

DIRTY DIGS: 2008

The official Newsletter of the Milford Archaeological Research Institute (M.A.R.I.)

We had a very exciting time at the M.A.R.I. 2008 Pasadena City Collage (PCC) summer field school!

The summer 2008 field season was comprised of 4 volunteers and 16 students. The returning staff consisted of Cecilio Garcia, Whitney Jacobs, Gregorio Pacheca, Steve Stacey, and the returning students consisted of Amy Blair, Rick Perez, Omar Rice, and Yvonne Verser. There were 12 new students: Cody Brinton, Kendrea Chandler, Thom Gonzales, Jared Howland, Debra Johnson, Taylor Livingston, Nick Di Masi, "Zuly" Nuno, Mary Mclellan, Kat Sauer, Trevor Yount, and Thomas Zimmerman. Mari Pritchard Parker served as the Instructor.

PCC provided a 12 passenger van for transportation, which was definitely appreciated as gas prices have continued to rise in California and we were delighted to see when we arrived in Utah that the price was only a little over 4 dollars per gallon. After a bit of a late start, due to vehicle scheduling troubles, those in the van and Mari departed for Utah on the 18th of June and arrived at the dig site a little later than scheduled but definitely safe and sound.

This season the students had two options for camping, the Minersville Lake Camp, that has been used the last two years, or at the MARI dig site. Both sites provided interesting experiences in living. For the first few days at the lake the water was scalding hot, but eventually that was fixed. Meanwhile, at the dig site the students had to combat wind and dust. Usually this was done by simply leaving the site for the afternoon.

This year we made it out to some familiar places such as the Fremont Museum, the Repository at Southern Utah University, the Iron State Mission Park Museum, Cedar Breaks, the Parowan Gap for the Summer Solstice, Pavant Butte and Clear Lake Wildlife Refuge, Lehman Cave, The Baker Village Fremont Site, the Frisco Ghost Town, etc. Dr. Jeanne Day Binning came out and gave her lecture and demonstration on flint knapping and debitage analysis, while Steve Stacey drove out from Kanab to work with the students on site mapping. This year we also had Dave DeVries* give us a H.A.B.S. presentation and Paige Padon led a field trip to the New House town site.

Work began with some surface collection on the south portion of the site. Excavation this year was done in a trench-like manner with the units initially being set up three meters away from each other. Some exciting finds were made, two partial projectile points, three beads, as well as a painted pottery shard. Whitney Jacobs provided us with sunshades, which were definitely utilized.

One other really cool thing that happened was when Jared Howland, one of the new field students, was able to make contact with a local about where to find some pictographs in the nearby mountains. Mari and Gregorio were able to go out on the 4th before we left and find the pictographs and get some pictures of them as well.

The entire field class participated in the Milford City 4th of July parade and celebration this year rather than just a few of us and it proved to be just as much fun as the previous year.

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EXCAVATION NEWS

The 2007 summer field season, consisted of 17 students from Pasadena City College (PCC). There were 8 returning students/volunteers: Clarissa Clarke, Cecilio Garcia, Whitney Jacobs, Michelle Padilla, Omar Rice, Jose Rios, Crystal Samuelian, and Dana Shew. There were 9 new students: Amy Blair, Annah Hand, Gregorio Pacheco, Rick Perez, Casey Schaeffer, Caryn Solomon, Joey Tao, Yvonne Verser, and Kaitlin Yanchar. Additionally three of last year's students; Hans Ludwig, Allison Young, and Jessica Zlotnicki joined us for the last weekend.

We were delighted to have been provided two 12 passenger vans by PCC for transportation which truly helped offset the rising cost of gas. We left PCC on June 18th and returned on July 5th. Students camped at Minersville Lake, which was paid for with funds generated from garage sales and an evening at the Souplantation. The 2007 field season proved to be both interesting and eventful. The lack of water at the campground shower and toilet facility proved challenging and the Porta Potties at the site were a more than welcome that first week. This year's field trips included visits to the Fremont Museum, the Mineral Mountain obsidian and chert quarries, The Iron Mission State Park, Parowan Gap Petroglyph site for the Summer Solstice, Pahvant Butte and Clear Water Wildlife refuge, Lehman Cave, The Baker Village Fremont site, the Frisco Ghost town and the Topaz Mountain Japanese Internment Camp National Historic Landmark dedication. Again this year Dr. Jeanne Day Binning astonished us with a lecture and demonstration on flint knapping and debitage analysis. Our mapping guru, Steve Stacey worked with the students on site mapping and two additional volunteers, Rich Bark and Apasara Nicole - Bark provided helpful hands on instruction in field methods.

Excavation continued at the east mound and on the new 15-acre acquisition. July the 3rd was a clean up day with numerous trips to the dumpster to dispose of the tinkling trash. Despite the hard work there is still a considerable amount of miscellaneous farm house hold trash in the Dairy complex. Additionally this year our group participated in the Milford City 4th of July parade, picnic and fireworks at the city park. Much fun was had by all.

A group of volunteers are planning a Labor Day Weekend work party, for general clean up and hopefully the installation of a concrete shower pad.

Next year's PCC field school is scheduled for June 18 through July 3, 2008. An additional week of fieldwork, not affiliated with PCC, is being considered for August 2008 for volunteers and additional students.

MEETING INFORMATION

This year's first board meeting of the Milford Archaeological Research Institute (M.A.R.I.) was held on 30 January 2007, 2:00 pm (CST) in Los Angeles. In attendance were Mari Pritchard

Parker, Paige M. Peyton, Heather R. Puckett, Whitney Jacobs, Allison Jost, Cecilio Garcia, Dana Shew, and Michelle Padilla. Jesamy Gloos arrived late. Committees for fundraising (Dana Shew), supplies and equipment (Whitney Jacobs) and public relations (Michelle Padilla and Clarissa Clarke) were formed.

Items discussed during the meeting included the need for donations and grants, upcoming field efforts, and the success of the excavations held during the summer session of 2006 (June 13-21, 2005).

For contributions or copies, contact Mari Pritchard Parker at mapp@mari-web.org

DIRTY DIGS: 2005

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Excavation News

The summer 2005 field season proved to be both interesting and eventful. A group of volunteers a.k.a. "the Moo crew," which included Wilma Horvath, Whitney Jacobs, Cecelia Paige, Laura Alvarenga, Jessica Zlotnick, Matt Vacaro, and Mari Pritchard Parker, spent a considerable amount of time shoveling out the dairy which was full of *sh...t* from a wide array of animals (cows, sheep, rabbits, pigeon and, oh yes, chinchillas). Numerous trips to the dumpster to dispose of a considerable amount of miscellaneous farm house hold trash (real trash not the stuff Heather Puckett likes) was accomplished with the additional help of Crystal Samuelina, Jose Rios Tim Parker, Jessie Perez, and Kyle Parker. Wilma and Mari completed a sketch map of the dairy excavation. Additionally, a pedestrian survey was conducted on the new 15-acre acquisition. In early August Heather and Mari went to the M.A.R.I. project site and photographed the dairy. Heather analyzed the artifacts collected from the dairy excavation. Two weeks later (Labor Day Weekend) Mari conducted another site visit – at that time, it was discovered there had been a fire at the site, burning portions of the corral, but left the dairy intact; there was no damage to the dairy or the rest of the M.A.R.I. project site (i.e., the mound). The local fire authorities determined that the fire was caused by electrical line rubbing in the trees to the north of the dairy.

The field season is planned for the summer term (2006), via Pasadena City College (PCC). Students enrolled through PCC can work at the site for two weeks of credit (2 units of excavation and survey methods). The students will work at the M.A.R.I. project site and possibly visit other sites in the local area (i.e., Frisco Mine, Parawan Gap, etc.). Students are encouraged to camp at the campground at Minersville. The field school is scheduled for June 19 through July 3, 2006.

Meeting Information

The first official meeting of the Milford Archaeological Research Institute (M.A.R.I.) was held on October 16, 2005 in Los Angeles, California. Board members Mari Pritchard Parker, Valerie Parker, Heather Puckett were present for the meeting. Other attendees included Wilma Horvath, Whitney Jacobs, Cecelia Paige, and Laura Alvarenga. Items discussed during the meeting included the need for donations and grants, upcoming field efforts, and the success of the excavations held during the summer session of 2005 (June 13-21, 2005).

New Acquisitions

An additional 15-acre parcel was purchased for \$12,000.00+. It is adjacent to the south boundary of the M.A.R.I. project site.

Status of the Non-Profit

The MARI lawyer, Mr. James Jenson, is currently updating the safety forms and board information for the non-profit organization. The cost of these proceedings is \$300.00+. Once Mr. Jenson completes the proper paperwork to set up the non-profit, M.A.R.I. can try to get outside funding.

For contributions or copies, contact Heather R. Puckett at heather@mari-web.org