

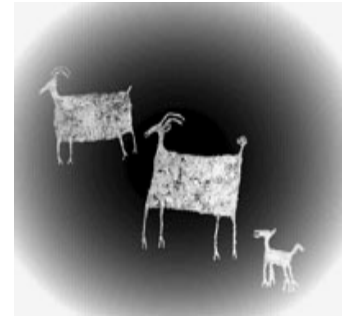


# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012

## 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
Boma Johnson - Board Member	Keith Rhea - Board Member

## April Meeting

**When:** April 11th @ 7 PM

**Where:** DSC  
Udvar-Hazy Bldg.  
Room 219

**Why:** Ron Greenlee will talk about the petroglyphs in the China Lake Region of Eastern California.

## Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society web site ([www.dixierockart.webs.com](http://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. This site is for you, the members. We'd like to hear what you think.

# Field Trip Report

The March field trip was to the Quail Creek Ranch. The weather was overcast, but otherwise perfect for view rock art. A large number of members took advantage of an opportunity to view the rock art located primarily on private property. Under the watchful eye of an ancestor spirit and ever mindful of critters (none were encountered – thankfully) the DAS members went forth and had a great time.





The Quail Creek Ranch site lies along the banks of the Virgin River and extends for about 1 mile. Included in this site is the junction of what used to be Harrisonburg Creek (now blocked by the Quail Lake Dam) and the Virgin River. There are four major sites within this area and a number of secondary sites. Three of the major sites are located at the junction of Harrisonburg Creek and the Virgin River.

This would have been a prime location for habitation. There was a flat plane for farming and ample water from Harrisonburg Creek, the Virgin River and from a known spring (still running) across the river. At least one storage pit and possibly more were identified near one of the major rock art sites.

**Site 1** (Figure 1 and 2) appears to be archaic from the rock art style and the complete re-patination of the images. The images are generally on vertical surfaces and on rock having a very dark patina. The panels face generally north. The glyphs are very distinct. The style is very linear with stick-like figures having very elongated bodies and very small arms and legs. They appear as if they are in a dance or ceremony much like depicted on a Navajo “Yeh” rug.

The pecking style in site 1 is also unique to the site. The pecking is deep and many of the individual peck marks can be identified.

**Site 2** (Figure 3 and Figure 4) is located very near to site 1. The glyphs in site 2 appear to be rubbed rather than pecked. But they too are also completely re-patinated. These glyphs are on vertical red rocks facing east and also on flat surface rocks. Here the imagery is not very distinct, with many images over written. There appear to be many connected portals and some spirals and parallel wavy lines (flowing water (?)), but little else that can be easily identified. A guess would make these glyphs archaic because of the style.





Figure 1



Figure 2





Figure 3



Figure 4

**Site 3** is located in the same general area as sites 1 and 2 and is the most northerly site in the complex. The glyphs are located on flat surface rock on a sloping hill face (faces east). The glyphs at the bottom of the hill appear to be very old; however the images are more familiar (spirals, feet, sheep Figure 5)) and some unknown images (Figure 6).



Figure 5



Figure 6

The images at the higher parts of the hill could be newer because they are clearer and the imagery is again more familiar (Figure 7) sheep, spirals, dragon fly, connected portals, etc. Could the main image in Figure 7 be a shield?

The age of site 3 is difficult to guess, but likely the images are from various time periods from late archaic to Anasazi. However, the images are very different from sites 1 and 2.

**Site 4** (Figure 8) is located about a ¼ mile south of the first three sites. It looks to be of Anasazi in time period due to the designs, style and general lack of re-patination. The largest panel(s) at this site relates to various animals; deer, sheep along with a water bird, turtle (tortoise) and various clan symbols. There are some antro images.

**Site 5** is located south of site 4 and is a minor site, except for the fact that on one panel there are three necklace images (Figure 9). Here the glyphs are located on flat surface rocks. This is likely Anasazi in time period and related to other necklace site along the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers. The unique thing about the necklace in Figure 9 is the dots in the center of each “bead” on the necklace.

**Site 6** is the southern most site of the complex and most likely the newest. This site could be Anasazi or later in time. The main panel at this site is a large anthro (Figure 10) that has similarities to barrier canyon style anthros. Unique is that there is a large circular region at the abdomen that is not pecked.

This is a great site, perhaps one of the best in the St. George area. Thanks to the owners who let us visit for the day.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Field%20Trip%20Report%20->



[%20Quail%20Creek%20Ranch.pdf](#) for a more detailed report on the Quail Creek Ranch site.



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

## Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, **April 21st**. It is scheduled to be to the Smithsonian Butte region east of Apple Valley. There will be moderate climbing required. High clearance, 4-WD vehicles are required. Bring water and a lunch.



**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 speaker at the March meeting was Robert Nash of Bighorn Archaeology Consultants. Robert talked about the “Prehistoric Occupation of the St. George Area”.



Robert Nash



Robert discussed the various periods of prehistory of the southwest in general and the St. George basin in particular using examples of archaeological digs performed by his company to illustrate the various periods of occupation in the St. George area. He also discussed the social implications that resulted for the advancements in technology from period to period.

### **Paleo Indian:**

This period lasted from 13500 BC to about 7000 BC.

The **Clovis Point** people were hunters using spears to hunt very large game. They are identified by the “Clovis Point”, a very particular style of spear point. This period lasted from 13500 BC to 12900 BC.

The **Western Stemmed Point Tradition** lasted from 13000 BC to about 7000 BC and was concentrated in the Great Basin. Here the people were nomadic with some settlements for subsistence hunting and gathering. These paleo-archaic people developed the atlatl technology along with knives and scrapers.

There is evidence of the Paleo-Archaic presence in St. George from a site along the Southern Parkway where a obsidian point was found that was dated to 9900 – 12700 BC. The obsidian was traced to the Mount Topaz region of Utah, a distance of about 150 miles from St. George.

### **Archaic:**

The **Early Archaic** period lasted from 7000 to 4200 BC and consisted of small settlements with subsistence hunting and gathering. Settlements were in caves or near wetlands. The technology consisted of milling stones, coiled baskets, dart points with a large focus on plant seeds.

The **Middle Archaic** period lasted from 4200 – 2600 BC. The settlements consisted of shallow pit houses concentrated in water areas. The subsistence was still hunting and gathering with an emphasis on deer, fish, rabbits and plants.

The **Late Archaic** period was from 2600 – 300 BC. The major technology change was a different style point. Social changes were also occurring in that the people began making figurines from Twigg, mostly in the form of deer and sheep.

Many areas in the St. George area date to 3000 – 4000 BC. These include areas along the **Southern Parkway** where white quartz chips and evidence of wickiups were found. The **Red Butte** area had wickiups and agave roasting pits. The **Beaver Dam Mountains** had roasting pits. The **Leucadia** site (near the new airport) had wickiups, some with a central hearth, that date to 2000 – 2600 BC. Also found was adobe and a diverse collection of tools. The major food was rabbits (not much deer) and seeds.

### **Formative Period (Virgin Anasazi):**

The **Basket Maker II** period lasted from 300 BC to 450 AD. These people began to settle into a farming culture. They had corn and squash for food. They used metates and the atlatl for hunting. They had no ceramics or bow and arrows. They used spears and nets to hunt rabbits. They had textiles. They had a variety of stone tools. They had larger pit houses, with multiple roof poles. The pit houses had storage pits within the pit house structure. This signaled a major social change – the people had taken personal ownership of resources.

The **Basket Maker III** period lasted from 450 – 750 AD. These people added beans to their food supply. They also had the bow and arrow and ceramics. The pit houses became more subterranean. They also utilized outside storage rooms in addition to those with the pit houses. The advent of the bow and arrow made hunting a more solitary event, increasing the emphasis on individualism.

The **Pueblo I** period lasted from 750 – 900 AD. There was a dramatic increase in population during this period. As a consequence large communities were formed. The people domesticated the turkey as a food source. The ceramic technology improved.



The **Pueblo II** period lasted from 900 – 1250 AD. The people developed ways to manage their water supply – mostly by building check dams. They also developed corrugated pottery. The changes in the communities involved the use of both pit houses and communal structures (kivas).

Various sites in the **Kanab region** have kivas and pit houses. The **Leucadia site** has shelters in caves and ledges. Shell beads (olivella shell from the Pacific coast) were found.

### **Late Prehistoric:**

The late prehistoric period lasted from 1250 – Present. During this time the Numic speaking peoples (Utes and Paiutes) migrated into the region from California. There was a return to a higher mobility society, again using wickiups versus pit houses. There was more reliance on hunting and gathering rather than farming. The people developed unique basketry (seed beaters and winnowing trays) to harvest seeds at a higher rate. They also developed technology to process the seeds more efficiently. Their ceramics were more crude, thicker, in order to survive the mobile lifestyle. The pinon nut was as important to these people as corn was to earlier populations.

## **ARARA 2012 Annual Meeting**

### **DAS Hosts ARARA Conference in St. George**

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) is coming to St. George for a four day rock art conference on Memorial Day Weekend, Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28. DAS is pleased to be co-host of this conference along with the Utah Rock Art Research Association. The conference consists of two days of speakers and two days of fieldtrips. Information on the conference, including registration materials, is available at the ARARA website, [www.arara.org](http://www.arara.org).

Volunteers are needed. A number of DAS members have already volunteered to do fieldtrips. In addition to field trip leaders, we will need volunteers to help with other tasks at this event:

- Thurs May 24
  - Registration, 2-3 people
  - Set up for Public Lecture, 2-3 people
- Fri May 25
  - Field trips ~15 people
  - Registration, 2-3 people

- Sat & Sun May 26-27
  - Flute Players for AM & PM Breaks
  - Misc Assistance during the day, 1-2 people
  - Misc Assistance during the evening events, 1-2 people
- Mon May 28
  - Field trips ~15 people

It is necessary to sign up to attend the conference. Go to [www.arara.org](http://www.arara.org) for registration information. The conference entails two days of technical papers on rock art from around the US and the world. It also entails a number of social events that come with the registration. There is a banquet on Sunday evening that is an extra charge.

This is a big deal for the community and DAS. Your help is appreciated.

## Thanks

Thanks to Robert Nash for a great presentation. Thanks also to the owners of the Quail Creek Ranch for their preservation of the rock art on their property and for letting DAS visit the rock art sites.

## Final Thoughts

### **DAS Membership:**

The attached table shows the DAS membership for the years 2007 through the present. The membership has remained generally constant and reached an all time high in 2011. This affirms that we are going in the right direction with our approach to archaeology and rock art – that is stressing preservation through education. I want to thank everyone for their continued support for DAS and our programs. Please contact me or any of the board with any ideas you may have that could improve our organization.

#### **DAS Membership Statistics**

Year	Members	Households
2012	76	51 through March 28th
2011	88	57
2010	64	43
2009	72	44
2008	83	53
2007	73	49

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