

TCAS BENCHMARK



DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I write this, it is nearing Thanksgiving, reminding me to give thanks to everyone who belongs to our society. Especially to those who helped out as an officer on the TCAS board or in any other capacity during the last

year. Also, thanks to all of you who brought refreshments during the year, and all who helped out with the outside events involving our society.

Let's not forget the wonderful presentations we were treated to by all of our guest speakers each month. Last month was no exception; thanks to Cody Davis with his update on three archeological projects within Tarrant County.

With everyone's help TCAS had a successful year and our success as a society in the future should continue!

The Holiday Season is rapidly approaching and I hope everyone gets to enjoy this special time with their family and friends. Don't forget that as a society we **do not** have a meeting this month; but we do have our annual Christmas party. This year it is on December 19th at Paula's house (see map). Everyone who attends this event always has such a great time; so please come and remember to bring something as a white elephant gift (with an archeology theme if possible).

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Jay Hornsby

Condolences to Glynn and Eddie Osburn on the passing of their mother.

Calendar of Activities

DECEMBER

Thru
Jan 3

**TUSKS! ICE AGE MAMMOTHS
AND MASTODONS**

19

**THE ANNUAL TCAS HOLIDAY
PARTY**
(SEE PAGE 2)

27-
JAN 2

**TAS ROCK ART RECORDING
GROUP RECORDING SESSION**
(SEE PAGE 3)

JANUARY

14

TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 7)

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**SOUTHERN TEXAS AR-
CHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIA-
TION ANNUAL MEETING**

FEBRUARY

6-7

**TAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY -
CERAMICS: THE STORIES
FOUND IN POTTERY ~ SAN
MARCOS**
(SEE PAGE 3)

11

TCAS MONTHLY MEETING
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 7)

20-21

**TAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY -
LITHICS: READING STONE
ARTIFACTS ~ KERRVILLE**
(SEE PAGE 3)

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TCAS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

Unbelievably, we're at the end of another year. Following tradition, the TCAS December monthly meeting will be suspended in favor of the annual Holiday Party.

The party will be on December 19th, again at Paula's house (directions and a map below). As in past years, please bring a covered dish (hopefully with something yummy inside) and "an archeologically related white elephant gift" to be traded among your friends. Be considerate: you wouldn't really want the last twelve issues of the "Benchmark" as a gift, would you?

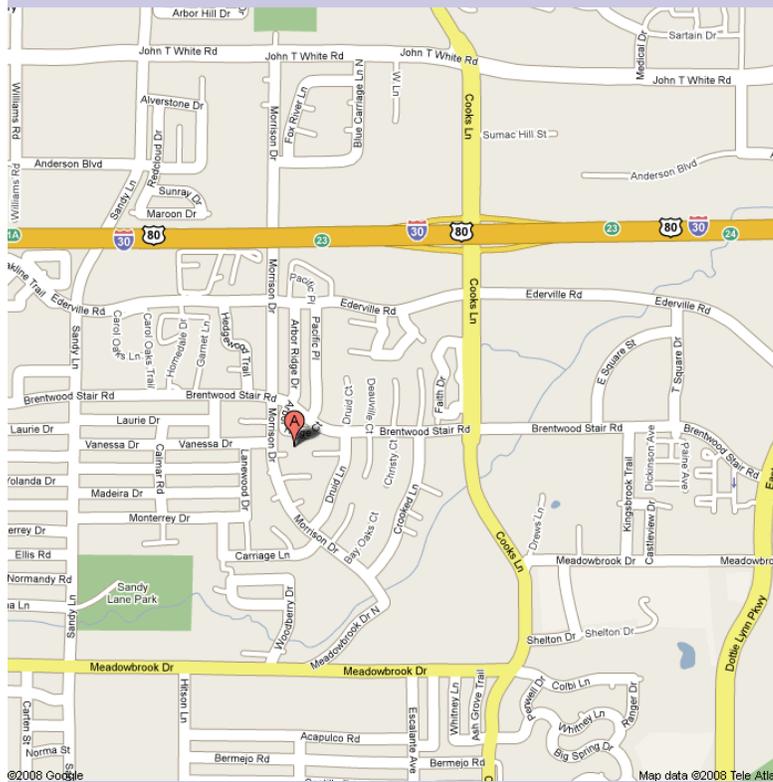
Please consider, too, bringing a canned good or two to this year's party as a small token of what this season's really about. Collected canned goods will be donated to the Fort Worth Food Bank. Thanks in advance for your thoughtfulness.

As a courtesy to all, remember that this is an "adults only" gathering. And as a courtesy to me, give your keys up and ask for a ride home if you plan to partake at this or any party this year. We all want to see you next year, too.

As a last request, please take lots of pictures! I'll follow up by printing them in January's "Benchmark" and posting them on the TCAS website.

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

PAULA'S 7609 Springcreek



- ★ Take I-30 toward Arlington
- ★ Exit at Cooks Lane
- ★ Go South on Cooks Lane to Brentwood Stair Rd.
- ★ Go West (right) on Brentwood Stair to Morrison Dr.
- ★ Go South (left) on Morrison
- ★ Springcreek is the first cul-de-sac on the left

TAS ROCK ART RECORDING GROUP RECORDING SESSION

The TAS Rock Art Recording Group will be working in the Big Bend area. The group has been granted permission to record a site on private property in the Big Bend area. The site contains a pictograph with lots of over-painting (90% red). The group will record the site the week of December 28, 2009 through January 1, 2010 (arriving Sunday, December 27 and departing Saturday, January 2). While onsite the group will be headquartered at Wild Horse Station #4, located on Hwy 118 ca. 75 miles south of Alpine and approximately 7 miles north of Study Butte.

Rock Art Committee chair Teddy Lou Stickney visited the site in March 2009, and noted that the icons are representative of the Jornada Mogollon, Plains, and several other cultural traditions.

The registration fee for this rock art session is \$50.00. This fee is to contribute to the cost of the meals, as food for three meals a day for five days will be provided. Everyone staying there will share in the fee for the lodging at Station #4. The facility that has been reserved will sleep six, but there is plenty of space for tents and campers.

For more information on this event visit txarch.org and search the calendar pages.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMIES 2010 ANNOUNCED

Two returning academy topics and one new topic are on tap for the 2010 TAS Academies.

The popular **Ceramics: The Stories Found in Pottery** will be held in San Marcos at the Texas State University campus on February 6-7, 2010. Led by Dr. Harry Shafer, with a demonstration by Chuck Hixson, this academy will show you the importance of ceramics in terms of chronology, dating, technology, trade and exchange, subsistence, social and political identities. Hands on exercises will enable students to recognize and sort sherds to answer questions about ancient lifeways.

Also returning in 2010 the **Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts** will be held in Kerrville on February 20-21. Exercises include hands on experience recognizing and analyzing stone artifacts, along with distinguishing wear patterns and functional uses. Participants will learn why stone artifacts are important, how they are produced and used, and how stone tools contribute to the archeological record. The academy will be taught by Dr. Harry Shafer with assistance from flintknapper Cary Voss, who will explain how the archaeological record is formed as he demonstrates stone tool manufacture techniques.

New in 2010 is an academy titled: **Geoarchaeology: Recognizing and Evaluating the Archaeological Potential of the Landscape**. This academy will have you trekking over some rough terrain on archaeologically rich Ft. Hood with Charles Frederick and Karl Kibler as they teach you how landscape settings influence site context, visibility and preservation. Hands on exercises will offer participants the opportunity to see what can be learned from the geography of Texas. This academy will be held March 20-21 on the campus of Central Texas College in Killeen with field exercises on Ft. Hood.

All three academies are intended for anyone interested in archeological topics. Avocational archeologists experience new dimensions of expertise; professional archeologists benefit from review; undergraduates, graduate students and educators may receive credit for the classes. The goal of Texas Archeology Academies is to show how archeology is done and why we do it.

For more information, including fees and scholarships visit txarch.org.

Top Ten Archaeology Finds: Most Viewed of 2009

National Geographic News

December 7, 2009

Vampires, pirates, ghost ships, skeletons—if it isn't Halloween, it can only be one thing: National Geographic News's annual lineup of our most popular archaeology coverage.



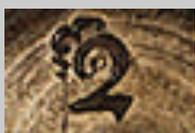
10. ["Extraordinary" Ancient Skeletons Found](#)

Several graves dating as far back as the early Stone Age—complete with the dog-tooth jewelry and sitting woman seen in these pictures—were discovered during extensive digs in central Germany, archaeologists announced this fall.



9. ["Vampire" Exorcism Skull Found in Italy](#)

The partial body and skull of a plague victim show her jaw forced open by a brick—a medieval exorcism technique used on suspected vampires—a forensic archaeologist explained in March.



8. [Blackbeard Pirate Relics, Gold Found](#)

A sword guard, tiny gold pieces, and a coin are among newfound artifacts from a shipwreck off North Carolina—shown in exclusive pictures. The discoveries, announced in March, add to evidence that the ship belonged to the pirate Blackbeard.



7. [World War II "Samurai Subs" Found—Carried Aircraft](#)

Two advanced Japanese "samurai subs" were found off Pearl Harbor in February and announced in November—including a stealth aircraft-carrying submarine and a supersleek vessel engineered for utmost speed.



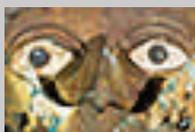
6. [Huge Pre-Stonehenge Complex Found via "Crop Circles"](#)

Given away by crop circle-like formations, the pre-Stonehenge site surprised archaeologists with temple ruins, dozens of burial mounds, and two huge tombs that are among "Britain's first architecture," experts said in June.



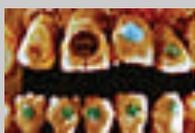
5. [Mysterious Inscribed Slate Discovered at Jamestown](#)

Archaeologists are trying to unravel the mysteries of an unusual, inscribed 400-year-old slate tablet they dug out of a well in the early American settlement in Virginia, we reported in June.



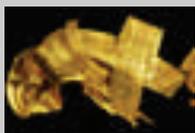
4. [Ancient "King of Bling" Tomb Revealed in Peru](#)

Packed with treasure in the styles of two ancient orders, the 1,500-year-old tomb is apparently like no other—and may help resolve mysteries of the Moche Indian civilization.



3. [Ancient Gem-Studded Teeth Show Skill of Early Dentists](#)

The glittering "grills" of some hip-hop stars aren't exactly unprecedented. Sophisticated dentistry allowed Native Americans to add bling to their teeth as far back as 2,500 years ago, a May study said.



2. [Gold Hoard Found: Largest Known Anglo-Saxon Treasure](#)

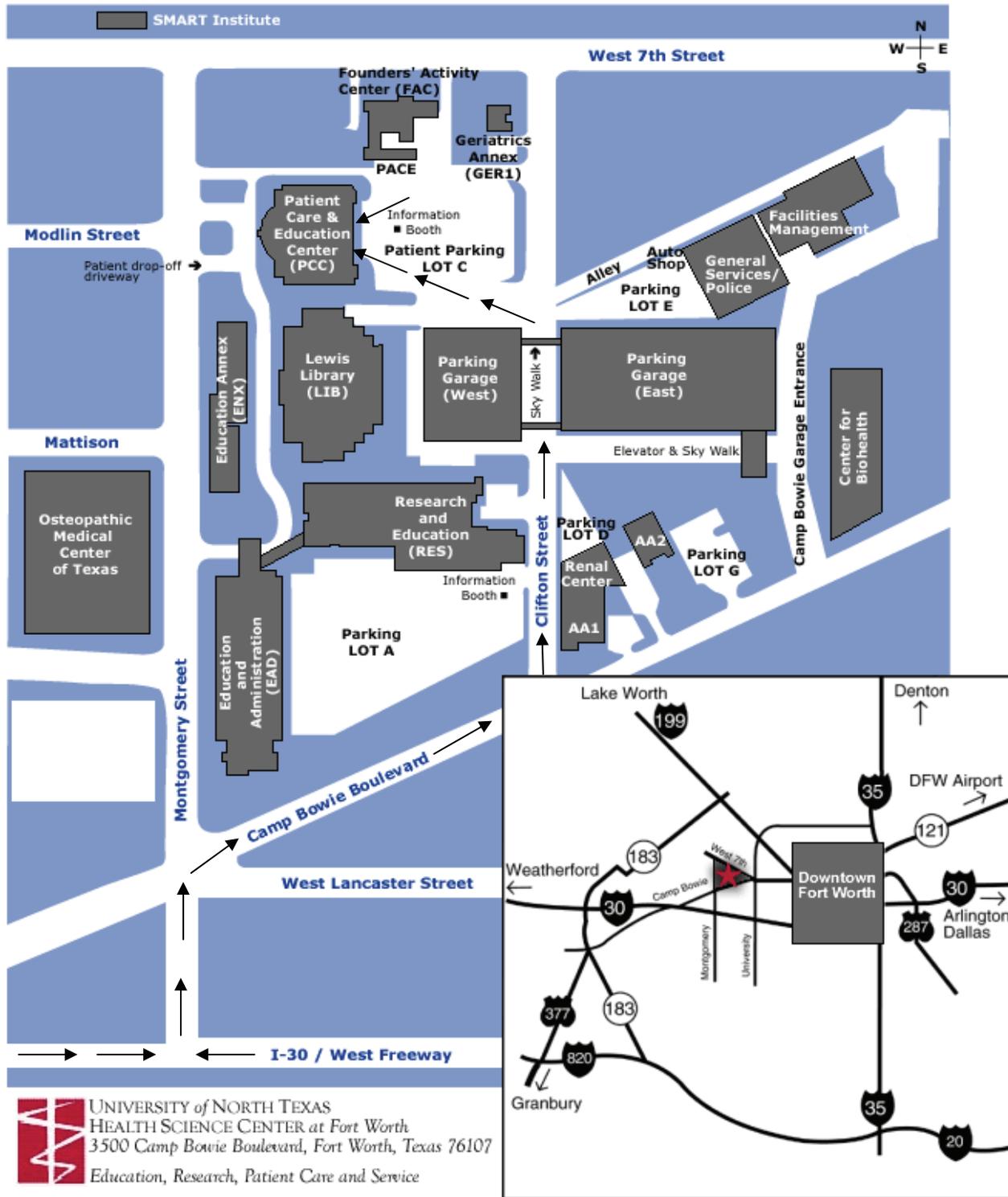
Found in July by an amateur treasure hunter in England, the largest known Anglo-Saxon gold hoard is rich with precious stones and intricately wrought war gear.



1. [Gold Rush-Era "Ghost Ship" Wreck Found](#)

With boots thrown hastily on deck and cooking utensils scattered, the last moments of the crew aboard the gold rush-era paddleboat *A.J. Goddard* are preserved in the ship's recently found wreck, archaeologists announced in November.

TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2nd Thursday of each month at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth. The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street about two miles west of downtown. Take Clifton Street off of Camp Bowie (one block east of the Montgomery intersection) to Parking Lot “C” on your left (west). Park in the patient spaces (after 5PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to room 110.



TARRANT COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME(S) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS _____

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00

HOME PHONE _____

FAMILY \$25.00

EMPLOYER _____

STUDENT \$10.00

(H.S. , ACTIVE UNIV. DEGREE CANDIDATE THROUGH AGE 25)

E-MAIL _____

CONTRIBUTING \$30.00+

I WANT MY NEWSLETTER DELIVERED BY E-MAIL _____ POST OFFICE _____

CODE OF ETHICS (SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOGAL ANITQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES, OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA, OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

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