



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 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

June Meeting

When: June 13th @ 7 PM

Where: DSC
Udvar-Hazy Bldg.
Room 219

Why: Bill Banek of the BLM and DAS will give a talk on "Vision Quest Sites of South Central Oregon"

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.

Summer Party

The summer party is in the final planning stage. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 18th. We will be having a pot luck cookout in “cool” Pine Valley. The Zion Flute Circle will play for us and for the public. We will also have a public discussion on rock art etiquette. More details will follow as the time grows near.

Field Trip Report

Canaan Gap

The May field trip was to Canaan Gap. The Canaan Gap petroglyph site is located on a cliff face east of Little Creek mesa and south of Smithsonian butte (two other prominent petroglyph sites).

Figure 1 shows the general area from the top of the mesa directly over the main petroglyph site. This area contains evidence of habitation; pit house ruins, fire pits, etc.



Figure 1

There are four main petroglyph panels and some lesser, isolated glyphs. The glyphs are very well defined. They are deeper than “normal” glyphs. It is thought the reason for this was that once the patina layer on the rock was penetrated, the glyphs eroded to a greater depth due to wind erosion. For this reason, the glyphs at this site are called “cookie cutter” glyphs.

Panel 1

Panel 1 is shown in Figure 2. The glyphs on panel 1 consist of anthros and sheep. The anthros most likely are in the form of spirit beings (no hands or feet) and have a somewhat “ghost like” appearance.



Figure 2

Panel 2

Panel 2 (Figure 3) is perhaps the most dramatic panel that we can see in the St. George area. It is a very large panel and has what seems to be only one idea.

The first surprising thing is that this entire rock face is void of glyphs, which indicates that the idea of the glyphs shown was very important – no one wanted to distract from the idea.

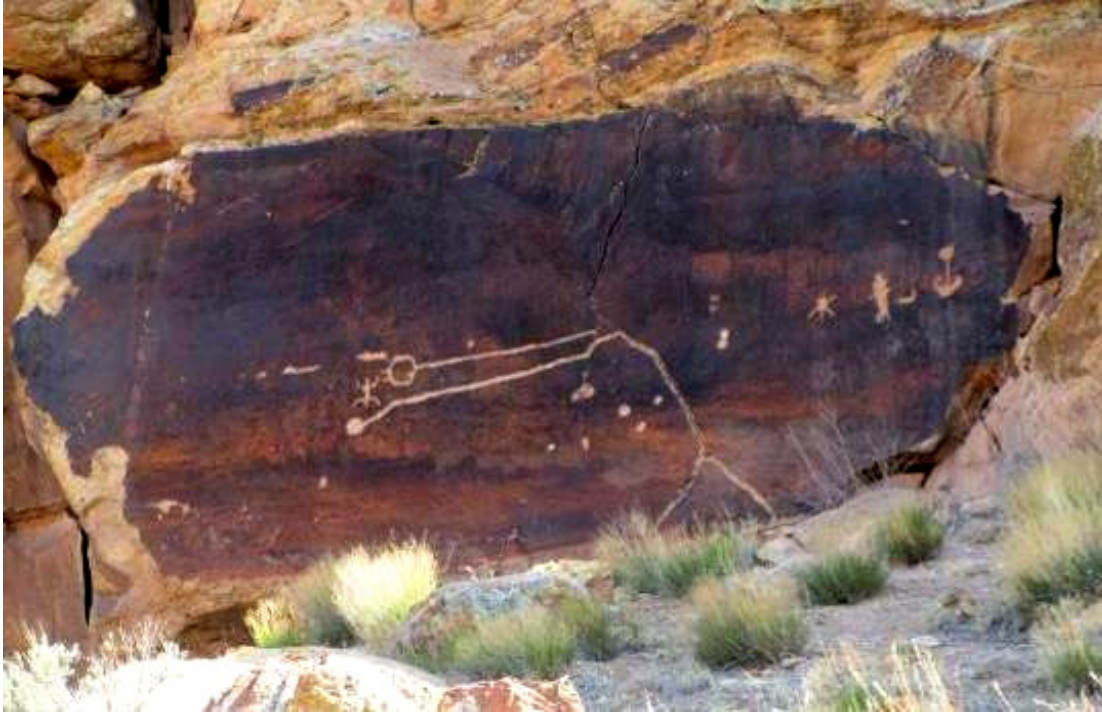


Figure 3

Panel 3

Panel 3, (Figure 4), is also a very dramatic panel, especially with the clarity of the light colored glyphs on the very dark patina. The images are again very unique. On the left is a coyote, drawn in perspective from the rear. Next to it is an image of a bear, one of the only one seen in the St. George area. Next to it is a two headed sheep. Below it is shown another sheep with its horns pecked in as if it were part of a closed arc. On the right are two anthros with different body types, an arrow pointing down, a vertical serpent pointing down and perhaps two foot prints or bear paws.

There was no over writing of the images, which is unusual for a panel having a large number of images. It is also unusual that all of the images are written within the dark patina band of the rock face.



Figure 4

Panel 4

Panel 5 is the largest panel at this site and contains the largest number of glyphs. Again, the panel is composed primarily of anthros and sheep. Interestingly, the largest figures, in the center, have the lightest color and have the deepest marks. Note, some of the body styles are rectangular and some are triangular (cave valley style). The largest figure, Figure 4, has a rectangular body, a round head with perhaps one eye (profile view) and a head dress.



Figure 5

Figure 6 shows a boulder below the cliff face that illustrates the severity of the erosion within a glyph.



Figure 6

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Canaan%20Gap%20Field%20Trip%20-%20May%202019,%202012.pdf> for more information on this site.

Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, **June 23rd**. **NOTE the date is the 4th Saturday!!** The trip will be a repeat trip to Parowan Gap to view the Parowan program and to view the solstice sunset. We will visit at least one petroglyph site on our way to the Gap. We will have a pot luck dinner at the gap.

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

Barbara Frank of Southern Utah University discussed her work with the “SUU Archaeological Field Schools, 1984 – 2010”. Her discussion centered around four main investigations.

- Little Creek Mesa where she worked on two sites; the “Mix Master” site, and the “Canine” site.
- Colorado City on the “Corn Growers” site
- Apple Valley on the “Turkey Town” site
- Kanab on a site along Kanab Creek

She discussed the sites and the findings. For more information on her talk, go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/SUU%20Archaeological%20Filed%20Schools%20-%20May%202012.pdf>.



Barbara Frank



Educational Outreach

A major part of our mission is education. Susie Nilsson has taken that goal to heart. During this years Utah Archaeology Week she discussed archaeology and especially rock art with over 1000 elementary school students in Santa Clara. In conjunction with the

ARARA meeting, she had them draw their impression of petroglyphs. Paintings from this group were selected for display at the ARARA meeting. The attached figure shows some of her students work.

Susie and Mark also represented DAS at the Cedar City Archaeology Day where they had a demonstration booth geared toward children. They viewed Susie's collection of artifacts and had a chance to create petroglyphs in plaster and to throw a "foam" atlatl. The children, along with Mark and Susie, had a great time.

These projects are so important to preserving our rock art resources. Through these efforts, our children will begin to gain respect for the archaeological resources so that they will be protected into the future.



Children's petroglyph paintings



Susie in Cedar City

ARARA 2012 Annual Meeting

The ARARA conference was an outstanding success. Over 259 people registered for the conference which exceeded the organizers expectations. DAS was well represented in many ways.

We had DAS volunteers at the registration table helping with registration and local information. We had DAS flute players (yes, Chris admitted that the flute playing was a great idea). We had DAS field trip leaders. And everyone wore their DAS t-shirts.

Chris and others played flute prior to the opening meeting of over 250 people. I had the privilege of giving a short welcoming speech, where I briefly described DAS. Feather

player her Mayan flute as part of the blessing. Benn Pikyavit, a tribal elder from the Kaibab Reservation gave the blessing. Boma gave the opening talk about the rock art of St. George.



Opening Ceremony of over 250 people



Chris playing at the opening ceremony



Feather playing as part of the blessing



Benn giving the blessing



Boma giving his lecture

I was also given the privilege of presenting two awards:

- The **Conservation Award** was given to the City of Ivins, the City of Santa Clara and the BLM for the creation of the Santa Clara River Reserve which protects the Anasazi Ridge and Santa Clara Canyon rock art.
- The **Stewardship Award** was given to Dorothy and Gordon Zitting, the owners for Quail Creek Ranch for protecting the rock art on their property while providing access to groups (such as DAS) to view the rock art.

The people I talked to were surprised by the number of members in DAS and were also surprised how many played the Native American flute. They were surprised and impressed that we have monthly meetings and monthly field trips. They were also impressed with our knowledge of rock art interpretation (thanks Kat, Boma and Feather). The ARARA people are more into recording and documenting rock art sites and give very little effort to meaning.

But most importantly, the people were impressed with the expanse and quality of rock art in the area. I think this surprised a lot of people.

Thanks to everyone who made this project an overwhelming success.

Thanks

Thanks to Barbara Frank who gave our May lecture.

Thanks to the many field trip leaders and all the other volunteers who helped make the ARARA conference a success.

Thanks to Susie Nilsson who worked to spread the word about the importance of protecting archaeological sites to our school children during archaeology week and during the Cedar City archaeology day.

Final Thoughts

The ARARA conference was a great success, due in large part by the efforts of the many local people who participated as volunteers. Thank you!!!!!!!

It's hot out there! Be extra careful on your hikes. Drink lots of water. Keep a sharp look out for critters – we've seen snakes on our last two DAS hikes.



Canaan Gap critter – thanks Wayne and Cheryl

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