PNWAS NEWS BULLETIN 176

CELEBRATING OUR 41ST ANNIVERSARY!!!!

WELCOME TO PNWAS

Please Renew your Membership for 2027 to participate in upcoming Mima Falls Surveys, Squaxin Museum Mammoth Exhibition and Atlatl-making and Stone Tool Making Workshops.

AND if you missed any of the PNWAS **ZOOM** *talks see all 27 of them on our PNWAS* **YouTube** *Channel:*
https://www.youtube.com/user/SeattlePNWAS

The recent and excellent Spring talk:

Terminal Pleistocene Bison and Sloth from Vancouver Island, B.C.

By Morley Eldridge, Millennia Research Limited

is now available on our YouTube channel (above).

Please **renew now for 2027!:** https://pnwas-society.weebly.com/membership.html **), so you will get an invitation to join next years ZOOM meetings and several field/exhibit/workshop activities mentioned above. Talks are on Thursday evenings and start at 6:30 pm.**

THANKS for Renewing for next year, 2027, to help us with these programs. I am attaching a membership schedule and form here.

FALL *PNWAS:*

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Rescuing Thousands of Eroded Wood and Fiber Artifacts from an Ancient Yup'ik Village, AK, Summer 2026 An AMAZING UPDATE

(See his attached reports)

Dr. Rick Knecht, University of Aberdeen, UK

Dr. Rick Knecht gave the Fall 2025 PNWAS talk on the day he arrived at the site after a typhoon damaged 60 perpendicular feet of site. Next he gave us a thorough update in the Spring 2026, covering what's been done by the Nunelleq community to rescue what they can, over 1,000 wood/fiber artifacts!

Rick Reported ***Finds of the Day*** on Facebook for the two (early summer/late summer) 3-week rescue excavations that PNWAS supported, and the reports are attached in this email.

These two heroic rescues, especially the second 3 weeks with winter approaching (Report #2, attached) rescued over 8,000 frozen artifacts that were carefully recovered and documented. The community museum conservation work continues to preserve the wood and fiber artifacts rescued. Rick reported:

Rescue archaeology continues at the Nunalleq … to save what we can from the very rapid erosion now taking place on this part of the Bering Sea coast. An international crew of volunteer archaeologists, conservators along with support staff from Qanirtuuq Inc. and Nalaquq LLC, in Quinhagak are working long hours, six days a week. We are grateful for support from the **Pacific Northwest Archaeological Society.**

Dr. Shannon Tushingham, California Academy of Sciences, heroic volunteer crew member: Racing against the clock at the Nunallaq site—where time is not on our side. ***As an archaeologist, you dream of sites like this. As a partner, you know it only works because of the community leading the way. Working round the clock with the incredible people of Quinhagak. What an honor it's been to join this effort!***

August 19th; Rick: Another find from the fast eroding Nunalleq site, a large mass of heavy grass rope, braided from rye grass leaves. Expertly recovered by Becky DeAngelo.

August 20th; Rick: Find of the day at Nunalleq is this wooden uluaq handle hafted with its original ground green slate blade. Recovered by Paula Jones returning to her home village of Quinhagak as a volunteer archaeologist.

Attend the October 22nd ZOOM meeting where Dr. Knecht will update us on the two summer rescue efforts and adventures. We will send you a ZOOM invitation next week.

Also Rick still can use our HELP to continue the lab work with the preservation of over 8,000 mostly wood/fiber perishables artifacts at their community museum, rescued this summer. PNWAS continues our **GoFundMe** site so we can help them with the heroic preservation effort: ***https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-rescuing-wood-and-fiber-artifact-in-western-alaska***.—ANY AMOUNT PROVIDES THE VITAL MARGIN NEEDED AT THIS CRITICAL TIME!!!!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS HAPPEN

GATEWAY TO SQUAXIN—OUR SUMMER CHEHALIS-BLACK RIVERS SPILLWAY HYPOTHESIS (C-BRSH) TESTING & SURVEY, HELPING THE SQUAXIN MUSEUM MAMMOTH EXHIBIT

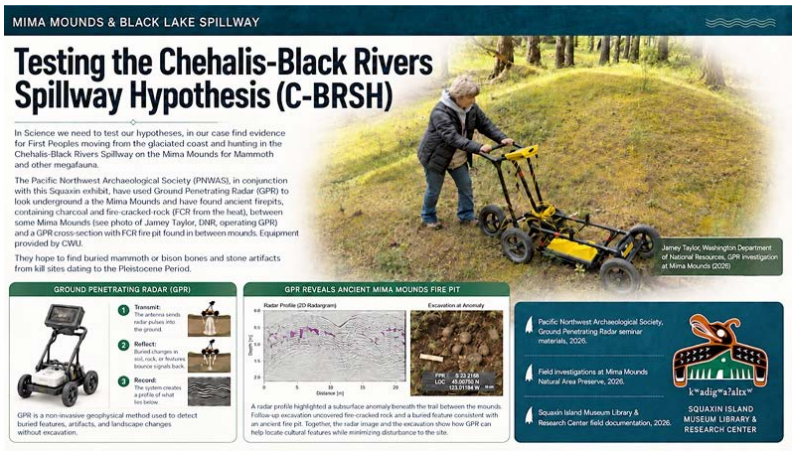
(Opening by End of Year!!!!)

FIELD TESTING THE C-BRSH HYPOTHESIS IN THE MIMA MOUNDS AND FOOTHILLS

In late May a group of twenty PNWAS members gathered and used Ground-Penetrating Radar to look for early sites in the Mima Mounds.

(Left) Dr. Steven Hackenberger, CWU, starting trail transect with GPR demonstration for groups of PNWAS participants; (right) Dr. James Brown, WDOT, on mound transect in picnic area.

The results of this initial survey effort, finding of an ancient firepit, will be on the final touch-screen display in the Squaxin Island Tribe Mammoth Exhibit coming by the end of year!



So, the first PNWAS field testing was a resounding success!

A smaller PNWAS group continued the survey in mid-summer at the Mima Falls Trailhead, on higher ground looking for campsites overlooking the mima mounds where early hunters could observe herds of mammoth, bison, and solo giant sloths. We had to heroically brush through rough undergrowth, scrapping down to the original glacial gravel surface, with no success.

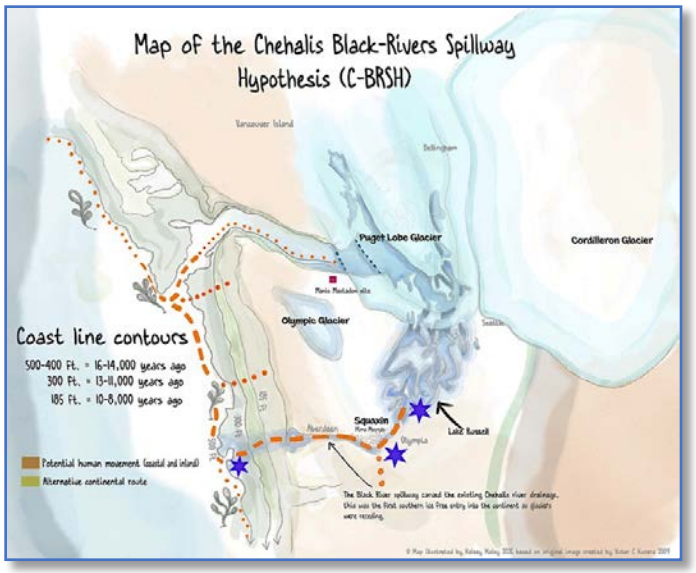
Dale has recently found a willing private property owner with open areas of high ground overlooking the once tundra grasslands of the mima mounds for an easier survey, including a wetlands next to these high open grounds.

Please watch for future field testing through your PNWAS Membership! Join for 2027!!!!

Also, we will have stone tool making and atlatl making, and using, workshops at the Squaxin Museum for PNWAS Members. More to come as we develop the plans and we hope you are interested in testing our hypothesis!!!!

Please renew memberships in PNWAS for 2027 to be able to participate in the exciting Gateway to Squaxin: The Mammoth Exhibit, our planned campout surveys for First Peoples sites in the Mimma Mounds area of SW Washington and our upcoming ZOOM meetings/programs

Here's some other images from the development of the Squaxin Island Tribe Mammoth Exhibit.

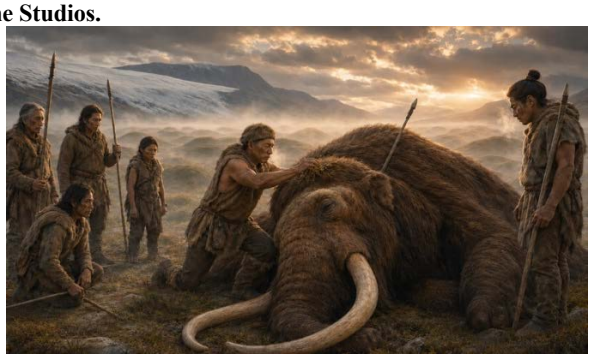


Map developed for Squaxin Museum youth education booklet by mammoth committee planner Kelsey Maloy. Stars featuring highlights, left to right, (1) first entrance into the open American continent at the Chehalis River mouth, (2) bend up the Black River Spillway first observing the mima mounds, and (3) finding freshwater Lake Russell, now Puget Sound, Squaxin Island Tribe Traditional Territory.

***Components of skin boats used to come down the glaciated coast and to first enter American continent up the Chehalis-Black Rivers Spillway* © Smart Meme Studios.**

***AI generated images of Jefferson Mammoth (hybrid Woolly and Columbian Mammoth) in the Mima Mounds* © Smart Meme Studios.**

***AI generated images of mammoth hunts in the Mima Mounds generated by the Squaxin Mammoth Exhibit Planners* © Smart Meme Studios.**



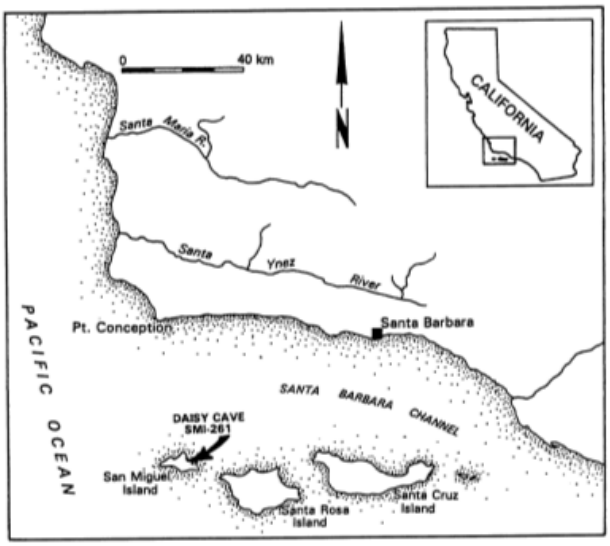
***AI generated image of thanking the mammoth for giving its life to the early hunters on the tundra and glacial covered Mima Mound/Black River valley* © Smart Meme Studios.**

EARLY WINTER *PNWAS:*

Thursday, December 10th, 2026

18,000 Year-Old Human Occupation of Daisy Cave, Channel Islands, So. California

Dr. Jon Erlandson, University of Oregon (the originator of The Kelp Highway Hypothesis)



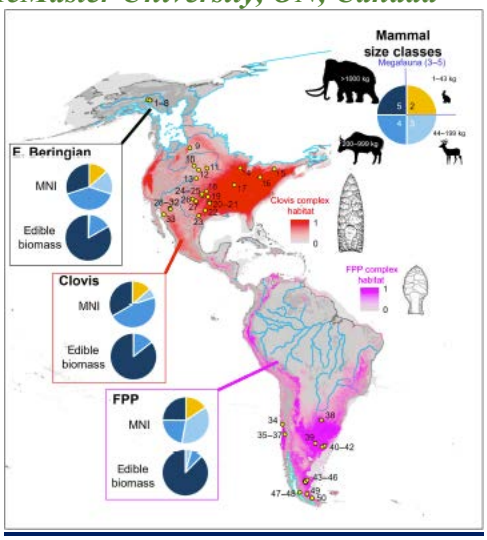
Daisy Cave and the large Santa Barbara Channel region

LATE WINTER *PNWAS:*

Thursday, February 11th, 2027

American Hemisphere-wide Evidence of Early Paleoindian Megaherbivore (Mammoth, Mastodon, Sloth, etc.) Specialization

Dr. James Chatters, Applied Paleoscience and McMaster University, ON, Canada



Faunal sample locations for Beringia, North and South America, and Clovis and Fishtail Projectile Point–related distribution

Pacific Northwest Archaeological Society

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Renew/Join for 2026 at https://pnwas-society.weebly.com/membership.html and PayPal

Thursday, October 22nd, 2026

Community Rescuing Thousands of Eroded Wood and Fiber Artifacts from an Ancient Yup'ik Village, AK, Summer 2026 An UPDATE

Dr. Rick Knecht, University of Aberdeen, UK

Nunalleq frozen site, West Alaska field crew on the last day of digging [note mosquito joining them in group photo!]. Rick Knecht is third from left. Not shown here is the lab crew and the larger locally based Qanirtuuq, inc. and Quinhagak Heritage logistics crew. A great team and hopefully one that will be all on deck for Nunalleq 2027!