



June 2019 Newsletter

DAS Meeting, Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 7 p.m.

Visiting Archaeological Sites with Respect

Presented by Diana Hawks

Diana Hawks will lead a presentation/discussion on how to visit sites with respect so that you have a better experience, see all that a site might have to offer, and help preserve these fragile resources. She will use local and regional archaeological sites and landscapes as examples in the presentation.

Diana Hawks retired in 2016 after working 27 years with the Salt Lake and Arizona Strip Districts of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As a Federal archaeologist she worked as a Resource Area and District archaeologist. She also worked as a land use planner, and a team lead for Recreation, Wilderness and Cultural Resources for the Arizona Strip. Before working with the BLM she worked as an archaeologist in Colorado and southern California, for the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, and in Chiapas and Yucatan, Mexico, and Guatemala. She is currently working part-time on travel management contracts with the BLM and as an instructor on Road Scholar trips.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 7 p.m.

Udvar-Hazy Building on the Dixie State University Campus
Room 121 (Boeing Auditorium)

June Un-sponsored Field Trip Suggestions

There are no official sponsored field trip for June, July, and August. However, June is summer solstice month, and we have suggestions for outings with friends or family at Anasazi Ridge and Parowan Gap.

1. Anasazi Ridge (Land Hill) -- Friday, June 21. You can go a few days before or after and still see the calendar markers. Take plenty of water, get to the site by 7:30, and wait for the two- or more hour light show. Below are some approximate timings and descriptions:

On the slanted rock that faces East and had the figure known as the Birdman;

8:31 There is a marker rock west of the Slanted Rock that shows marks for the Summer/Winter Solstices and Spring/Fall Equinoxes. The Summer Solstice marker lights up there.

8:37 Birdman's right hand lights up as the Dagger moves.

8:45 Sun Dagger disappears for 12 minutes. (moves to another site)

8:57 The light show begins again with the foot of the Birdman and moves up through figure, coil and ends at Venus symbol.

Rock below the glyphs that has a symbol that looks like a ladder.

A Sun Dagger appears on the back stone facing the Hero figure. There is a rock in front of the back stone. If you sit on that rock, the sun dagger moves through the body.

8:16 Sun Dagger touches the Hero figure.

8:31 Sun Dagger touches the sitting rock.

8:37 Sun Dagger moves to the bottom of the sitting rock.

8:45 Sun Dagger appear on the small symbol above the Hero figure and forms a cone shaped sun dagger. This is the same time the light disappears on the Birdman slanted rock.

8:57 The Sun completely lights up the Hero figure.

The light eventually splits. The whole process is about one hour.

The Rain God (Tlaloc) panel lights up about **9:04** and begins to hit the main figure at **9:15**. Some call this the Bear Shaman. The shadow starts out looking like a hand and ends up looking like a Bear Paw. Other shadows/light appear one week before the Spring Equinox and one week after the Fall Equinox. There many other glyphs at the site that have shadow and light shows.

2. Summer Solstice Celebration at Parowan Gap -- Saturday, June 22. This celebration is sponsored and organized by the City of Parowan and the Parowan Gap Preservation Society. Nancy Dalton, 435-463-3735. The Parowan Gap Preservation Society Facebook page will have more information as the date nears. There will most likely be a speaker and a walk to view the sunset through a gap viewing area.

May Field Trip Reports

The field trip report to the San Rafael Swell is on the website at <https://www.dixierockart.com/DAS%20-%20San%20Rafael%20Swell.pdf>. John Mangels reports: "The Green River trip was fantastic. Thanks to Gary for the organization and for leading us to a number of sites. Thanks to all the people who participated - a great group."

A prior field trip report to the Central site is also on the website at <https://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/The%20Corral%20Site%20in%20Central%20Utah.pdf>. This year we had a good group led by Mel Langness. Thanks to Mel for leading and

for arranging to visit this rarely seen site on private land. Recent rains at the Pine Valley site kept the water level too high to see the petroglyphs we had hoped to visit in Pine Valley.

Summary of May Presentation by Nicole Lohman on Rock Art Documentation

Methods

Nancy Kramer

Nicole Lohman, an archeologist who works for the BLM, was our May speaker. Nicole began her archaeological career with the Forest Service in northern Minnesota at the age of 14, participating in volunteer excavations through the Passport in Time program. She attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for her undergraduate studies, graduating with a B.S. in Archaeological Studies in 2007. After graduating, she worked for a series of private archaeological firms and four National parks prior to attending graduate school. Her graduate research involved studying the efficacy of rock art documentation methods completed at Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Prior to joining the BLM Utah State Office, Nicole worked in the Price and Vernal Field Office and the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon.

Presentation:

Comparison of the Efficacy of Four Rock Art Documentation Methods

In 2015 research was undertaken to examine the measurable differences among four methods currently used for documenting rock art images. A comparison of the variables of time to complete, accuracy, and perceived ease for each method revealed the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. This presentation discusses the findings of the research and provides an adaptable approach to documenting rock art based on an individual's time, available materials, and purpose of the documentation.

Why is it important to sketch rock art? First, it is an immovable resource. Secondly, because rock art is so susceptible to weather, global warming, acid rain, environmental impacts, and vandals; it needs a permanent way of preservation. Next, we need to preserve the history of rock art documentation by creating a data collection.

Garrick Mallery was the first to begin this type of work in 1892. His and other archeologists work was marginalized, and not much was done until the 1960's. They focused on direct contact methods which we avoid doing now. Some of these old methods included making molds of the rock art which, unfortunately, changes the rock chemistry. Chalking the image is problematic as it bakes into the rock. Using aluminum powder changes the chemistry. Putting water on the rock results in damage. Rubbings slowly wear the rock away.

Nicole used four methods to see which method was best, the most accurate and cost effective.

The Two Ruler method was difficult to do with one person. She managed to conduct ten tests, but she decided that it isn't a very accurate method and rated it a 4, with 1 being the best and 5 being the worst.

The String Grid method involves using a paper with squares (a grid). She would tape the grid up, but it would often fall, so it was very difficult to do. After conducting ten tests, she decided that this method didn't rate very high either.

Next, she did the Acetate Trace method. Here she took a photo, went home and enhanced it; then she returned to the site again where she traced the photo. Because she was at the site, she was able to make sure that she had all the detail. After ten tests using this method, she rated it a 2. It was easy because she was tracing, but it did require two steps.

The last method was the iPad method where she did digital tracing using a stylus. It wasn't as accurate as the Acetate, but that was five-years-ago, and software is better now. Technology can be difficult when it's hot. Glare is a problem, and the iPad can overheat. This was the fastest method.

Her conclusion was that the best method was the Acetate Trace method as it was the most accurate. Nicole gave archeologists four different methods to use. Future researchers now have a standardized form. She says that more tests are needed because archeologists need this information and over the years minute changes will occur.

DAS Membership

It is not too late to renew or start a new membership for 2019. The membership year is January to January. Dues for the remainder of the year will be pro-rated to \$10 for an individual and to \$15 for a couple. This cost of membership includes the monthly meetings and the field trips. There are no meetings in July, August, and December and no sponsored field trips in June, July, August, and December. You can find the application form on our website, <http://dixierockart.com> or you can pick up the application form at the meeting.

Please fill out and sign the membership form ([click here](#)) and send it and your check for the dues to:

Dixie Archaeology Society
PO Box 611
Washington, UT 84780

Forms will also be available at the next club meeting.