



Dixie Archaeology Society

April 2019 Newsletter

DAS Meeting, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 7 p.m.

Fremont Indian State Park

Presented by Amy Ramsland

This presentation will be on Fremont Indian State Park, specifically looking at what we have learned about the Fremont People from the excavations of Five Finger Ridge and the rock art that fills this canyon.

Amy Ramsland is Curator and Archaeologist at Fremont Indian State Park in Sevier, Utah. Originally from a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, she has loved history and archaeology since childhood. This interest led her to study archaeology at Wheaton College, where she excavated for several seasons in Ashkelon, Israel. In college her love of archaeology transformed into a desire to share archaeology and history with others through public interpretation and exhibit design in museums. She has worked in several museums in Illinois, and she completed her Masters Degree in Historical Administration before moving to Utah to work in Utah State Parks. She has delved into exploring the historical landscape here and studying the fascinating cultures that lived throughout the Southwestern United States.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 7 p.m.

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

Field Trip and Picnic, Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. (4 to 5 hours) Little Black Mountain Petroglyph Site

Led by Mel Langness

Meet at 9 a.m. at BLM St. George Field Office parking lot, 345 E. Riverside Dr.
Don't forget water, pot-luck cookies, and camp chairs.

The April field trip includes a special Petroglyph Picnic. Retired BLM employee

Diana Hawks, our president, Kaye (Feather) Robinson, and field trip leader Mel Langness will accompany us to Little Black Mountain to view the petroglyphs. They will have lots of stories. After exploring the site (1.5 to 2 hours), we will have a picnic, with croissant sandwiches and chips from Lin's Market provided by DAS. (Bring your own water, pot-luck cookies, and camp chairs.)

We'll need a count of how many plan to attend before the trip. Please email names and phone number to Mel Langness at bearpawarrow@msn.com to preregister. Many thanks to those who have already responded. There is still time to sign up.

For insurance reasons, attendees must be current members and have signed the waiver for 2019.

The Little Black Mountain Petroglyph Site contains over five hundred individual rock-art designs and elements on boulders and cliffs. The walk is approximately one mile on open land and is fairly level. Nevertheless, good hiking equipment, sun screen, plenty of water and appropriate clothing are necessary. The drive over gravel (about 14 miles one way) does not require high-clearance vehicles.

Meet at 9 a.m. at BLM St. George Field Office parking lot, 345 E. Riverside Dr. Don't forget water, pot-luck cookies, and camp chairs.

Information on May Field Trip to San Rafael Swell, May 17-19

Led by Gary Smith

Because the overnight field trip in May requires club members to make time and logistical plans, we are publishing the schedule early:

1. Meet Friday, May 17th, at 2:00 PM at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River, Utah, 765 E. Main Street. We will carpool to Segoe Canyon about 30 miles east of Green River. We can drive right to the site so it will be an easy day. This one site has archaic pictographs, Anasazi petroglyphs and historical Ute pictographs.

2. Saturday, May 18, meet at River History Museum at 8:00 AM. This will be an all day event when we drive into the San Rafael Swell and surrounding area. We will go to Black Canyon Wash, Head of Sinbad, Moore Cutoff Road's Serpent Panel, Ferron Box (tentative) and Buckhorn Wash. Bring lunch and start with a full tank of gas. Some minor rock scrambling is required to get right up to some panels but all can be seen with binoculars from below. High clearance vehicle recommended on the gravel and dirt roads.

3. Sunday May 19th, is the hard day. This day is optional. Meet at 7:00 AM at the River Museum to go to Horseshoe Canyon and the Great Gallery. This is a six-mile round trip hike with a steep hill to climb right at the end. Participants will need to carry food and plenty of water. This hike is for those in good

physical condition. The payoff is seeing what is arguably the best rock art panel in Utah if not the American Southwest.

Motel Information:

Everyone that plans to go should make their own motel or camping reservations. Plan on staying Friday night, May 17, and Saturday May 18th. On the east end of town, the Super 8 Wyndam (435-363-0055) and America Best Value Inn (435-564-8441) are close together so it would be easy to meet as we start the field trip day on Saturday. If you are interested in nicer places the Comfort Inn (480-676-5180) and River Terrace (435-564-3401) are in the middle of town. If you do not mind staying in a sort of wilderness area, there is a Motel 6. There is camping at the Green River State Park. I would not wait too long to make arrangements. The Super 8 said that they had a busload of people coming in that weekend and availability was limited.

Those that go to Horseshoe Canyon should consider staying over Sunday night, the 19th, before returning to St. George. The hike will not be complete until Sunday afternoon and you will probably be tired. The closest motel to Horseshoe Canyon is Whispering Sands (435-542-3238) in Hanksville.

Please contact Gary Smith (bluemoose8313@gmail.com) with any questions.

Summary of March Presentation by Kaye

Robinson: Archeoastronomy

Nancy Kramer

Feather (Kaye Robinson) was our presenter at this month's meeting. When the speaker we had planned on presenting became snowbound and was unable to attend, Feather graciously stepped up and filled in with a subject she knows well. She is passionate about the topic of archeoastronomy and is very knowledgeable.

The first site Kaye spoke about is located high in the Bighorn Mountains of Northern Wyoming, the centuries-old Medicine Wheel, aptly named Bighorn Medicine Wheel, seems to be a testament to astronomical applications used by people who lived in the Northern Plains long before white men came on the scene, or even the Crow Indians, but the structure remains mysterious.

The Bighorn Medicine Wheel sits at 108 degrees longitude, nearly 10,000 feet above sea level near the summit of Medicine Mountain. The Wheel is constructed of stones gathered in the vicinity of the landmark. The Medicine Wheel has a diameter of 80 feet (245 feet in circumference). Twenty-eight stone "spokes" connect the central cairn to the outside circle, and around the circle lie six other stone cairns, some large enough for a person to sit in.

The six cairns arranged around the Wheel are definitely related to the night skies. Two of the cairns, when lined up with the center cairn, mark the rising and setting Summer Solstice sun.

Estimates regarding the age of the Bighorn Medicine Wheel vary, with 1200 A.D. being the time period when the star alignments with the cairns were most accurate.

The Majorville Cairn and Medicine Wheel in Alberta, Canada consists of a central cairn, which is linked to a surrounding stone circled by 28 spokes, and the cultural landscape which contains this monument. The designation encompasses 160 acres and sits at 51 degrees North latitude, which is the same as Stonehenge.

Avebury is a Neolithic henge monument containing three stone circles, around the village of Avebury in Wiltshire, in southwest England. One of the best-known prehistoric sites in Britain, it contains the largest Neolithic stone circle in the world. It is also at 51 degrees North latitude. It lines up with the sun, moon, and stars.

The Goseck circle is a Neolithic structure in Germany. Its construction is dated to approximately the 49th century B.C. It is considered to be the oldest star observatory. It is also at 51 degrees North latitude and accurately measures the sun, moon, and stars.

The Nebra sky disk is a bronze disk twelve inches in diameter with a blue-green color and inlaid with gold symbols. These are interpreted generally as a sun, a lunar crescent, and stars.

The disc was discovered in Germany and is 3600 years old. The Nebra sky disk features the oldest concrete depiction of the cosmos yet known from anywhere in the world. It is one of the most important archaeological finds of the twentieth century.

Last of all, Feather told us about Newgrange, a prehistoric monument in County Meath, Ireland. It is an exceptionally grand passage tomb built during the Neolithic period, around 3200 BC, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian Pyramids.

We find a new appreciation of the ancient cultures as we realize how much they learned by observing the sun, moon, planets and the stars.

DAS Membership

It is time to renew or start a new membership for 2019. We are changing the dues slightly. Annual dues will be reduced to \$20 for an individual and remain at \$30 for a couple. This cost of membership includes the monthly meetings and the field trips. You can find the application form on our website, <http://dixierockart.com> or you can pick up the application form at the meeting.

The membership year is January to January.

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.