



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611

Washington, Utah 84780



John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Kay "Feather" Robinsn
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November Meeting

When: December 9, 2015

Where: St, George Social Hall – 47 E 200 N, St. George (in the Art Museum Complex)

Why: Holiday Party

Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society web site (www.dixierockart.webs.com) is up and running. Please consider signing up as a site member. Site members should receive email updates whenever anything on the site is updated.

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

Dues are Due

The 2016 dues are due. They are \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a couple.

Please fill out the attached membership form – remember each person must sign the form. Bring the form and your dues to a monthly meeting or mail them to

Dixie Archaeology Society
PO Box 611
Washington, UT 84780

The dues are the primary way that DAS has to raise funds for our operations that include room rent, liability insurance, speaker honorariums, and social events.

The DAS membership is required to participate in field trips, social events and a monthly lecture by experts on an archaeological topic of interest.

Field Trip Report

The November field trip was to Little Creek Mesa and was lead by Rich Cline.

There is very little published information regarding the mesa archaeology. BLM archaeologists do not share but, they sit on considerable data. Survey information from Thompson's (SUU, deceased) work in the 1980's indicated over 300 archaeological sites- mostly Basketmaker III, Pueblo I and Pueblo II (500-1300 AD). Pueblo sites are more concentrated on mesa interior where soil conditions were better for agriculture (beans, squash and corn).

The mesa population increased significantly between Basketmaker III and Pueblo periods, which may have to do with good rains and the availability of corn to enhance diets. Larger pueblo areas are more concentrated on western side of the mesa where higher elevations perhaps lead to more rainfall.

Habitation structures would typically be pit houses with subterranean rock walls, wattle and daub above ground walls with roofing. Earlier structures are mostly storage cysts and round habitation areas but later stage dwellings often show rectangular walls. Sites range in size from earlier shallow crescent shapes 8-9 meters to late stage U-shaped clusters over 100 meters (Figure 1).

There are numerous courtyard areas and rock art panels. Rock art is typically on a horizontal surface rather than vertical (Figure 2). There are a number of "water glyphs" (Figure3). Barbara Franks, from SUU, says there are two Kivas on the mesa area. Pottery shards are St George style grey ware and later stage corrugated style.

Nearly the entire mesa is BLM managed? Sadly, there is considerable evidence of pot hunting, much of the area has been "chained" by BLM contract to enhance grazing and motor powered recreation has no boundaries.



Figure 1 - Remains of a Large Pueblo Complex



Figure 2 - An Example of a “Typical” Little Creek Rock Art Image



Figure 3 - One of the Little Creek “Water Glyphs”

Go to the following DAS field trip reports to learn more about Little Creek Mesa.

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Little%20Creek%20Mesa%20-%20Part%202.pdf>

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Little%20Creek%20Mesa%20-%20September%202010.pdf>

Field Trip Info

There will be NO field trip in December.

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

The November lecture was “Historic Preservation at Zion National Park” and was given by archaeologist, Amber VanAlfen.

Amber outlined the rigorous steps that must be followed to begin and complete an archaeological project on a historic (or prehistoric) site on government land. These include following the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

She described one of her projects, “Kolob Canyon Rehabilitation Project – Taylor Creek Cabins” whose goal was to rehabilitate the Fife cabin. Since the cabin is located in a “wilderness area”, another additional set of regulations applied.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/Historic%20Preservation%20at%20Zion%20Nation%20Park.pdf> to see a summary of Amber’s talk.

Thanks

Thanks to Amber VanAlfen for giving the November lecture on short notice.

Thanks also to Rich Cline for leading the field trip to Little Creek Mesa.

Final Thought

Joan and I want to wish all of our DAS friends a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May all of you have a wonderful and joyous Holiday Season.

This is good hiking weather. Be careful out there and remember - "Leave No Trace".

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John Mangels



**Dixie Archaeology Society
(DAS)
RELEASE OF LIABILITY
Year 2016**



Name(s): Last First

Name(s): Last First

Address: Street Apartment #

City State Zip Code

Phone: email

I, the undersigned, participant(s) agree to abide by all rules and directions established by Dixie Archaeology Society (DAS), regarding all activities, tours, field trips, meetings etc. I do freely and voluntarily agree to release, save, hold harmless, and indemnify DAS from any and all claims of loss, injury or damage, suit action, demand, fine, judgment of decree and any expense thereof, including a reasonable attorney's fee, that may happen or occur to me as a result of or consequence of having attended and/or participated in any DAS meetings or activities. This release includes all representatives of said organization and/or sponsor(s), including the policy that only paid-up members who sign the Release of Liability form are allowed to participate in Field Trips and Activities. The undersigned named participant(s) agrees to bear the total cost of damages and fines resulting from his/her/their actions, thereby releasing Dixie Archaeology Society and its representatives from any liability whatsoever.

I understand that during my participation in the Dixie Archaeology Society outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death (Injuries and Damages) from exposure to the hazards of travel: the Dixie Archaeology Society has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence because of other reasons. I understand those risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Dixie Archaeology Society outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

I certify that I have read the Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement, fully understand its terms and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. I freely and voluntarily assume all risk of such Injuries and Damage, notwithstanding such risks. I (we) certify that I am of legal age and competence to act in this manner. If any participant is a minor, the legal parent or guardian will certify that he/she is acting in behalf of each of them in this release.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

