



# Conferences, Chapter Events & Field Trips

Updated 1 January 2009

---

[Conferences & Meetings](#)

[Field Trips & Chapter Events](#)

[Events of Interest to NEARA Members](#)

[Archive of Past NEARA Conferences & Meetings](#)

[Archive of Past NEARA Field Trip & Chapter Events](#)

---

## NEARA's Fall Meeting November 7-9, 2008

**Mainstay Inn ~ Best Western**  
Newport, Rhode Island

Featuring: Narragansett Runestone ~ Lunar Compasses ~ Stone Rows & Celestial Alignments ~ Nashoba Praying Indian Village ~ Ruins in the Holy Land ~ Newport Tower ~ Dighton Rock Update ~ Ruins in the Andes ~ Lost Mounds in NY ~ and Coastal & Marine Geoarchaeology



## Mainstay Inn ~ Best Western

**151 Admiral Kalbfus Road  
Newport, Rhode Island  
Phone: 401-849-9880  
Fax: 401-849-4391  
[website](#)**

[Schedule of Conference Events](#)  
[Featured Speakers & Abstracts](#)  
[Conference Field Trips](#)  
[Mainstay Inn Rates & Directions](#)  
[Conference Registration](#)

## Schedule of Events

### Friday November 7th

12:00 - 5:00 pm	<b>Field Trip</b> <a href="#">See details here</a>
5:00 - 7:00 pm	<b>Registration &amp; Book Sales</b>
7:00 - 7:05 pm	<b>Dan Lorraine, NEARA President: Welcome</b>
7:05 - 8:35 pm	<b>State Coordinators Reports</b>
8:35 - 9:00 pm	<b>Peter Anick: Boulders, Rows, and Sunlight: A Year of Observations at a Lithic Site In Framingham Massachusetts</b>
9:00 - 9:20 pm	<b>Steve Voluckas: Newport News</b>
9:20 - 9:40 pm	<b>Steve Voluckas: CSI: Dighton Rock Update</b>
9:40 - 11:00 pm	<b>Dan Boudillion: Nashoba Hill: The Hill that Roars</b>

### Saturday November 8th

8:30 - 9:15 am	<b>Registration and Book Sales</b>
----------------	------------------------------------

9:15 - 10:05 am	<b>Norman Brockenshire: The Lost Mounds of Western New York</b>
10:05 - 10:55 am	<b>Daniel Fernandez-Davile: The Chachapoyos: Unkown Discoveries in the North High Jungle of Peru</b>
10:55 - 11:25 pm	<b>Break, Book Sales, Exhibits</b>
11:25 - 12:15 pm	<b>William Smith: Navigating with Nephi</b>
12:15 - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch on your own, Book Sales &amp; Exhibits</b>
1:30 - 2:30 pm	<b>Richard Lynch: A 3000 Year History of Culture &amp; Conflict in the Holy Land.</b>
2:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>Scott Wolter: The Hooked X: Key to the Secret History of North America</b>
3:30 - 4:00 pm	<b>Break, Book Sales, Exhibits</b>
4:00 - 5:00 pm	<b>William Penhallow: More Astronomical Alignments and New Ideas About the Newport Tower</b>
5:30 - 6:30 pm	<b>Cocktail &amp; Networking Hour</b>
6:30 - 8:00 pm	<b>Banquet</b>
6:30 - 8:00 pm	<b>Banquet</b>
8:00 - 10:00 pm	<b>Keynote Speaker: Jean-Daniel Stanley: Coastal and Marine Gearchaeology: Exploration and Recent Discoveries of Ancient Buried and Submerged Sites</b>

## Sunday November 9th

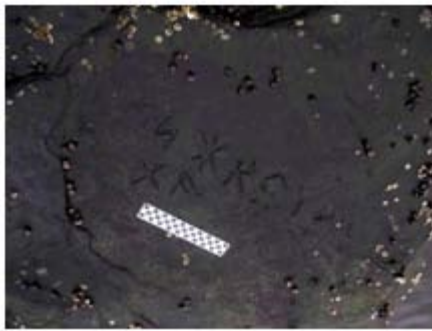
9:00 - 1:00 pm **Field Trip** [See details here](#)

## Featured Speakers & Abstracts

### Scott Wolter: The Hooked X: Key to the Secret History of North America



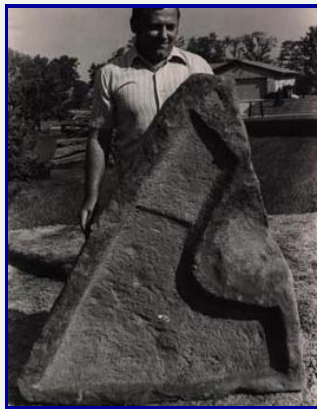
This presentation will discuss the likely origin of a mysterious symbol that appears on five medieval runic inscriptions carved on stone that were found in North America. My research shows this symbol represents the essence of the ideology of the people who carved these stones which has lead to new evidentiary discoveries, in America and in Europe, that are consistent with that ideology. These findings appear to be opening the door to a new understanding of several pre-Columbian artifacts and sites, and the untold history of North America.



The Narragansett Runestone is only accessible at low tide (right). The photo on the left shows the inscription on the stone which includes the hooked X (bottom line left).

**Scott Wolter** is a geologist by trade and owns [American Petrographic Services](#) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Alice B. Kehoe refers to Wolter as "a hard scientist...who understands the methodology of science and inference, from data, to the best explanation." He has done a lot of work on the Newport Tower, the Spirit Pond Runestones, and now he seeks to unravel the mystery of the hooked X.

### **William Smith: Navigating with Nephi**



In this talk, William will explain how a large stone (sundial mold) found on my farm in southern Ohio in 1977 has inspired me to identify tools used for ancient navigation.

One of these tools called the Lunar Compass was used around 50 BC by a Samaritan named Nephi to navigate from Europe to the United States. I will show supporting evidence of how these early travelers went from New York to Wisconsin and gave the Native Americans the technology to keep time in moons. In addition, I will provide a working model of the lunar compass which is on file in the US Patent office. This is the first public explanation of this early navigational tool.

***William Smith*** is a retired mechanical engineer and graduate of Purdue University. He is a local certified archaeologist who resides in West Chester, Ohio. In 1977, he and his wife Gloria found a large mystery stone on their farm in southern Ohio. With 31 years of research relating to this artifact, he has identified many ancient tools used for early navigation. Recently he applied for a patent on a lunar compass that shows evidence of its use worldwide long before Columbus. He has published articles in *Ancient American* and lectured at local archeology groups and AAAPF. He is founder and president of the [THOR Group](#). He has explored the stone ships in Sweden, Stonehenge in England, the Mayan structures in Mexico and many of the stone circles and Dolmens in America. With his six years of service on the local board of zoning appeals and his engineering and archeology experience he supervises local excavations to assist in assuring the protection of Native American sites and artifacts.

### **Peter Anick: Boulders, Rows, and Sunlight: A Year of Observations at a Lithic Site in Framingham Massachusetts**

Over the past year and a half, Peter has been studying a row and boulder site he discovered in Framingham, Massachusetts. This talk will describe several intriguing features of the site, including observations made during solstice and equinox sunrises. A potentially related cairn site will also be discussed, as well as

previously documented cases of split boulder/row configurations.

***Peter Anick** is the newly appointed NEARA Massachusetts state coordinator. Peter does research and development on search assistance technology for the Yahoo search engine.*

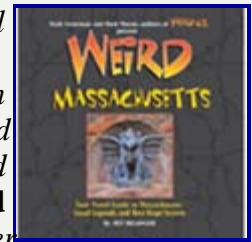
### **Daniel V. Boudillion: Nashoba Hill: The Hill that Roars**



There is a very special hill in Littleton Massachusetts that roars. The Indians thought the winds were pent inside; the Colonials said it sounded like cannons; some folks climbed it to await the rapture; and others erected an altar stone on its top. It's a well-known hill, famed these days for its ski slopes. But its history is far more strange, and ongoing, than anything that has ever swooshed down its slopes or taken the chair-lift. Gather round the ski lodge fire,

friends, and hear the strange tale of Nashoba Hill: of a dark king under the mountain and an island village of vision quests and shamans.

***Daniel V. Boudillion** has an avid interest in both historical research and the unusual and forgotten tales of Massachusetts. He has a popular [website](#) devoted to his excursions in Massachusetts, and is the NEARA Webmaster. His articles and photography have been published in a number of magazines, and he contributed extensively to the newly published book **Weird Massachusetts**. He works as a sales engineer in the power generating industry.*



### **Richard Lynch: A 3000 Year History of Culture & Conflict in the Holy Land**



The presentation will be an overview of my recent personal crusade to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. An in depth tour of the old city of Jerusalem and many surrounding ruins were the focus of my research. Special attention was paid to Hebrew, Crusader, and Templar influence and how it affected the Jerusalem we see today.

Arabs and Christians have been in conflict over this disputed land for nearly 3000 years and many of these differences have changed little. The presentation will be well illustrated with pictures of the people and places of the most controversial piece of land on the planet!

***Rick Lynch** is past president of NEARA. He has had a very long interest in history and archaeology, especially in areas of New England and the American Southwest. He is also a long time amateur astronomer. Over the last few years his focus has been on the history of the Holy Land and especially the history of the Templars and their impact on the new world.*

### **William Penallow: More Astronomical Alignments & New Ideas About the Newport Tower**



At the time of the winter solstice the sun shines thru W2 and strikes the inside of the Tower above and to the left of W3. It then moves down and shines thru both W2 and W3. It then continues down and to the right striking the quartz keystone in the arch between pillars P7 and P8. Directly opposite on the outside is the keystone with a large round reddish colored stone representing the sun. As you approach local noon the shaft of sunlight moves down and to the right just passing the east side of P1 striking the ground near the new metal bench on the new sidewalk due north. This affords an opportunity to determine the time

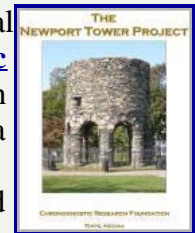
of winter solstice precisely. The full moon at certain times will also follow this path - at special times Venus will also! Some implications of these important alignments will be discussed.

*William Penhallow graduated from Brown Univ. with an Sc.B. in Physics, received an M.S. in Physics from the Univ. of Maine, was a research physicist in Sound and Vibration at Electric Boat and then joined the physics faculty at the U.R.I in 1959. He held two National Science Foundation Faculty Fellowships doing graduate work in astronomy at Indiana University and Wesleyan. He taught physics, astronomy, and meteorology for 37 years. Spent sabbaticals at Wesleyan, Brown and Yale.*

*Established a teaching and research observatory at URI and a public one at Ninigret Park in Charlestown, RI. Participated in the International Comet Halley Watch in 1986. Retired from URI as a Professor Emeritus of Physics in 1992 and am still active in the field of Archeoastronomy.*

### Steve Volukas: [Newport News](#)

Report on an unexpected opportunity to extend the archaeological investigation of Newport Tower, conducted by the [Chronognostic Research Foundation](#), into an area previously inaccessible. An exploratory dig by volunteers found tantalizing indications of a suspected but previously unknown structure surrounding the tower. Samples collected might provide a firm date or just add the lore and mystique of the Newport Tower.



*Steve Volukas is a pilot for Island Airlines in Hyannis, MA. Producer/Director public access TV programs at C3TV Comcast channel 17 on Cape Cod. Involved with Multicultural Festival of Cape Cod, Cape Cod Immigrant Center, and Lithuanian-American Community of Cape Cod. Interest in possible Norse other unexplained sites between Nova Scotia and Rhode Island began in 2005. He joined NEARA in 2006 and now serves on the NEARA Board.*

### Steve Volukas: [CSI Dighton Rock Update](#)



A continuation of last year's report on what may have occurred near Dighton Rock as we try to solve a possible 600 year old murder mystery. A trail of clues stretching from Nova Scotia, to Maine, to Narragansett Bay may reveal 'the story', who made the inscription on the rock, and why. Also, some insights from the recent Atlantic Conference.

### Daniel Fernandez-Davila: [The Chachapoyas: Unknown Discoveries in the North High Jungle of Peru](#)

**Chachapoyas** is a name that is rarely found in archaeological texts. Encompassing an area of at least fifty thousand square kilometers inside of the tropical cloud forest in the north high jungle of Peru, its settlements resemble some of the uncovered Mayan ruins at the end of the nineteenth century. This Pre-Inca civilization, overlooked by field researchers, has left countless sites behind that are now covered by thick vegetation. Today, spectacular findings are changing our classical hypothesis about the ancient dwellers in this remote area of the Andes.



*Daniel Fernandez-Davila received a BA in archaeology from the Catholic University in Lima, Peru, and a MA from the University of Leicester in England. He was a field researcher in the highlands and coast of Peru in 1995-2000. He's served as Archaeological Adviser in the production of Documentaries for Discovery Channel, BBC and South African Broadcasting. Currently he is History and Geography teacher at Wayland Middle School*

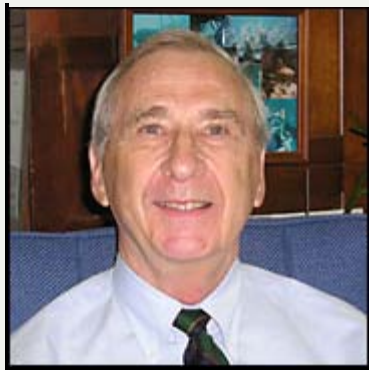
### **Norman Brockenshire: The Lost Mounds of Western New York**

Norman Brockenshire was raised on a farm in Batavia NY located between Buffalo and Rochester. He witnessed first hand the many thousands of arrow heads and spear points people found while farming in Western NY. His own great grandfather had a large collection and when Norm was young he concluded that the Native Americans, long ago, had to have had tremendous wars amongst themselves. They would have taken place right in the area where he lived. His work is based upon the relationship between the Indian Burial Grounds in Western New York State and the Book of Mormon. There are references to E. G. Squire's book, *The Ancient Monuments of New York State*. This is not an ecclesiastical discussion but an archaeological, historical and geological one. It addresses the evidence that the Iroquois of Eastern and Western NY are descended from this earlier mound building culture.

*Norman Brockenshire is the author of the book "[The Mounds of Western New York](#)".*

### **Jean-Daniel Stanley: Coastal and Marine Geoarchaeology: Exploration and Recent Discoveries of Ancient Buried and Submerged Sites**

The relatively new subfield of coastal and marine geoarchaeology is presently experiencing rapid development as scholars of different disciplines discover and interpret ancient sites along the world's coastal margins. This line of research provides valuable insights for geologists, archaeologists, and historians working together, and helps clarify the



respective roles of human activity versus natural impacts over time in the coastal margin environment. The area of scholarship integrates a broad spectrum of specialties, including archaeology, history, coastal geology, geography, oceanography, climatology and coastal protection, and encourages multinational collaboration. The presentation will highlight approaches used to study ancient coastal settlements now buried along the coast or submerged beneath the waves, and will emphasize examples in the Mediterranean. It is envisioned that this type of research could provide new discoveries on the coastal margin of New England.

*Jean-Daniel Stanley is a geologist who spent the past 42 years of his career as Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Trained at Cornell, Brown, and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure du Pétrole in Paris, he has researched topics in the French Alps and spent many years working on the origin and sediment fill of the Mediterranean Sea. In 1985 he began a study of Egypt's Nile delta, work that evolved to collaboration with archaeologists studying ancient Greek settlements now submerged off the Nile delta. He has also begun a series of studies of ancient Greek sites off southern Italy. During the course of his career he has published 10 books and over 300 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals, and has received honors from professional organizations in the US and in Europe. His present ambition is to better formulate the new field of coastal and marine geoarchaeology as a professionally recognized research area.*

## Field Trips Sponsored by Jim Egan, Rhode Island State Coordinator

### ? Friday Field Trip: 7 November 2008

#### **Lithic Sites in Southeastern Massachusetts**

Field Trip led by Steve Voluckas

- ? 12:00pm Depart from hotel
- ? 1:00pm Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton Mass.  
(viewing of the "Dighton Headstone")
- ? 2:00pm Dighton Rock State Park Museum  
(see famous Dighton Rock with its many inscriptions)
- ? 3:30pm Westport Dolmen (large dolmen very near the coast)

### ? Sunday Field Trips 1 & 2: 9 November 2008

#### **Field Trip #1: Archeoastronomy of the Newport Tower**

Led by Bill Penhallow

- ? 9:00am Depart from hotel
- ? 9:30am Touro Park (also visit Redwood Library, one of America's 1<sup>st</sup> libraries, adjacent to park)



**Field Trip #2: A potpourri of Lithic sites in RI**

Led by Jim Egan

? 9:00am Depart from hotel

? 10:00am **Narragansett Stone, in North Kingston** (A runic inscription of unknown origin on a large rock in Narragansett Bay; only visible at low tide; wading may be required.)? 11:00am **Queen's Fort, in North Kingston** (A hilltop fortress of female native American leader Quiapen.)? 12:00pm **Lunch at restaurant at intersection of Route 102 and Route 95**? 1:30pm **Parker Woodlands, in Coventry, and nicely constructed 4-foot tall cairns**? 2:30pm **Turkey Meadow Brook cairn field, in Coventry.** (On hillside with over 100 small rock piles; also several dolmens and a tall cairn, similar to those in nearby Parker Woodlands.)? 4:00pm **Chamber, in Foster** (A L-shaped stone chamber built into a hillside.)**Lodgings: Mainstay Inn ~ Best Western**

Newport, Rhode Island



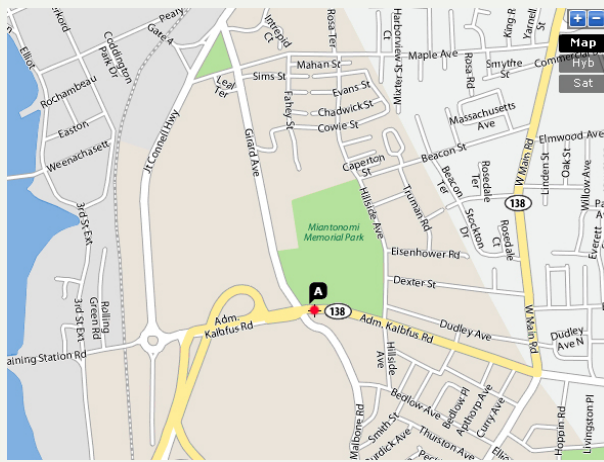
Mainstay Inn ~ Best Western Hotel & Conference Center, 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road, Newport, RI, 02840-1310. Phone: 401-849-9880, Fax: 401-849-4391, Reservation Line: 800-780-7234, [Website](#).

Centrally located off of coastal Rhode Island's Route 138, this Newport area hotel offers beautifully-appointed guest rooms and suites; each equipped with cable satellite television and free high-speed Internet access for guests' convenience. Enjoy dining at the onsite restaurant or relaxing at the end of the day with a refreshing drink from the cocktail lounge, located on the hotel premises, before soaking in the outdoor swimming pool. The Best Western Mainstay Inn also features meeting and banquet facilities to accommodate up to 100 guests, a business center, wedding services, an exercise facility and guest laundry.

NEARA has secured a rate of \$65.00 per night, plus applicable sales taxes for single or double occupancy, \$80.00 per night, plus applicable sales taxes for triple, and \$95.00 per night for quad occupancy. When you call to make your reservations, mention that you are a NEARA member and verify that you are receiving the special rate. ***We haven't seen rates this low in 15 years so take advantage by reserving your room early! Phone 401-849-9880 now to make your reservation!***

Additional points of interest in the area include:

- [The historic Newport Mansions](#)
- [Historic Downtown Newport & Waterfront](#)
- [The Naval War College](#)
- [Cliff Walk](#)
- [The International Tennis Hall of Fame](#)
- [Fort Adams](#)
- [Blithewold Mansion, Garden, and Arboretum](#)



Click map to enlarge

? **Directions to the Mainstay Inn:**

**[Yahoo Maps & Driving Directions](#)**

**Website:** <http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=40002>

**Important Notice:** The cut-off date for NEARA special rates is October 7<sup>th</sup> so call to reserve your room now! After the cut-off date, all rooms being held for NEARA will be released back into general inventory and any requests made after October 7<sup>th</sup> will be subject to room availability.

**Please make your reservations by October 7th.**

**Registration** ([click here](#))

Please follow the link for **Fall Meeting [registrations form](#)**. Please print the form, fill it out, and mail it in to the address on the form. (We do not have on-line registration capabilities as yet.) Thank you!

**Notice:** NEARA Members receive a discount on the registration fee. If you would like to become a NEARA member there is a **Membership Application** attached to the [Registration Form](#).

**NEARA 2009 Spring Meeting:  
24-26 April 2009, Best Western, Keene, New Hampshire**



**New England Antiquities Research Association**

**Copyright © 1988 - 2009**

**Home**