



## Self Quarantine - is that an April Fools' joke?!

California's Governor, like many others, has issued a *Safer at Home* order. So, our teams are not out working projects or even training together - much to our dogs' discontent! We're still keeping sharp by training on our own, but miss the

challenges and adventures to be found outside our own backyards. It was very hard to postpone projects we had scheduled. And we really missed not seeing our friends at the SCA conference that was canceled this year.

How many times have we read about flu, measles or other epidemics that killed thousands in the past, and here we are and it's no joke. Let's hope we have learned from the past and COVID-19 will pass soon with the least amount of destruction possible.

I want to remind everyone that a simple act of kindness during this time can make a huge difference to someone who is being hit very hard during this pandemic. Please take care of yourself and your family.

Our ICF Family

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## **ASSESSING CANINE FORENSIC RESULTS WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS**

ATPROTOHISTORIC SITE SÍI TÚUPENTAK (CA-ALA-565/H) IN

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

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Data recovery at Late Period site Sii Túupentak (CA-ALA-565/H) provided a unique opportunity to integrate non-destructive methodology into the identification of human remains. In April 2017, the Institute for Canine Forensics conducted an examination of a 21-by-14-meter portion of the site. Three dogs trained to detect the scent of human remains alerted 12 times in seven locations, indicating possible burials. Subsequent excavation and analysis provided preliminary data on canine detection of ancient human remains, including advantages and limitations. The results suggest that this remote sensing technique is an effective identification tool that will improve with further collaboration.

This paper was presented at the SAC meeting in 2019. You can read the paper on our web site, click our linked logo below.



Our first attempt to work the Sii Túpentak (CA-ALA-565/H) site (pictures above) did not go as planned. We were very impressed how tall the thistles were, Barbara poses in front of them to give an idea how tall they were. I know better, but I looked at photos of the search site when it was dirt and did not ask about its current state. When we arrived I realized what a huge mistake I made.

Access to the ground is vital to our dogs. They find the scent of burials on the ground surface. If they cannot access it the likelihood for missing scent and or not being able to pinpoint the source increases. Fortunately, this location was not far for us and we arranged to come back after it had been mowed and raked. Below, Adela and Jasper work the site after it was mowed. You can see Jasper working with his head down in order to best catch our target scent which lays just on the surface of the ground. This is very different from dogs who hunt live sources; they work with their nose up in the air.

~Adela~



## Zombie Apocalypse

One of our favorite historic cemeteries to train in, Evergreen in Santa Cruz, CA, recently had a large beautiful cedar tree come down in a wind storm. Upon seeing it and the scattered grave markers, we thought it a scene from B-grade horror movie!

This historic cemetery is lucky because they have a strong support from the

Museum of Art and History who took over the property and created a volunteer group that works in the cemetery. Volunteers restore grave markers, stone walls, and maintain the grounds. We have partnered with them in the past to help them locate lost burials. I am sure the next time we get out there this tree will have been cleaned up and the large hole over the burials filled back in.

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## Types of Cemeteries (continued)

### **Lawn and Memorial Park Cemeteries**

In the mid-1850's, lawn and memorial park movement became very popular and still used today. These large open areas followed in the footsteps of the rural cemetery movement. They are well known for their gardens, statues and acres of lawn. The concept was a place to remember the dead. Many of the large lawn memorial parks also offered a place where the funeral could be held within the cemetery. As an example of a lawn cemetery, in 1892 a group of civic minded wealthy men established Cypress Lawn Memorial Park 12 miles south of San Francisco. As San Francisco struggled for room, a law was passed evicting the dead from the city and they were reinterred at Cypress Lawn.



### **Memorials**

Cenotaph is a monument or marker erected in honor of a person whose

remains are elsewhere. You may see a marker in a family plot that has the person's name on it and says "lost at sea".

### **Mission Chapels**

Many of the California missions have prominent church members and priests that have been buried in the floor or walls of the church. This location was held in high regard and only a few were given this privilege. Many times there was not a marker in the floor, but it was only listed in the burial records. When fires destroyed many churches / records, the only things remaining is oral history. We are asked many times to search the floor and walls of churches to find the locations of the burials.

Below Jasper alerts on a burial in the church floor at Mission San Juan Bautista





Bailey alerts at the alter of an unknown burial at the chapel in Mission San Francisco de Solano.

### **National (Military) Cemeteries**

National cemeteries were first developed during the American Civil War. Until the mid-nineteenth century, soldiers who died in wartime were buried in mass or ad hoc graves near the battlefield or encampment. Changes in attitudes towards death and burial coincided with the Civil War. But neither existing military post cemeteries nor rural cemeteries were prepared for the burial of ultimately more than 600,000 men who died. The nation needed new burial practices to deal with the changing realities of war. Congress empowered President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 to establish 14 national cemeteries. Burial grounds were established near battle fields, military posts, hospitals and veterans homes. The Gettysburg Address was actually delivered at the dedication of the military cemetery there. By 1870, almost 300,000 Union soldiers and sailors lay buried in 73 national cemeteries. (Confederate soldiers could not be buried in national cemeteries.)

Many national cemeteries have developed over time, incorporating a mix of periods and styles. But there is one common characteristic: their orderly appearance with regimented graves lined up as if in formation. Today, the

nation has more than 175 national cemeteries, soldiers' lots, government lots, and Confederate cemeteries.



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our website -

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We are happy to talk with you about your project and  
how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials.

Call, email, or check out our website.

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