



# NEWSLETTER

MAY 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

## May Meeting

**When:** May 9th @ 7 PM

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

**Why:** Barbara Frank of Southern Utah University will speak on the Virgin Anasazi and her work with the SUU archaeology field schools.

## 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.

# Summer Party

The summer party is in the final planning stage. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a pot luck cookout in “cool” Pine Valley.

# Field Trip Report

The April field trip was to three sites in the Smithsonian Butte area. This was a great day for a great trip.



A Hard Climb – Everyone Helps



Always beware...



Yep – Road Block!



Nice Glyphs



Photographing the Yellow Man



Lunch



Libby

The Smithsonian Butte sites are located along the Western wall of Smithsonian Butte, east of Apple Valley. There are three main sites along with a number of lesser sites.



## Teachers Rock (or Table Rock)

This site is called teachers rock or table rock because of the geometry of the rock forms. The petroglyphs are located on a large vertical rock that lies in front of a large horizontal rock. It is easy to see the people gathered on the horizontal rock while the shaman (or teacher) tells his stories. Figure 1 shows people standing on the horizontal rock looking at the vertical petroglyph rock.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The petroglyphs on this rock are faded, due to degradation and flaking of the rock surface. Figure 2 and 3 show the major glyphs at this site. Figure 3 is unique and appears to be a deer (antlers not well shown) with a body made up of a rain symbol.

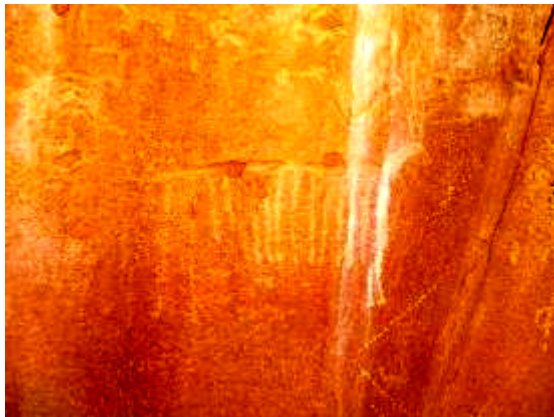


Figure 3

## 4-Headed Man Site

The 4-headed man site is located near the top of a south facing ridge. The glyphs cover about a 50 - 75 foot section of wall.



Figure 4



Figure 5

Figures 4 through 7 show the 1-Headed, 2-Headed, 3-Headed and 4-Headed men for which this is noted. Figures 4-6 appear to be done by the same artist, while Figure 7 is done in a completely different style.



Figure 6



Figure 7

The remaining rock surface is essentially a newspaper rock situation, with seemingly random glyphs and many clan symbols including, turkey clan, bear clan, ant clan, road runner clan, eagle clan, etc.. Many glyphs are over-written indicating the site was used for many years. Interestingly, this site did not have spirals or many sheep, symbols that are common at other sites in the St. George area.

## Yellow Man Site

The Yellow man site is located at the end of the canyon containing the 4-Headed man site. The Yellow Man site contains both pictographs and petroglyphs. The site is located in a covered alcove that protects the pictographs.

The Yellow Man is shown in Figure 8. He is a large pictograph done in yellow paint with red ear bobs. He has a head dress of white dots (stars) above his head. To his left are two

small pictographs done in yellow and red (Figure 9). The small yellow image is a flute player.



Figure 8

The Yellow Man is done in the “Cave Valley” style, with a triangular shaped head and body. The Cave Valley pictographs also have head dresses made of dots and have flute players near them.

The Yellow Man faces North West. It is thought that the Yellow Man was a sky watcher. In this case he would be watching the sky / horizon for the summer solstice.



Figure 9

In summary, there is no apparent connection between any of the sites on Smithsonian Butte. There are both petroglyphs and pictographs. The petroglyphs appear to be done in different styles. There also does not appear to be any consistent subject matter within a site or between the sites.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Field%20trip%20to%20Smithsonian%20Butte.pdf> for more information on the Smithsonian Butte field trip

## Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, **May 19th**. It is scheduled to be to Cana Gap region (east of Apple Valley). This trip contains only one moderate scramble to see glyphs. Others are accessed with a relatively easy (mostly level) ½ mile (one way) hike. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Normal vehicles can make this trip.

**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 April presentation was made by DAS member, Ron Greenlee, who discussed “The Rock Art of the Coso Range”.

The Coso Rock Art District is the largest concentrations of petroglyphs in North America. The petroglyphs are thought to date from the end of the ice age to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The petroglyph site is located in the California desert within the Naval Surface Warfare Center at China Lake. Because the site is on a military base, all visitations must be made with an advanced reservation that includes a background check. A guide must be with the group.

Ron described the petroglyphs in “Little Petroglyph Canyon”, that is one of many locations within the overall Coso site.

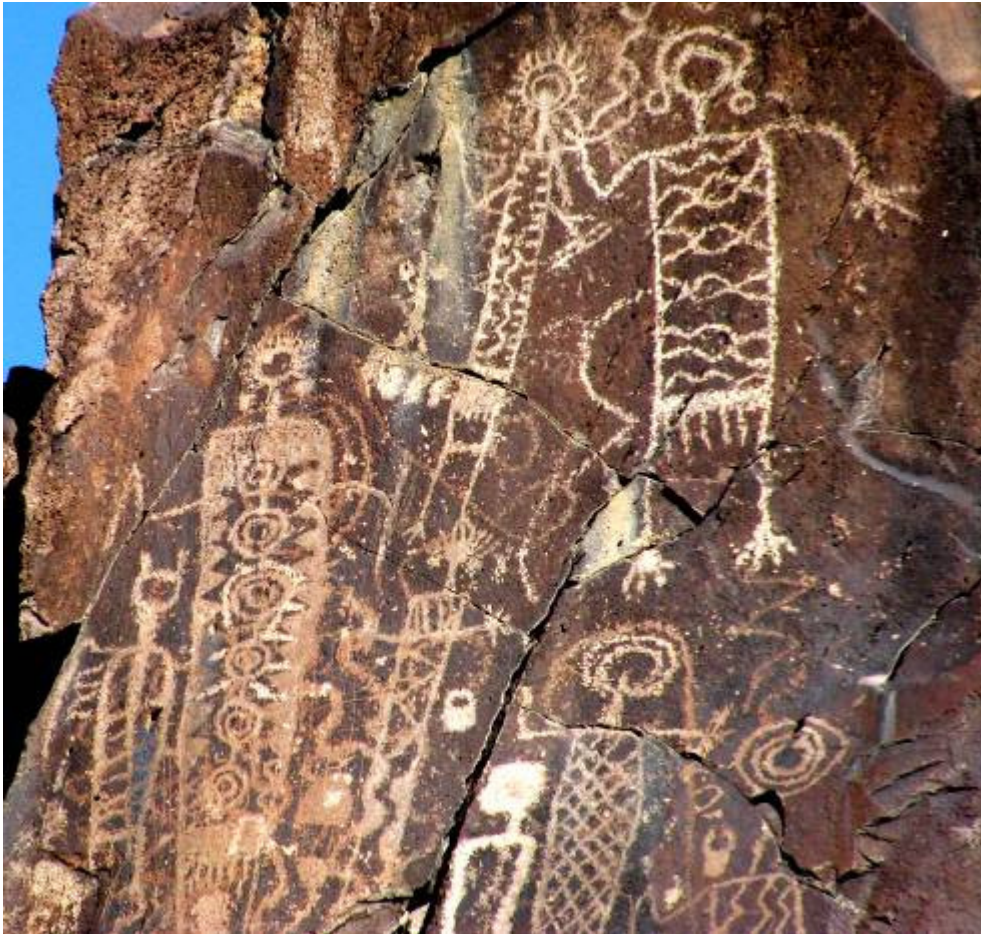
The glyphs at this site are unique a number of characteristic features:

## **Anthropomorphs:**

The anthro designs are unique for their head dresses, body shape and body decoration. The following figures are a number of examples.







### **Sheep:**

This area is noted for the number of sheep illustrated in the rock art. The sheep are present in a number of different body styles and positions, but unique to the region is the position of the head. Many of the sheep have a front view of the head, as if the sheep is looking at you, as opposed to the typical profile view. The following are a view examples of the sheep at Coso.



### **Miscellaneous Glyphs:**

The three examples below are thought to be cloth or woven baskets. Again, the design is unique to the glyphs at Coso.





The example below shows a number of circular shapes, some with dotted lines forming what may be a handle, similar to a purse or handbag today. There is a figure (center left) that appears to be an animal of some sort – sheep horns, circular body, but only two legs.



The example below is of a series of circular shapes having a hooked line going through the shape. This design motif is found in a number of panels.



### Summary:

To learn more about the Coso rock art go to <http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/coso/index.php>. This reference has extensive photos along with technical interpretation of the Coso rock art. A technical reference paper can be found at [http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/coso/dr\\_alan\\_p\\_garfinkel\\_coso.php](http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/coso/dr_alan_p_garfinkel_coso.php).

Go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/Rock%20Art%20of%20the%20Coso%20Range.pdf> to see more of Ron's photos.

## 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).

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.

Please contact Susie Nilsson if you wish to volunteer for the conference.

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

## Thanks

Thanks to Ron Greenlee who made a great presentation. Ron stepped up and did a great job when we found out our original speaker was diagnosed with a cancer. We all wish Frank a complete recovery.

## Final Thoughts

This is the last newsletter before the ARARA conference. I hope all members of DAS participate in some way, by volunteering or attending or both. This is a great opportunity to show off DAS and all the things love about St. George. I hope to see everyone there with your DAS T-Shirts.

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