



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611

Washington, Utah 84780



Jim King

Chris Oravec

Kay "Feather" Robinson

AJ Jones-Robinson

Attention! March Meeting Changes!

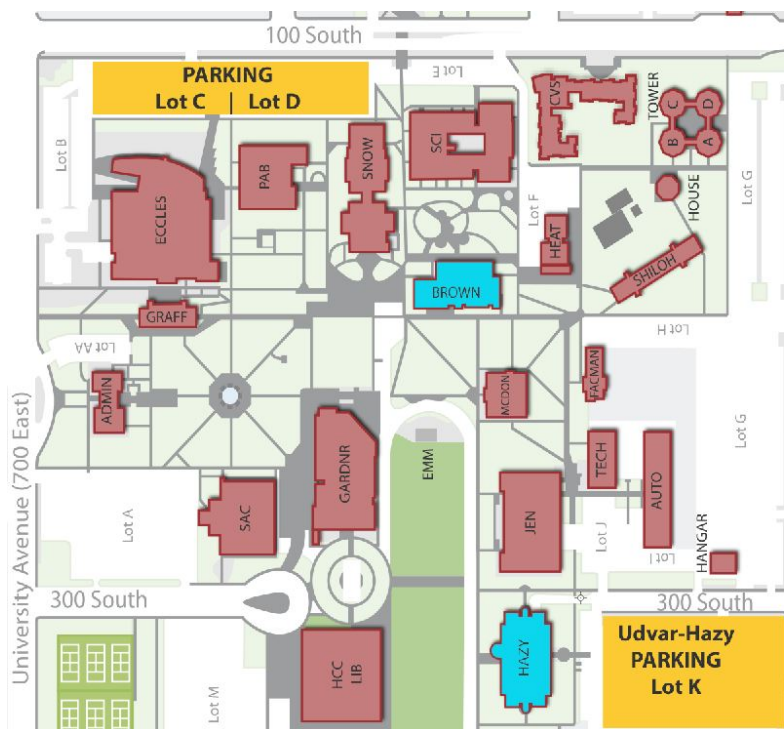
March's DAS meeting will be on a different day and at a different location. Scott August, nationally-recognized Native American Flute player, teacher and historian, will present "The Archaeology of Native American Flutes in the Southwest." This visually-packed overview extends from the earliest discoveries of the first Native American flutes to historical use of flutes in Puebloan native cultures. Please do not take pictures or use a recording device during Scott's presentation. We will meet on the Tuesday night just before our regular Wednesday meeting night in the Dunford Auditorium, located in the Val Browning Learning Resource Center (labeled "Brown" on the map below). Parking is in the lots on or across 1st South Street or in the Udvar-Hazy parking lot. Come early and get your spot!

Tuesday March 7 at 7pm

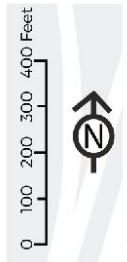
Dunford Auditorium

Browning Learning Resource Center

Dixie State U Campus



CAMPUS MAP
DSU
 DIXIE STATE
 UNIVERSITY
 ST. GEORGE, UTAH
 225 S. University Ave.
 St. George, UT 84770



Buildings Near Parking Lots C, D, & K

- BROWN** Val Browning Learning Resource Center
- ECCLES** Eccles Fine Arts Center
- GARDNR** Gardner Student Center
- HAZY** Udvar-Hazy Business School
- JEN** Jennings Communications Building
- LIB** Library
- MCDON** McDonald Humanities & Social Sciences
- PAB** Performing Arts Building
- SCI** Science
- SNOW** Snow Math & Science

Field Trip Report

Despite rain and dark skies fourteen members attended the field trip to Quail Creek on Saturday February 18. A good amount of rock art was seen. A return to the area is warranted when weather improves. See the discussion and excellent photos in the section of this website labeled "Field Trip Reports."

(<http://www.dixierockart.com/DAS%20Field%20Trip%20Report%20-%20Quail%20Creek%20Ranch%20Feb%202017.pdf>).

The field trip for March is already planned but may be held at a different time than usual. Information about the trip will be discussed at the March meeting.

Remember that you must attend the regular DAS meeting that precedes the planned field trip and be a member in order to be eligible to go on that month's field trip. We do this to make sure that we have a complete list of possible attendees and to give the information on what to bring, where to meet, etc.

Field Trip leaders are always needed. If you know about a location of interest or if you want to assist in learning about new places, contact Jim King, Field trip Coordinator. He can use your help.

Dues are Due

If you have not already paid them, the 2017 dues are due. They are \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a couple. Please fill out the membership form below (on the last page) or download the one on this website under "Membership Information." Each person must sign the form. Bring the form and your dues to a meeting or mail them to:

Dixie Archaeology Society, PO Box 611, Washington, UT 84780

The dues are the primary way that DAS has to raise funds for our operations that include room rent, liability insurance, and speaker honorariums.

Enrichment

I'VE SEEN THAT ONE BEFORE

The silver haired Sage, the Kid fresh from graduate school, and the Rancher met for lunch to visit about each of their previous week's rock art expeditions. After lunch was finished and the usual banter between the group began to ebb, the Kid blurted out. "Got somethin' on my mind". "Pray tell what would that be?" said the Sage with a slight smile and hint of sarcasm. The Rancher raised his eyes and quietly continued to twirl a straw in his soft drink but said nothing.

"Do you know that big boulder near the river that has the petros?" The other two nodded in the affirmative. "Well, I went there last Friday and saw a pattern I hadn't noticed before. I guess the reason I noticed it this trip was that I have seen the same glyph, or nearly so at three other sites scattered around the area that I have visited over the last several months. " The Kid quickly produced a pencil, grabbed a napkin and began to draw. He soon finished his work and passed the sketch around. "Hmmm said the Sage, I too have seen this glyph only it was about 75 miles south of here near Gold Butte." "Had the same thing on a panel at the ranch near Hurricane... So What!!! " chimed in the Rancher.

The Rancher asked the obvious question. "So what?" I suppose a trained archeologist could give dozens of good reasons why keeping track of reoccurring elements might be important.

As you may know, the nature of the culture(s) in the SW Utah and parts of Nevada that lie along the Virgin River is not well studied and debated among professionals. For example, archeologists argue for different grouping of the Anasazi peoples in the area. Some claim they were the Moapa Anasazi who thrived along the Muddy River in Nevada. Others say the entire community in this region should be all called Virgin Anasazi, and still others argue these folks are Western Kayenta Anasazi. I offer no opinion as to who if anyone, is correct. But I know that the more I understand about the context of the area's rock art, the better I will be able to



understand the varying points of view as these arguments emerge. And yes, maybe opine just a bit...

Here are some thoughts from an untrained rock art enthusiast about keeping track of reoccurring glyphs. Since most of my field trips are in southwest Utah, finding where these reoccurring elements are located offers just another clue that might help me better define the geographic boundaries of the cultures that have lived here; the timeframe that the element was made; and, maybe even, it's purpose. The petroglyph shown in the photo above is one that I consistently look for. It is of unusual design and has some variation from sites to site. So far, I have found this glyph and its variations as far north as Hurricane, Utah and as far south as the Valley of Fire in Nevada. I expect one day to find it some distance east of the St. George area. It is so unique I believe this image was not casually made but was meant to convey specific meaning to those who viewed it. Can I conclude the presence of this glyph at these different sites means those that made it were of the same peoples (the Anasazi)? No, I cannot, but this common glyph suggests these folks were likely closely tied and communicated with one another during the same time frame. This knowledge offers one more bit of helpful context to the excitement of viewing rock art. Matching this knowledge with other evidence such as the findings of an excavation at one of the sites, can further narrow the question of who and when. I keep track of about a dozen such reoccurring glyphs. I do not pick ones like spirals, rakes, snakes and sheep as these are very common throughout the southwest. Here are some of my favorites that are more regional in nature. If you see any of them, please let me know where you found them.

Meet "Double Dot Man". He shows up on several sites in the St. George area. Notice the dots under each arm.



And then there is this curious chain of circles bisected by a line extending through each circle to form half circles some of which contain a single dot.



Finally, there is the line that is often covered with bumps, triangles, lines or rectangles. This element is also common to sites in this area. Sometimes the bumps, triangles or rectangles will be pecked solid. Sometimes they are above the line, sometimes below.

Have fun finding your reoccurring glyphs.

Jim King, Field Trip Coordinator



Final Thoughts

Part of the enjoyment of being an active member of a society like ours is the companionship, interaction and information activities like field trips provide. Our desert environment, however poses unique challenges in the areas of weather, terrain, organization and safety. As we move into the spring season, please plan to explore our local wonders with other like-minded members. It's always more fun when we share them together.

—The DAS Board, Jim, Kaye, AJ and Chris



Dixie Archaeology Society (DAS)
RELEASE OF LIABILITY 2017

Send to: Dixie Archaeology Society PO Box 611 Washington, UT 84780
Include your dues



Name(s): Last First

Name(s): Last First

Address: Street Apartment #

City State Zip Code

Phone: email

I, the undersigned, participant(s) agree to abide by all rules and directions established by Dixie Archaeology Society (DAS), regarding all activities, tours, field trips, meetings etc. I do freely and voluntarily agree to release, save, hold harmless, and indemnify DAS from any and all claims of loss, injury or damage, suit action, demand, fine, judgment of decree and any expense thereof, including a reasonable attorney's fee, that may happen or occur to me as a result of or consequence of having attended and/or participated in any DAS meetings or activities. This release includes all representatives of said organization and/or sponsor(s), including the policy that only paid-up members who sign the Release of Liability form are allowed to participate in Field Trips and Activities. The undersigned named participant(s) agrees to bear the total cost of damages and fines resulting from his/her/their actions, thereby releasing Dixie Archaeology Society and its representatives from any liability whatsoever.

I understand that during my participation in the Dixie Archaeology Society outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death (Injuries and Damages) from exposure to the hazards of travel: the Dixie Archaeology Society has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence because of other reasons. I understand those risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Dixie Archaeology Society outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

I certify that I have read the Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement, fully understand its terms and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. I freely and voluntarily assume all risk of such Injuries and Damage, notwithstanding such risks. I (we) certify that I am of legal age and competence to act in this manner. If any participant is a minor, the legal parent or guardian will certify that he/she is acting in behalf of each of them in this release.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____