



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611
Washington, Utah 84780

John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Boma Johnson - Archaeologist, Advisor
Karen Monsen - Secretary	Mel & Marie Langness
Mary Lou and Howard Christy - Treasurer	

March Meeting

When: March 12, 2014
Where: DSU, Udvar Hazy Bldg., Room 220
Why: Kay "Feather" Robinson will talk about Little Black Mountain

Dues are Due

The 2014 dues are due. The dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a couple.

The annual dues are the only source of funding for DAS. The money is used for liability insurance, room rent, web site, miscellaneous expenses and social events.

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.

Field Trip Report

The Archaeology Site at Confluence Park (Sand Point)

This month DAS members were given a tour of an archaeology site that is just south of Confluence Park in St. George by archaeologist Greg Woodall.



The site sits above the confluence of the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers and is bounded by I-15 and the Exit 5 interchange.



One rock art site was at this location. Greg and other rock art experts believe that it is a solstice marker.

Greg explained that his vision would be for this site to be incorporated in the St. George park system as a working archaeology site along with appropriate interactive signage and displays, all connected through the internet.



A story about an adjacent site excavated prior to the construction of the Exit 5 interchange recently appeared in the Spectrum. Go to <http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20140222/NEWS/302220012/UDOT-makes-archaeological-discoveries-Tonaquint> to view the Spectrum article.

Go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Field%20trip%20-%20The%20Archaeology%20Site%20at%20Confluence%20Park.pdf> to learn more about this site.

Gold Butte

A number of DAS members journeyed to Gold Butte to visit three rock art sites in Gold Butte. The symbology and the age of the various sites are vastly different.

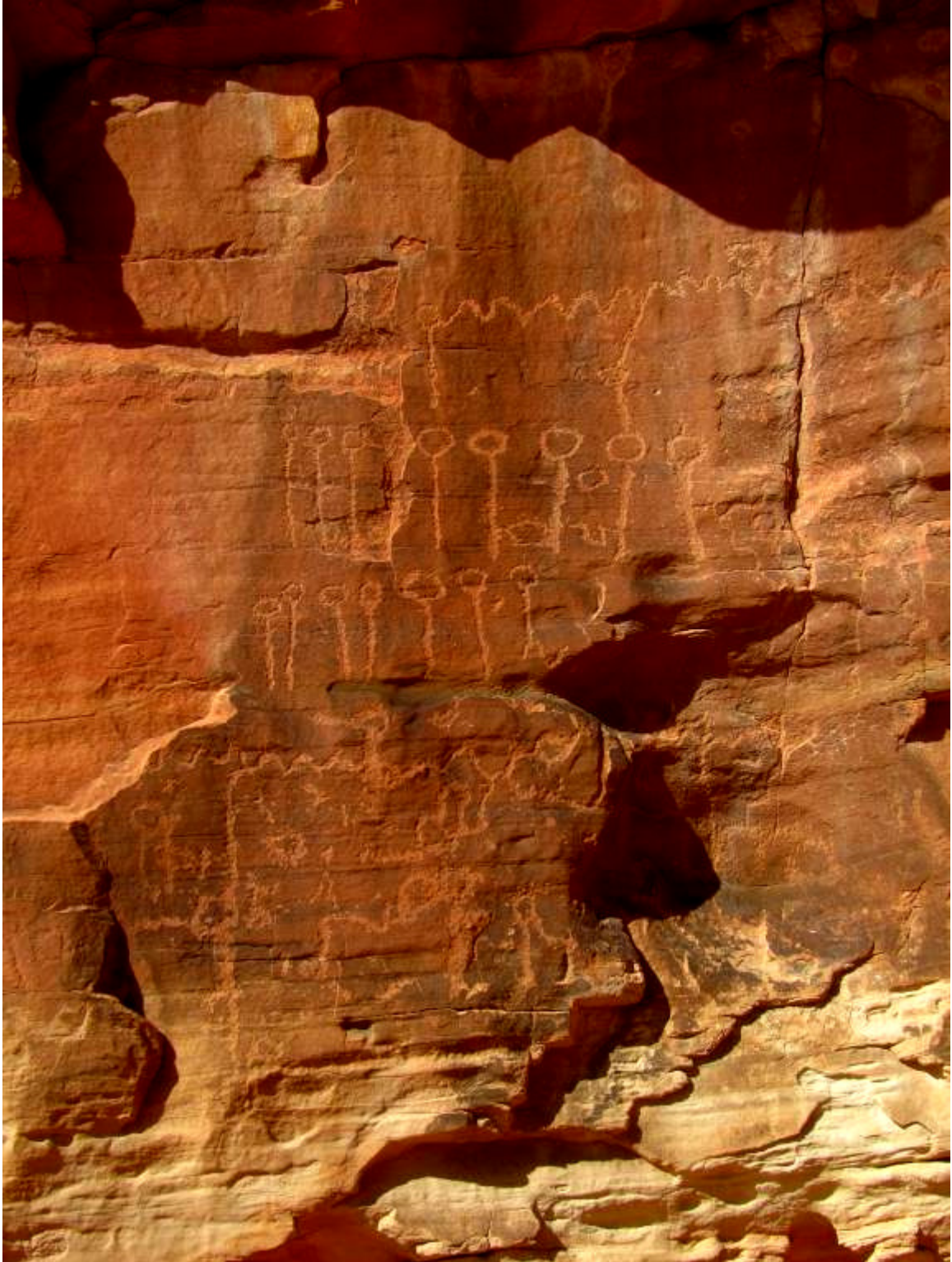




Mud Wash



Female Shaman at the Lollipops site



The Lollipops



The Sand Dune Site

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Mud%20Wash,%20Kirks%20Gratto%20and%20Babes%20Butte%20Field%20Trip.pdf> to learn more about the Mud Wash site.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Field%20trip%20to%20the%20Lollipop%20of%20Gold%20Butte%20-%20February%202014.pdf> to learn more about the Lollipop site.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Field%20trip%20to%20The%20Sand%20Dune%20Site%20at%20Gold%20Butte%20-%20Feb%202014.pdf> to learn more about the Sand Dune site.

Field Trip Info

The March 15th field trip will be to Red Cliffs Reserve and to Babylon. The Red Cliffs portion of the trip will include about a 1-2 mile hike along a relatively flat trail. Normal

vehicles can be used. The Babylon portion will include another 1-2 mile hike, again along a relatively flat trail. For this portion, a high clearance, 4WD vehicle is required. This will be a ½ day to all day trip. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water.

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

John Rich of Jacob Lake was the speaker. John's grandparents found the Jacob Lake Lodge in 1923 (www.jacoblake.com). John has been involved with that property his entire life. John has been directly involved with the trading end of the business – the purchase of Native American art for sale in his gift shop. The last 20 years he has concentrated on the purchase of Native American textiles and other art.



John Rich

John has a true feeling and love for the Navajo people. He knows most of the artists and their families, some of whom he has been doing business with for his whole life.

John began his talk by giving a brief history of the Navajo people.

- The Navajo never had a written language. The first dictionary was published in 1896.
- They are semi-nomadic until about 30 years ago.
- They still used horse drawn wagons up until the mid 1960's when there were less than 300 miles of paved roads on the reservation.
- There are currently about 300,000 Navajo people, with about 150,000 living on the reservation.

- There is a 50% unemployment rate on the reservation and only 15% have any college education. Most do not go past the first year in high school.
- Most homes now have electricity, but most do not have running water.

Weaving is sacred to the Navajo people. Spider Woman instructed the people about weaving. She gives them the inspiration for the patterns in their textiles. None of the designs are written down.

The weaving skill was taught the Navajo by the Pueblo people in the 1680's, after the Pueblo Revolt against the Spanish. By the 1700's, the Navajos were the finest weavers. The golden age of Navajo weaving was in the 1840 to 1880 time period.

The weaving skill is dying out as the skilled weavers pass on. John actively purchases rugs from young, beginning weavers, to give them confidence and to insure that the weaving skill will live into the future. He said that he has purchased any number of "bad" weavings, but the next one by that weaver is usually better than the one before.

John then went on to show a number of beautiful blankets, dresses and rugs. But most significantly, he told the story of the person who created the weaving – sometime it is a family story - and told the story of the weaving itself.



John in Blanket from the early 1900's



A Dress by Sarah Sew



A Pastoral Design by Sarah Sew – Sarah's is featured in guide books on Navajo weaving



A "John Moore" style rug. John Moore published a catalog of Navajo weaving in 1911 that promoted the sale of these items to Easterners - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bradford_Moore .



A Storm Pattern rug by Lucille Begay - the four sacred mountains are in the corners with the Navajo homeland in the center.



A Tes Nos Pos style rug from 1945



A "Sampler" style rug



A rug by Nellie Curley showing weavers with each person holding a different style weaving



A “Burnt Water” design by Bruce Nez

In 1974 the Navajo settled a land dispute with the Hopi that resulted in about 500 Navajo families being resettled to a new part of the reservation – the “New Lands”. These people created a new style of weaving using a raised outline to define the pattern.



This is an example of a “New Lands” style rug. This is the last rug woven by the famous weaver, Larry Yazzi. It is unfinished – he passed before it was completed.

The new lands people also developed the Blue Canyon Pattern style rug. This pattern reminds them of their former homeland.



A Blue Canyon style rug by Wanda Begay

URARA Symposium

Mark your calendars! The 2014 annual URARA Symposium will be held in Kanab UT on October 10-13, 2014.

Go to <http://www.utahrockart.org> for information.

Thanks

Thanks to John Rich for a great presentation.

Thanks to Greg Woodall for giving DAS a tour of the Confluence Park Archaeology Site.

Thanks also to Mel for leading the field trip to Gold Butte and to Boma for helping us set the trip up.

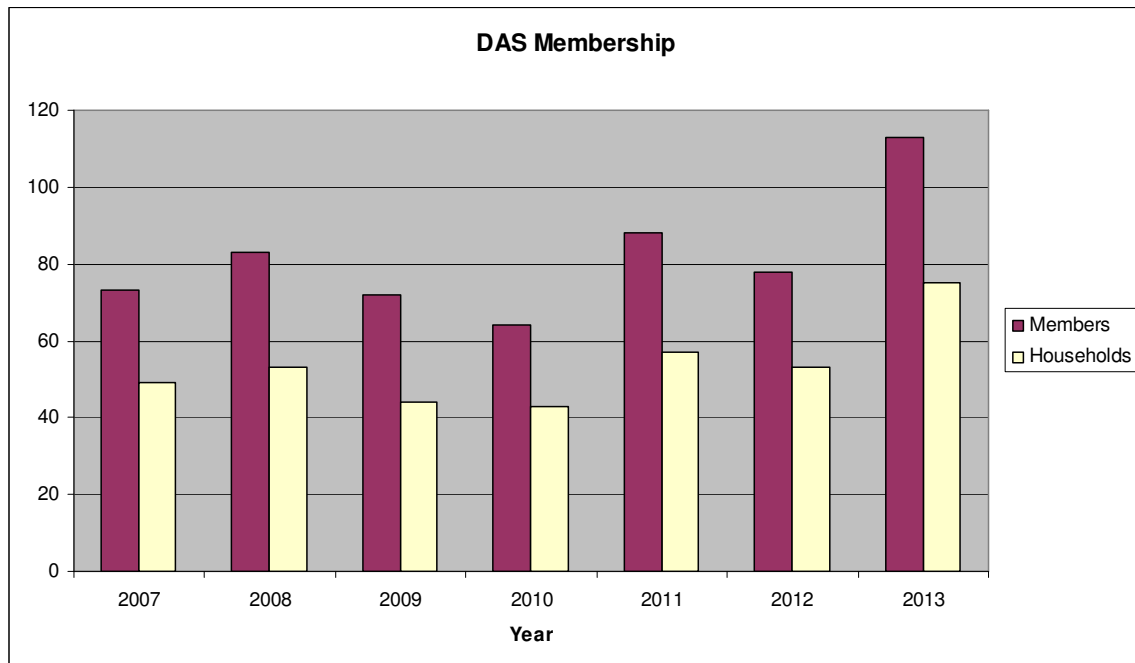
Final Thought

The 2014 membership drive continues – DUES ARE DUE!!!

We ended 2013 with a great membership – 113 people representing 75 households. This is up significantly from 2012 and the numbers are an all time high.

Thanks you all for joining DAS and participating in our events.

Remember – this is your society. Please bring your ideas or concerns to me or any of the board members.



Be safe out there!!

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John Mangels

