

ANNUAL REPORT: WIND WOLVES 2016 FIELD SCHOOL

Director(s): David W. Robinson, University of Central Lancashire
Co-Director(s): Julienne Bernard, East Los Angeles College



The 2016 season of the Wind Wolves Field School was rewarding and productive, both in terms of accomplishing our research goals and achieving pedagogical successes. This year we worked with 11 excellent field school students from the US and the UK, and conducted excavation at several areas within Cache Cave as well as at the Runaway Camp location in the San Emigdio Canyon. Working at these places enabled us to develop our understanding of the use of the cave and to further build our regional understanding of the use of bedrock mortars.

Inside the cave, we excavated over 20 units in order to remove the remaining portions of the cave deposits. This included areas adjacent to the trench excavated in a previous season, the chute portion of the cave, and the crevice. We found many of the same type of perishable items that had been recovered in previous seasons, as well as a few new items. One of the most exciting discoveries was a large section of netting: we had recovered small knots and portions of net in the past, so this large find brought fruition to those small discoveries. We continued to find small pieces of basketry, as well as some items made from reeds lashed together. We also recovered a woven item of grass that we speculate may have been a fragment of a sandal. This season we achieved great strides inside the cave in documentation, successfully laser scanning the caves chambers and the objects found within.

At Runaway Camp, we sought to supplement the work in the general midden areas that was conducted as part of Dr. Bernard's dissertation research. We opened a unit adjacent to the bedrock mortar that is located on the eastern outskirts of the site. As the sole bedrock mortar in this portion of the canyon, and the nearest to the historic village of Tashlipun, this excavation

enabled us to evaluate the timing of the use of this BRM and assess whether it was used during the precolonial occupation of the sites. We found very few artifacts overall, but we did recover two glass beads, which enabled us to confirm a historic period use of the BRM. Given the shallowness of the cultural materials, we believe that the BRM was used primarily during the historic era and thus reflects temporal variability in the basic activities performed at the sites. This season's excavation at Runaway Camp will also articulate with the excavations at BRMs that we have performed as part of the Enculturating Environments project. Now, we can better incorporate this site into the regional data collected over the last 10 years. Our next goal is to begin the write up of the cave and integrate it into a monograph on the Emigdiano Chumash region based on our shared research endeavors over the last decade.

In all, our season was productive and enjoyable in many ways. Some of us made discoveries we never dreamed of. Some of us overcame long held fears. We saw endangered species and other animals that few people will ever see in nature. We learned to use state-of-the-art archaeological technology as well as the techniques archaeologists have relied on for decades. We made new friends, from both close to home and across the Atlantic. We all learned and grew as archaeologists and indeed, as people, and it was an unforgettable experience for all of us, staff and students alike.