Article Review:” Discovery of an Ancient Kumeyaay Spoked-Wheel Rock Alignment,” written by Harvey Berger, Reviewed by James Gross. 11/2026

“Harvey [Berger] presented his paper in 1994 at the Rock Art '94 Symposium hosted by the San Diego Museum of Man, and it was published in the *Museum's Rock Art Papers* series in 1998. The museum stopped sponsoring symposia and ceased publications many years ago, and has rebranded itself as the Museum of Us. The San Diego Rock Art Association took over the annual symposium and continuation of occasional publication of *Rock Art Papers* starting in 2014. With my 50th year of hosting the symposium last year, we have now retired the annual meeting, but one volume of *Rock Art Papers* is currently in press. As editor of the series, I have the entire set, and I am pleased to provide a copy of Harvey's paper, which is attached.

I knew Harvey from his time as a volunteer in the Curatorial Department of the museum, where I was Curator of California Collections. At the time of his discovery I encouraged him to present the paper, and subsequently to publish it, and it stands as a landmark paper for its subject matter in local archaeology. Personally, I am still moved by the final sections of his paper, beginning with "But this isn't about just uncovering a curious artifact. And it's not just about science, and surveys, and recognition. It's about making spiritual contact with a well-established society of people and their beliefs. It's about coming face-to-face with a part of their culture, their religion, and the legacy they've passed down to their descendants." His understanding as reflected in his words resonates with me today, and all of us interfacing with the ancestral sites of Native peoples would do well to take heed of Harvey's words. Harvey's passing was a great loss to the local community.”
email sent by Ken Hedges, editor of Rock Art Papers. Dated Nov 13, 2026.

Harvey Berger was the son of the late Lou and Shirley (Gross) Berger. He was the brother of Ellen Berger. He wrote jokes for George Burns. He was my first cousin and a great guy. Harvey gave me country music records as a gift when I was young.

Reference:

Berger, Harvey (1994) “Discovery of an Ancient Kumeyaay Spoked-wheel Rock Alignment," by Harvey Berger, paper presented at Rock Art 1994. Rock Art Papers, Vol. 13. In San Diego Museum Papers, Vol 35, 1998.

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