

# PRELADO NOTICIAS

## ***Water: A Fluid Connection Bridging People***

*Editors note: We are trying something new in introducing a new theme with each seasonal edition. Let us know if you like the idea.*



*Photo: Animal Volunteers, front row Susanne Boyer, Kim, Deanna Duffy, Cat Morales. Back Row: Emmet, John, Cody, Owen. Photo by Robin Bronson.*



*Photo: State Park Maintenance Staff, Don, John, Cody, Kim, Owen, Emmet. Photo by Robin Bronson.*



*Photo: Babycita with pal at her new home. Photo by Robin Bronson.*

## ***Nothing Can Stop Them***

BY ROBIN BRONSON

On February 15 we held a special recognition for our Animal Caretakers. *Thank You Prelado* for giving us a great lunch! Besides having a hearty lunch, we were able to just be with each other without being busy with life. For me, it was special because many of us hadn't met one another. It was just so nice to be together. At one moment, unexpectedly, we could all ask each other about animal care. It was fun to hear the questions, and answers. I, myself, learned so much. We had one animal volunteer that

couldn't make it, unfortunately. She feeds our animals twice per week while busy with other ranches. Julianna, we missed you and thank you so much! Cat Morales braved one of the worst rainy days to go out and feed the animals. The animals were sure happy to see her! Many thanks to our previous feeders: Julianna Strong, Betsey Lasswell, and Colleen Newkirk. Kudos to our Maintenance Crew for their vigilance, ordering feed and meds and administering meds when needed. They rotate animals to corrals and are very responsive to volunteer feeders' needs. We couldn't do our job without them! *Editors' Note:* Our Animal Caretakers are a unique bunch of folks who are deeply dedicated to our animals. This winter

proved exceptionally challenging with heavy rains, flooding, and cold temperatures. But through it all, they were steadfast in their efforts to be with our animals regardless of the elements.

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# A Note of Gratitude



BY GREG MARTIN, District Superintendent  
Channel Coast District, California State  
Parks

During Volunteer Appreciation month (April), we have much to be thankful for in you, and your good work as State Park Volunteers throughout the Channel Coast District (CCD). In 2022, a total of 198 long-term volunteers served in 8 park units throughout the district and provided 42,132 volunteer hours. And in 2022, State Park Volunteers served 1.2 million visitors in Channel Coast District Parks. In Santa Barbara, Carpinteria and Ventura Sector State Park Volunteer Camp hosts provided 16,238 hours in 2022 working the kiosks, greeting visitors, selling passes, and answering questions. Many of you have also donated your time to help maintain the grounds, trails, bathrooms, and other park facilities. In 2022 your contribution to our parks served 1,126,708 visitors. Your dedication directly impacts the experience of our visitors.



Photo: Greg Martin by Kristen McNally..

Nearly 50,000 visitors experienced La Purísima Mission State Historic Park in 2022. Hardworking State Park Volunteers contributed 7,421 hours in 250 interpretive programs including guided tours, living history in-person and virtual programs, and Junior Ranger programs and provided 287 hours staffing the Visitor Center serving 20,151 visitors. Along with serving the visitors, we want to thank the Animal Care Volunteers who work in rain, mud, and freezing temperatures to care for all the animals from Longhorns to turkeys providing over 500 hours of care to our beloved animals.

On behalf of the Channel Coast District, I want to take the time this month to tip our Stetsons to all of you who make Channel Coast District Parks a special place to visit.

Thank you for your volunteer spirit and the important work you do throughout our district!

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## Babycita Update

BY ROBIN BRONSON

Deanna, one of our Animal Caretakers, gave me a tour of her ranch where Babycita now resides. She is living in style! She gets covered with a blanket at night and a nice warm barn if it rains. Deanna and her family provide extra love and attention. A bit arthritic, Babycita gets vet consultation often. Babycita couldn't have a better home in her senior years!



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## Nature Notes du Jour

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Some good summer low tides are on the horizon for *tide-pooling*:



Wed., 6/7 7:26am -1.1 ft.  
Thur., 6/8 8:19am -0.8 ft.  
Fri., 6/9 9:13am -0.4 ft.  
Thur., 7/6 7:03am -1.0 ft.  
Fri., 7/7 7:47am -0.5 ft.

*Full Moons:* June 4, July 3, & August 11

*Whales:*

Grays are still making their way north to the Chukchi Sea off of Alaska, but many Humpbacks and Minkes are being spotted. Sea lions, Common dolphin, and Sunfish (*Mola mola*) are being spotted as well. Check out a local whale-watching excursion with *Condor Express*, <https://www.condorexpress.com/> out of Santa Barbara or *Island Packers* out of Ventura <https://islandpackers.com/trips/whales-and-wildlife-cruises/>. Mahalo!



# *Farewell to Docents*

BY KRISTEN McNALLY

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to some of our loyal docents.

Catherine Elam passed away in January; she loved volunteering and the work she did while she was a docent at La Purísima Mission.

<https://www.starbucklind.com/obituary/catherine-elam>



Photo: Catherine Elam.

In February, Sharyl Heavin passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Sharyl had a generous and loving spirit. Did you know she loved roller coasters? She also developed a test kitchen concept for Thermador and Dynamic Cooking kitchens, tested many ovens and baked A LOT of yellow cakes! She became known for the famous Monkey Bread recipe. Sharyl and Myron met at Cal State-LA and married in 1964. They welcomed two sons and a daughter. The couple moved to Lompoc in 2010 and both were blessed with green thumbs in their garden and orchard.

Sharyl was active in church ministry and was very welcoming as a docent at La Purísima Mission.

A *YouTube* video of Sharyl's Celebration of Life:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US\\_PE7FIOBA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US_PE7FIOBA)



Photo: Sharyl Heavin.

Joan Stevenson passed away on April 13. Joan stayed busy volunteering her time in countless roles within her church and as a docent at the La Purísima Mission where she shared her love of history and craft. Her service was held on Saturday, May 13 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lompoc.

<https://www.starbucklind.com/obituary/joan-stevenson>



Photo: Joan Stevenson.

Evelyn Hilden also recently passed away. Evelyn enjoyed people and was always willing to help whomever she met. An active docent at La Purísima Mission, she spent many hours in the gardens. Teresa Marrs shared that she was a very hard worker in the garden. Rose Salas chimed that Evelyn grew plants at home then transferred them back to the garden. She was a great weed-buster. And she also helped in the Tienda re-stocking. Always willing to help out, she shared a smile and great sense of humor. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 24, 2023, at 11:00 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1201 N. H St. Lompoc. CA. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Allen Hancock Foundation Business Major Scholarship Fund: PO Box 5170 Santa Maria, CA 93454, or to the charity of your choice.

<https://www.starbucklind.com/obituary/evelyn-hilden>



Photo: Evelyn Hilden.

# Mission Water Systems

BY EMILY BERGSTROM

In order to maintain the mission with water independent of the Santa Ynez River, a small fountain was built from which a ditch conducted water to the foot of the mission for a distance of four hundred paces. To secure a greater volume of water for summer irrigation, an aqueduct that ran from river to the old mission site was continued to the new mission site, crossing the river at the old pass of Santa Ynez. An orchard was planted with many trees as were at hand, and these were irrigated with water from various springs that were collected after emptying into tanks. (Hardwick) Lompo' was an occupied Chumash village at the time of Spanish contact. Its meaning is "stagnant" or "brackish water," and it is most likely where the town of Lompoc got its



*Photo: Irrigation canal, full after a winter storm. Photo by Emily Bergstrom.*

name. The village was located adjacent to the Santa Ynez River, not far inland from Surf where the Santa Ynez River meets the sea, close to the mouth of the Lompoc Canyon and the entrance of the South Vandenberg Space Force Base. The village was first observed in May 1770 while soldiers were looking for a way to ford the Santa Ynez River. Padre Juan Crespí, the journalist of the expedition, noted, "At this spot there are a great many bears, for there are a great many of their tracks throughout the dunes here. The soldiers who went seeking a ford, and failed to find one [within] about a league from the shore, did come across a good-sized village of very fine heathens having about twenty-some large grass houses like those of the "Channel." (Hardwick)

"A garden was also planted with as many trees as were obtainable, and for its irrigation the water from various springs were collected, which, after running into their tanks or reservoirs, promise to irrigate in abundance." (Engelhardt) On December 21st, 1812, at 10:30am... the earth shook for four minutes so violently that it was difficult to stand. Church walls were thrown out of plumb. Another more violent shock came a half hour after the first, bringing down the church and nearly all the adobe buildings... Heavy rains immediately followed the earthquake, burst the mission waterworks and made it difficult to recover buried items. (Hardwick)

Annual Report of December 31st: "The inclemency of the weather, and the very heavy rainfalls that followed, prevent digging out anything or covering what

lies exposed." (Payéras/Ripoll) Letter to Gov Arrillaga, March 11, 1813, "After the Mission of Purísima, on the day of Apostle St. Thomas, last past, had suffered the most violent earthquake, we at once perceived that its buildings, those of the village included, and the walls of the garden, all constructed of Adobe, and covered with tiles, were unserviceable. Fearful of the strange disaster which was aggravated by violent floods, we only thought of saving our persons, those of the guards and neophytes in some poor huts, constructing a jackal where to celebrate Holy Mass, digging out what was most sacred in the destroyed temple, and as much as possible cover the grain for food and plating.... Fr. Mariano (Payéras), on account of the infirmities of his companion Father, passed three winters alone while the river was in passable for the missionaries. Either because he wanted to or because it was necessary, one of the two Fathers set out for another mission. It began to rain and the river was swollen. He wanted to cross it, but could not. In the meantime, his companion fell sick, and being a human being, he died. Here we have a case that may happen every year, on this side of the river." Therefore, the Fathers petitioned for the permit to transfer it to the other side. (Engelhardt)

In April of 1813, construction began on the second La Purísima in its new location - La Cañada de los Berros

(Canyon of the Watercress). As part of the new construction, a water system was constructed of stone masonry and tile to carry water from various springs that emptied into cisterns for irrigation, two *lavendarias* for washing, and a fountain.

During 1938, restoration of several units of the water system were completed. These included the octagonal fountain, two *lavanderias* for washing clothes (one for the Franciscans and one for the Chumash), a stone aqueduct, and a large reservoir, all of which were in the garden in front of the residence building. All were constructed of stone masonry, and the two *lavanderias* were encircled by flat slabs of stone on which clothes were pounded.

Over one hundred years later, the restoration of this water system was completed in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. While this system does not supply water to the mission buildings today, after the recent rains, you may still see water flowing through the cisterns and aqueducts when hiking the Las Zanjias (ditches) trail along the lower loop.



Photo: Mission cistern. Photo by Emily Bergstrom.

## *In Memory of Mike Curry, La Purísima Mission State Historic Park Superintendent 1993-2004.*

BY KRISTEN McNALLY

Over the years I have enjoyed hearing all the wonderful stories about Mike that many of you have shared with me. Mike was a beloved Ranger to the Mission and will be immensely missed. Below is a message Sandi Montealegre-White received from the Prelado Facebook page.

"On behalf of Mike Curry's wife and children (Mellouise, Michelle and Matthew), it is with great sadness and heavy heart that I wish to inform you that Mike, Superintendent of La Purísima Mission State Historic Park from 1993-2004, passed away on February 27, 2023. Mike was also a volunteer for Prelado de los Tesoros and often donated his time and skills to Prelado. He loved La Purísima and he will be greatly missed by



his old co-workers and dear friends." Mike was the 1996 recipient of the Olmsted Award for Leadership and Vision (CA State Park Director's Recognition and Award Program).

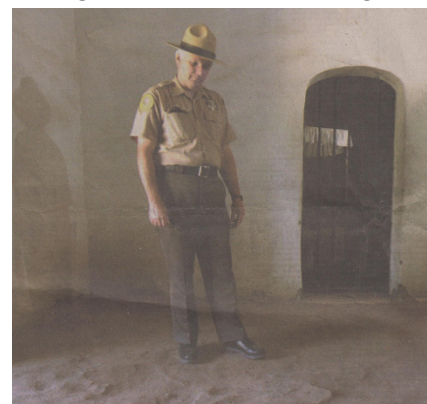


Photo courtesy of CA State Parks archives, La Purísima Mission State Historic Park.

visitors center began. The mission can be seen in the background.

# Ground movers on a mission

By HUGH-JOHN FLEMING  
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Some 20 years in the making, a "ground moving" ceremony was held Wednesday for the new La Purísima Mission Visitors Center with more than 100 volunteers, citizens, supporters and local luminaries in attendance.

As tractors and earth movers lumbered across the construction site behind Ted Jackson, the State Parks Southern Division chief and master of ceremonies, he thanked all who were, and still are, involved in the project for the last two decades.

"At least twice a day I come down here just to make sure they really are doing it," said Jackson. He also made it clear that none of this project would be under way without the mission docents, Prelado De Tesoros — some of whom volunteer up to 1,000 hours each year, the park staff and the Visitors Center Committee.

Fourth District Supervisor Joni Gray also congratulated the many volunteers and encouraged the support of the community in seeing the project to an end.

"When the people of this community make up their minds they are going to do something, and Lompoc is behind them, it is done," said Gray. "Being a docent is special and it makes the community special."

One of the main functions of the mission is education and the new facility is designed to enhance this feature.

The new building is going up just east of the existing parking lot and was designed, according to Joanne Culbertson, chairman of the Visitors Center Committee, in the theme of the Civil Conservation Corps buildings that housed the men who restored the existing mission structures in the 1930s.

The building is slated for completion in spring 2004 with a ribbon cutting several months later.

The current visitors center was originally an infirmary.

Mission Superintendent Mike Curry addresses the audience at Wednesday's ground moving ceremony.

Article courtesy of CA State Parks archives, La Purísima Mission State Historic Park..

# Chumash: People of Water

BY MOLLY MACHIN

*"There was a time, at night, when you were in the tomols [plank canoes], it would be like a necklace of fires-where you would see all the villages up and down the whole coast." -- Mati Waiya, Chumash ceremonial leader.*

The Chumash are people of water. Before European contact there were approximately 150 villages located on high ground near lagoons, creek mouths, lakes, springs, on islands and especially along the coast. Their traditional homeland spanned between Malibu and Paso Robles, as well as the Northern Channel Islands. People living in different regions had access to different resources which they traded with one another. Chumash People looked to water not only to slake their thirst but for their food. Tribes along the coast relied heavily on fish. They fished and harvested over a hundred different kinds of fish, but clams, mussels and abalone were especially prominent in their diet because of its abundance



Photo: Chumash Tomol 'Elye'wun paddlers, CINMS. Courtesy of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

and ease of collecting. Chumash People also hunted aquatic mammals and larger fish in plank boats called *tomols*. Water was also essential to process acorns which were an important part of their diet.

The ocean provided the purple dwarf olive sea snails that Chumash people living on the Channel Islands crafted into shell beads used as concurrency. The archeological record shows that this currency was used beyond Chumash territory indicating an extensive network of trade. *Tomol* plank boats allowed the Chumash to trade up and down the coast and travel among the Channel Islands.

Mati Waiya, founder and Executive Director of the Wishtoyo Foundation shares the following Chumash creation story to that demonstrates their strong connection to the ocean. "The ancestors got here on a rainbow bridge (*Wishtoyo*). They were promised an abundance of land and food for a future generation as they crossed over that bridge. And they were warned not to look down because they would get dizzy and fall looking at the sparkling water below. But some of them could not resist and they looked down and they fell. And as they were falling, the earth goddess said to our creator, "Save our people, don't let them die. They're good people. Save them." So right when they hit the ocean, their bodies started to sink down and their bodies started changing -- their arms came together, their legs came together, these fins came out and they went up for their first breath of air --

and they had changed into blue dolphins. So they are our brothers, our sisters."

Culture and lifestyle are shaped by environment. For the Chumash People, water was a powerful influence.

References:

Santa Barbara Natural History Museum

<https://www.sbnature.org/collection-s-research/anthropology/chumash-life/daily-life>

KCET: A Maritime People: The Chumash Tribes of Santa Barbara Channel

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/california-coastal-trail/a-maritime-people-the-chumash-tribes-of-santa-barbara-channel>

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

<https://channelislands.noaa.gov/maritime/chumash.html>



Photo submitted: Chumash tomol.

# Hands Across the Water: A Case for Cultural Exchange

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

In December of 2019, my husband and I traveled to Maui, Hawai'i for vacation. Our niece and her husband joined us for adventures to Haleakalā National Park. A must-see, we caught a sunrise from the summit of Haleakalā. As the sun rose, it was greeted by the song of a native Hawaiian park ranger welcoming a new day. The next day, we traveled to the southern district of the park, Kīpahulu, south of Hana. There at the Visitor Center, I noticed a boat, *Wa'a*, that had a striking resemblance to the Chumash *tomol*. I mentioned the similarity to the attending park ranger but without further discussion. Hindsight, wish I had taken a photo of it because years later, my curiosity is peaked. Fast-forward to present day and I mentioned what we had seen at Haleakalā NP and the *Wa'a* canoe to Tom Lopez. He shared that indeed,



Photo: Replica of a sewn-plank Chumash tomol constructed by J.P. Harrington in 1912. Photo from Terry Jones.

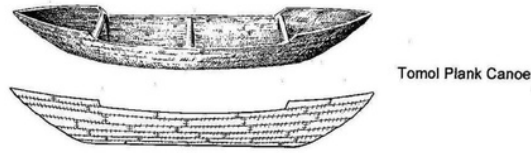


Photo: Graphic drawing of tomol plank canoe by Terry Jones.

the Polynesian peoples had cultural exchange with the Chumash peoples. Similarly, a call to the Kīpahulu District confirmed that Polynesian native peoples had navigated to the Pacific Coast and had contact with native peoples here. Some with skeptical brains want proof. However, native oral traditions offer an entirely different perspective.

Archaeologist Terry Jones of Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo and Linguist Kathryn Klar, a UC Berkeley lecturer did research suggesting Polynesians traveled to Southern California between 400-800 AD. The Chumash built Polynesian-style plank canoes termed *tomolo'o*. The *tomol* is linguistically connected to the Polynesian *tumuRaa'au*. Jones and Klar hypothesized that the Malibu Lagoon Chumash could very well have connected with the Polynesian master navigators who shared their canoe-building skills with the Chumash (technology transfer). Among North American tribes, only the Chumash and Gabrielinos built sewn-plank canoes. In the western hemisphere, this technology is otherwise known only from the coast of Chile and among Pacific Islanders.

The *tomol* is sleek, lightweight, fast and durable, and an ideal navigational vehicle for long-distance travel including deep-sea fishing. Carbon dating of

abalone shells used in a Chumash ceremonial headdress fashioned from a swordfish skull suggests deep-sea fishing. The abalone shells date back to around 600 AD, which is within the timeframe Polynesians would have travelled to S. California. The Polynesians were navigational masters using their knowledge of the stars and close observations of sea and wind patterns as their guides. The Lapita people from what is now known as Taiwan, are ancestors of the Polynesians. The Lapita were skilled seafarers who memorized navigational instructions and passed on their knowledge through folklore, cultural heroes, and oral stories. The Lapita language is also linguistically related to modern Polynesian languages.

European explorers were highly skeptical of indigenous peoples' seafaring skills. However, Captain James Cook (1728-1779) acknowledged that indigenous navigation reflected a high level of skill, "...these people sail in those Seas from island to island for several

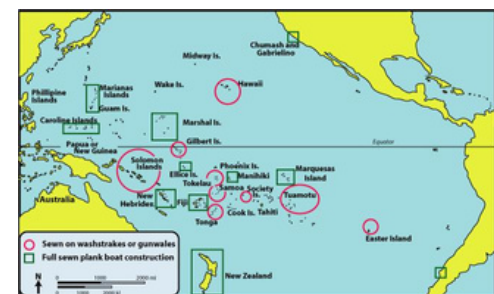


Photo: Sewn-plank boat technology in the Pacific Ocean. Provided by Terry Jones.

# Hands Across the Water (continued)

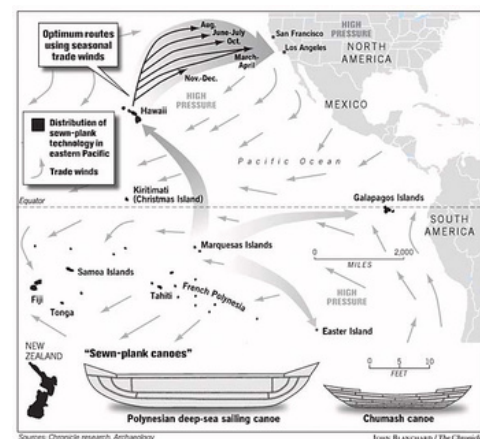
BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

hundred Leagues, the Sun serving them for a Compass by day, and the Moon and Stars by night. When this comes to be proved, we shall be no longer at a loss to know how the islands lying in those Seas came to be peopled.”

Navigation by the stars was the most accurate because points on the horizon where stars rise remain the same throughout the year. Other navigational techniques included observation of: color and formation of clouds, the regular migration of birds, and bioluminescence.

Going full circle back to my introduction and upon first seeing the *Wa'a* in Maui, I've come to appreciate Navigating the Ways of the *Wa'a*, “the canoes are sacred and believed to hold spiritual power as they have the ability to bring people together from far-reaching places.” Leaning on the side of oral tradition, I for one, believe in “the Way of the *Wa'a*” (and *tomol*) which join people across oceans, time, and culture.

What do you think?



Learn more about the Chumash *tomol* crossing by checking out these videos:

Chumash Tomol Crossing 2013:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUzwgX\\_oxog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUzwgX_oxog)

Homecoming: Journey to Limuw:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMUUvK9gb8k>

Sources:

LA Times: Polynesians, Tribes Linked,

Joe Robinson, September 6, 2005.

CA State Parks Malibu Lagoon website:

Chumash-Polynesian Connection.

Handbook of California Indians, Alfred

Kroeber, 1939:44-45.

SF Chronicle, “Did Ancient Polynesians

Visit California?”, Keay Davidson, June

30, 2005.

World History Encyclopedia, Polynesian

Navigation and Settlement of the Pacific,

Kim Martins, August 7, 2020.

Navigating the Ways of the *Wa'a*:

Recovering Voices, Jade Levandofsky,

October 18, 2018.



Photo: A 100-year-old *Wa'a* at the Smithsonian Institute. It was gifted by Queen Kapi'olani from the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1887. When gifting a canoe, it shows connection in spite of distance.

Photo left: Distributions of sewn-plank technology in the eastern Pacific. Notice the optimum routes using seasonal trade winds. See the similarity of of Polynesian deep-sea sailing canoe and Chumash *tomol*. Photo by John Blanchard.

# Calling all Docents

BY MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Do you know that there are many ways to get involved with *Prelado* in behind the scenes opportunities? *Crafty?* Your help is greatly needed to make some of the crafts sold in our Tienda, contact Terri Sands, [tsands805@gmail.com](mailto:tsands805@gmail.com). *Like playing in the dirt?* Come get your hands dirty in the jardín (garden), contact Teresa Marrs, [tjmarrs752@aol.com](mailto:tjmarrs752@aol.com). *Like dough?* Tortilla-makers are always needed, contact Kristen McNally, [kristen.mcnally@parks.ca.gov](mailto:kristen.mcnally@parks.ca.gov). *Like people?* The Visitor Center is a great place to share your love for the mission; contact Kristen McNally. *Love animals?* Animal feeders are needed, contact Robin Bronson, [rbronson@gmail.com](mailto:rbronson@gmail.com). An hour or two here and there will make a difference!

Just as the mission life was over 200 years ago, so it is today that we can all join together to make the mission come alive for our community.







**La Purísima Mission State Park Land Acknowledgement:** We are on the ancestral land of the Chumash people who have lived here since time immemorial. We honor the Chumash people of the past and present who share their stories and history with us. We thank our Chumash community of today for helping us understand their vibrant culture of the past and present.

**A Little Trivia:** *Prelado de los Tesoros* roughly translates to Keepers of the Treasures.

**Our mission:** We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation. Our members volunteer their time and talent to assist the staff of La Purísima Mission State Historic Park in preserving history and providing quality educational programs for park visitors.

**Calendar: Subject to Change**

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Board Meeting: 10am, La Casita	24	22	26
General Membership Meeting: 10am	4	29	9/2
Junior Rangers, 10-11am	17 & 21 24 & 28	1, 5, 8 15, 19, 26, 29	2 & 5
Mission Life Day, 11am-2pm		22	26
Mountain Men, 9am-5pm			25 & 26
Autumn edition of Noticias Article Deadline			1
Annual Docent BBQ & Appreciation			TBA

**Any additional Park Interpretive Programs and Special Events will be announced via email by Kristen McNally.**

*From the Editors' Desk*

BY MICHELE PITTENGER, KAREN HILL & MICHELE JIMENEZ-HOLTZ

Thanks to all who submitted articles and photos for the summer edition. We send *Noticias* via email and via USPS mail only to those requesting such.

**Article submission guidelines:**

- 600 words or less
- 2 photos max
- Hi-resolution photos
- Photos lose resolution the more they're transmitted
- Articles may be edited to fit format

Next deadline: **August 1**

**Send to:**

**[noticias@lapurisimamission.org](mailto:noticias@lapurisimamission.org)**

***Stay Connected:***

Don't forget to check out the many excellent resources for news and videos. Please share with family and friends. Click on the links below to be re-directed:

- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park](#)
- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park Facebook page](#)
- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park YouTube page](#)
- [La Purísima Mission State Historic Park Virtual Tour](#)
- [Prelado de los Tesoros](#) - Official Non-Profit Partner of the Mission
- [Prelado de los Tesoros Facebook Page](#)



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*Photo: Courtesy of California State Parks, 2019.*