



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611
Washington, Utah 84780

John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Dave Evans - Treasurer
Keith Rhea - Board Member	Mel & Marie Langness
Boma Johnson - Board Member	Karen Monsen

December Meeting

When: December 12th @ 6 PM

Where: See email to members

Why: Holiday Party – Information on the party will be emailed separately to members.

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. This site is for you, the members. We'd like to hear what you think.

Dues are Due

Dues for 2013 are due beginning in January. The dues for 2013 remain unchanged from 2012. They are \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a couple.

These dues enable us to pay rent for our meeting room, obtain liability insurance, maintain our website, and host a summer picnic and winter holiday party as well as other miscellaneous expenses.

Field Trip Report

The November field trip was to two sites in southern Nevada – Lower Arrow Canyon and the Stuart Ranch. Fourteen DAS members, Figure 1, made the journey on a cool, but beautiful autumn day.

Arrow Canyon

Lower Arrow Canyon is located in Southern Nevada. It is known for its interesting geology that shows the severe uplifts that occurred eons ago. The canyon is also known for its paleontology as well as its rock art. Figure 2 is one a number of panels in the first rock art area.

The second rock art area is located in a narrow slot portion of the canyon where the walls are estimated by some to be well over 200 feet tall. The rock art in this portion of the canyon is concentrated in one main area together with a few isolated glyphs.

There are two shields in the canyon, something unique for southern Nevada. The principal shield is shown in Figure 3 as well as in Figure 1. This glyph was named the “The Fourth Shipapu and Emergence Glyph” by Nal Morris in his book “The Parowan Gap Archaeoastronomy Report, Volume II – A Path of Discovery”. He devotes an entire chapter to Arrow Canyon and this particular glyph.

There is a large amount of graffiti around this section of rock art as is shown in Figure 4.

Go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Field%20trip%20-%20Lower%20Arrow%20Canyon.pdf> to read more about Lower Arrow Canyon.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4 – “They spelled my name right! But I didn’t do it!!”

Stuart Ranch

Stuart Ranch is located in southern Nevada. The site was the location of a historic ranch, now abandoned (Figure 6).

The rock art is in an adjoining canyon, with beautiful walls of various shades of tan. The geology is also different in that the walls have columnar formations.

The major rock art area is shown in Figure 7. Special to this area are glyphs showing horses with riders (Figure 8), along with a very large number of sheep. The remaining rock art is spread among numerous panels along the canyon. Figure 9 is representative.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Field%20trip%20to%20Stuart%20Ranch%20-%20November%202012.pdf> read more about Stuart Ranch.



Figure 5 – A relaxing lunch



Figure 6 – Stuart Ranch building



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Field Trip Info

The December 15th field trip will be to Santa Clara Canyon. This is a local trip and will take about ½ day. Normal vehicles can be used. The hike will be about 2-3 miles one way, but the path is good with only some mild elevation changes. Some scrambling is required in a couple of areas in order view the glyphs. Bring water and snacks.

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 given by David van Alfen, an archaeologists with the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument, who discussed **“The Paiutes and Prehistory: An Archaeological Problem or a Problem with Archaeologists”**.

David began his talk about the Anasazi, Paiutes and Native peoples in general with a discussion about “Identity” and how that is hard to describe because it depends on context. He further pointed out that the archaeological record is not suited to understand identity.

The conventional theories about the Virgin Anasazi / Puebloans and the Paiutes involve something called “Population Replacement”. In this theory, the Puebloans abandoned the region around 1300 AD and were replaced by the Paiutes who arrived between 1000 and 1400 AD.

The heretical theory is called “Population Continuity”. Here some of the Puebloans may have migrated but many stayed. However the life style of those who stayed evolved in response to severe changes in the environment. In this theory, the native peoples went from being sedentary farmers to mobile hunter – gathers. The life style change resulted in an archaeology that looked completely different.

David made a compelling case for the “Population Continuity” theory based on the known archaeology. His argument is that the archaeology points to changes from a sedentary life to a mobile life rather than the introduction of people of a completely different culture.

David suggests that we have to relook at current assumptions relative to pottery, structures, subsistence strategies, farming vs. hunting, etc. The differences are really differences in degrees of mobility not the identity of the people.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/Paiutes%20and%20Prehistory%20-%20November%202012.pdf> to see a complete summary of David's talk.

New Project- An Update

Billy Wilkin is a documentary film maker who has produced films for DOCUTAH such as "From Depression to Destiny" a film about the CCC. He is currently planning to produce a film about rock art vandalism. He hopes that this film will help educate the public about the importance of rock art and the damage that vandalism can and is causing to this important cultural resource. He has approached Feather who has in turn approached DAS for help in providing him with information about various aspects of rock art.

The DAS board fully supports this project and has directed Billy to various individuals who can supply Billy with the information that he needs. If you want to participate in this project, contact Billy@SillyBillyMedia.com.

This is a unique opportunity for DAS to fulfill one of our primary goals – helping to preserve rock art through education. I hope everyone helps Billy in any way possible.

Billy has a preliminary title for his film – “Finding Zeno” after the name on the rock at Little Black Mountain. He is currently searching for funding to begin his project.

Thanks

Thanks to David Van Alfen for giving the November lecture and to Dave and Vicki Evans for leading the November field trip.

Final Thought

The year is almost gone and the holidays are rapidly approaching. Thanksgiving has passed and we all have a great deal to be thankful for. We should be especially thankful that we live in perhaps the most beautiful part of the country. We get to enjoy the beauty of the land every time we go on a field trip of just go driving or hiking into the desert, or canyons or mountains. What a choice! Not many can say that.

We should also be thankful for our friends and colleagues in DAS. I have made so many friends during our association with DAS that extend beyond the bounds of DAS. Likewise I have seen other friendships develop as well.

Joan and I consider everyone in DAS to be a part of our extended family. We would like to wish all our DAS family the blessings of the holiday season and hope that they extend throughout the coming year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

See you at the Holiday party!

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