- No children under 10 years old.
- Everyone must go through a 'badging process' (includes background check).
- Bring plenty of water.
- Strongly suggested:
 - Long pants, long sleeves (for sun protection).
 - Hiking boots or athletic shoes.
- Picnic area and vault toilet available at the parking lot.

We will have more information when a trip is actually scheduled, hopefully this fall.



When Does Rock Art Become Vandalism?

Just because it's modern day "art" does that make it valuable or is it just graffiti? Certainly ancient carvings and paintings are considered historical treasures and should be protected. But what about someone scrawling his or her name across a sandstone wall in a national park or carving up a tree in a national forest? That would be entirely different and would be considered vandalism. If you don't own the property, don't mess it up! Once it has been defaced, it is almost always impossible to restore to the original condition. Leave it alone so that others may also enjoy it!



Mojave, a Rich History of Rails, Mining, and Flight

In case you weren't able to get a copy of the KAHS book compiled by **Glen Settle and Cathy Hansen**, remember that they are available at our monthly meetings for only \$10, along with all of our KAHS books. As you will remember Cathy was our guest speaker at the September meeting at The Ranch.

Website: www.kahs1959.org

Email: info@kahs1959.org

Please visit the website for more information about Antelope Valley history.

Copies of recent newsletters are available, as well as other information. The first online KAHS book is now available. *Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley*, by Stuart Glennan, is described as "Archaeological Investigations at the Sweetser site". We hope to be able to add other KAHS books in the future.





Local Events:

• **Sunday, October 8th**, watch for the KAHS table at the **Old Timers BBQ**, starting at **11 am.**, in the **Van Dam Bldg.** at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds in Lancaster. The Rural Museum will be open also! It's well worth a visit! We will have our books for sale and other information available.

• **November 4-5, 2017 - Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival.** Check out the website for more information: <http://www.rpfestival.com/>

Notice - If you have not paid your dues for 2017-18, this will be your last Antelope Horn. If you want to continue your membership, please clip and mail this application, with your check, to: Kern Antelope Historical Society, PO Box 1255, Rosamond, CA 93560

Newsletters will be emailed only, unless a mailed copy is requested.

**Kern Antelope Historical Society
Membership Application**

Membership:

Type Dues Check

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|---------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
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| Address | _____ | Individual | \$15 | _____ |
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| Date | _____ | Note: Club Year is June 1 st through May 31 st of the following year | | |

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2. Bears - Borax and Gold
3. Along the Rails from Lancaster to Mojave
4. The Antelopes Left and the Settle-ers Came
5. In Love with Life in Lancaster (Hard Times 1927-1932)
6. Antelope Valley Pioneers
7. Castles in the Valley – Shea’s Castle
8. A Page in the History of Antelope Valley: the Arthur Pickus Story: His Home for Seventy Five Years
9. Mojave, A Rich History of Rails, Mining and Flight
11. Gold-Fever - 40 Years Digging Antelope Valley History
12. Antelope Valley News and Views During Part of the Great Depression 1925-1935

Video DVD - \$15: Antelope Valley Yesteryears

Maps - \$4: Historic Settlers Circle Map
25% Discount to Members

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WEBSITE: www.kahs1959.org EMAIL: info@kahs1959.org

General Meetings:

5:00 pm- Business Session, 5:30 pm - Program
 Second Thursday of the Month, September through June
 At Wanda Kirk County Library

3611 Rosamond Blvd. Rosamond, CA 93560

(Exceptions: June, September & December - to be announced)

Memberships:

\$5 - Student & Military; \$15 - Individual; \$20 - Husband & Wife;
 \$30 - Family; \$35 - Businesses

The Kern Antelope Historical Society was established in 1959 for the purpose of learning and preserving the history of California, especially the Antelope Valley, which includes parts of Los Angeles and Kern counties. Speakers are invited to talk at our monthly meetings about aspects of our various cultures. Subjects range from Indians of the past to the Space Age. The Society offers field trips for members to significant locations in and around the valley throughout the year. Come join us to learn more about the wonders of this area we live in and also meet some new people.

**KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 1255
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