



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611

Washington, Utah 84780



John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Dave Evans - Treasurer
Barbara Bergman - Secretary	Susannah & Mark Nilsson, Board Members
Sue Gum, Board Member	Jon Gum - Board Member
John Macumber, Board Member	

OCTOBER MEETING

WHEN: October 13th @ 7 PM

WHERE: Dixie State College
Udvar Hazy Building
Room 203

WHY: Dena Sedar, archaeologist / curator of the **Lost City Museum** in Overton NV will be the speaker.

She will discuss the archaeology of the Lost City and the lifestyle of the Virgin River Branch of the Anasazi. She will briefly discuss the archaic archaeology of the area and the appearance of the Anasazi in the archaeological record. She will then discuss the Anasazi culture of the Lost City, starting with the Basketmaker period through the Pueblo II period, when the Lost City was abandoned. The material culture and technology of the Anasazi will be discussed, and how it tells archaeologists about the lifestyle of the Anasazi. She will also discuss the archaeological excavations of the Lost City sites starting in the 1920's through the present day, and how modern archaeological techniques can reveal additional information about a site.

Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society is up and running. It appears to be working as anticipated. We have 21 members signed onto the site. There have been blog replies and a forum topic started. It should become more interesting as we get into the field trip season.

Please consider signing up as a site member. Site members should receive email updates whenever anything on the site is updated. Please let me know if this feature is / is not working.

Please post your comments on the blog that is part of the site. This site is for you, the members. We'd like to hear what you think.

Field Trip Report

Ten DAS members participated in the September field trip to Little Creek Mesa.



In between shouts of “Shadow!”, “Where’s the water glyph?”, “Is this the water glyph site?”, “Shadow!”, “Water glyph!”, “I think this is wrong road!” we did manage to see 4 petroglyph sites, 2 pithouse sites, 1 granary and 1 water glyph.

To explain, the sun was very bright and everyone’s shadow was interfering in the very intense petroglyph photography. I know I took a number of self portraits!

The group did not fully understand that the water glyph site was the very last stop of the day. This anticipation was often too much for them – much like Christmas morning.

The leader (me) made a couple of wrong turns. I explained this by saying my directions were to “turn right at the juniper tree”, which I did. Unfortunately we were in a juniper tree forest and the directions were not specific as to which juniper tree!

So we saw the sites, had a restful lunch, came home – end of story. Wrong!!!

The leader (me) said that I think I can find the second water glyph site – everyone was very excited – “let’s go for it!” Off we went.

Soon there was “Which road should we take – left or straight?” “Are you sure this is the right road?” “This isn’t the right road.” “I was on this road on horseback and its not too bad” “Well it wasn’t so bad on horseback” “I know where that is – its 45 minutes away – by horseback”.

We ended up following a road on the canyon rim. No problem except the road appeared to end at some slick rock required a series of 2-3 climbs of 5-6 feet each. The archaeology club morphed into the “off-Road” club. It was so exciting that we found Cheryl and Bob about a ¼ mile down the road “we decided to start walking for help!” So little faith! I’m sure this will end up on You Tube at some point.





But we made it! A successful trip is when you come back with the same number of people and cars you start with. We didn't find the second water glyph site, but Ron got some good Arial shots of the Kokopelli golf course in lower Apple Valley. He was happy!

Thanks to all who went on our adventure. See what fun everyone else missed!

Go the "Field Trip" section of the web site for photos of the petroglyphs.

Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, **October 16th**. It is scheduled to be to **Mount Irish in Nevada**. This is a rather long trip; drive time is 2 ½ to 3 hours to the site. It appears that there are three separate and marked trails to the various sites. Information on this site can be found on the web.

More details will be announced at the October meeting.

Other planned field trips include:

November – Indian Creek near Kanab

December – Virgin River Gorge

January – Kotah Circus

February – The Quarry and Smoke Shop in the Lost Buffington area of NV

March – TBD

April – The Gravel Pit (sometimes called Mt. Braffits or the Summit) north of Cedar City

Please note that this schedule is tentative and could be changed at any time.

Also note – we need field trip leaders. We will show you where the sites are located.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered.

Remember, you must be a member of DAS to participate in a field trip. You must be at the meeting in order to sign up for a field trip.

Meeting Report

Special thanks this month go to DAS members Kat and Boma Johnson and Kay (Feather) Robinson for their great presentation on “**Water Glyphs**”.

Facts:

Water glyphs are a unique type of petroglyph. They consist of a round circle with a line beginning at one edge and extending through the opposite edge. There is always a dot either inside or outside the circle.

- They are unique to the Arizona Strip with a range from Page AZ to Moapa NV and from the Grand Canyon to St. George.
- They are almost always on a flat rock surface, near the edge of a precipice or cliff, however some have been found on vertical rock faces.
- There have been over 300 water glyphs identified and mapped.
- They have been dated to be from 400 to 4000 year old.
- The directions vary over a wide range on angles.

What are they?

There are a number of widely differing theories regarding the meaning of the water glyphs:

- Direction Finders to water sources – travel from point to point to across the desert. The glyphs would always be by a water source.
- Tar Burners – used to extract pitch or tar from wood. Similar devices are found in the East and Midwest.
- Atlatl symbol – similar but the line on the atlatl symbol is longer and there is no dot associated with the atlatl symbol.

- Fertility symbol
- Direction finders to Gold Treasure
- Blood sacrifice altars.
- Survey markers.

Boma discussed the pros and cons for each of the above theory and then pointed out that all of the above theories are “white mans ideas” about an Indian symbol.



Water Glyph on Little Creek Mesa – this was the glyph that we Did NOT see on the field trip. Note the double circle (2 horizons) .



The other water glyph site located on Little Creek Mesa.

Sacred Viewing Stations:

Boma always says, when in doubt, ask the Indians. Feather did that and her Hopi elder and friend said three words – “Look up, Ceremonies”. Feather and Boma went on to explain the importance of relating the position on earth to a position in the sky in order to find the “center place”. Each tribe had a person who was designated as the sky watcher. It was his job to determine when the conditions in the sky were right in order to begin a ceremony or ceremonies. This was done in order to keep in harmony with nature.

The theory that Boma, Kat and Feather have proposed is that the water glyphs are rather “Sacred Viewing Stations”. The sky watcher would look at the horizon, in the direction indicated by the line. He would then translate that point into the sky. The time to begin the ceremony would be when his target object (planet, star, constellation, etc.) reached the relative point indicated by dot.

Each tribe could have different things to look for and they would have had many different ceremonies and differing times of the year. And, they would have been located at different places. This explains the different directions of the markers.

The key point was to be able to look to the horizon and then to the sky and then coordinated the sky with things on earth. The circle focuses the energy from the sky to the sky watcher enhance his experience.

The key unanswered question is – Why only on the Arizona Strip? Kat and Boma said that tribes in other areas did watch the sky. However they could have done it differently – from the doors of Kivas with “instructions” written on the walls etc.

The following internet references may help:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/index.html?curid=13620004>

<http://waterglyphs.org/>

<http://www.wildernessutah.com/learn/waterglyphs.html>

For Your Enrichment

It's not too late to sign up. Kat and Boma's classes provide a wealth of information that is presented in a way that you cannot get out of books. The present facts/ideas/concepts with a perspective that is easy to grasp and understand. If you want to understand about petroglyphs you should take their classes.

ANCIENT AMERICA IN 1491: Native Gifts To Our Modern World



PRESENTED BY

Boma Johnson, Archaeologist



Community Education Department

Day: Monday

Dates: OCT 18 TO DEC 6

TIME: 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

PLACE: SUN RIVER COMMUNITY CENTER, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Cost: \$44 per person

TO REGISTER:

On Line: <http://new.dixie.edu/ce/> and click on "Register For A Class"

Phone: 435-652-7675 FAX: 435-628-1286

In Person: 300 South 800 East, St George, Utah

What was this land like, in 1491, before it was "discovered" by Europeans? You may be very surprised! What can Archaeology tell us about the ancient and highly sophisticated civilizations of Native Americans and the gifts they have given to our modern world?

This class will examine the Native World as it once was, and Indian prophecies, calendar keeping, spirituality, philosophy and government, rock art and symbols, stories and legends, music, the arts of weaving, pottery, jewelry and sand paintings, and the wonderful selection of food from the New World, that we have come to take for granted. We will look at the Native American view of Astronomy and Time; should we worry about what will happen in 2012?

We have a variety of all new or updated media, including Power Point Presentations/Lectures, Hand-outs, Videos and DVDs. Class participation is encouraged, and classes are FUN as well as informative.

URARA Annual Symposium

It's not too late to plan on going to the URARA event in Blanding.

The annual URARA symposium will be held in Blanding Utah on October 8 through 11th. A number of DAS members are involved in this symposium. Please think about attending to offer your support. For information, go to <http://www.utahrockart.org/symposium/index.shtml>.

Adventures into the Beyond the Beyond

For some a simple field trip is just not enough.

Rich Cline would like to facilitate several archaeological site trips which could be for interested DAS members and perhaps members of the Outback Hiking Club or URARA. Areas such as Tucker Canyon, Snake Gulch, Jump Up Canyon and Kanab Creek are high on my list. They are rigorous and would not be of general interest due to perhaps the terrain, length of hike (some would be 2-3 day), backpacking overnight, etc. They would be limited to a group of 8-12 people. Due to the type of trip, they would need to be posted ahead for planning. I plan on a trip into Shamans Gallery in November with some archaeology friends from Colorado and would like to try for one of the other ventures in late October. Please contact me if you are interested. These would not be "DAS" trips and people other than DAS members could go.

Rich has posted this onto our web site in the Forum Section.

As Rich has stated, these would not be sponsored by DAS and DAS assumes no liability for anyone participating on any of these trips.

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