



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

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
John Macumber, Board Member	Jon Gum - Board Member

October Meeting

When: October 12th@ 7 PM

Where: DSC
Udvar-Hazy Bldg.
Room **219** ***** Note the room change*****

Why: Boma Johnson will speak on “The Rock Art of St. George Area”

So you think you've seen all the rock art in the St George area? Maybe we can show you something new! In this presentation, we'll focus on all our beloved well-known sites, but we'll also look a little closer, and focus on some lesser known local panels, and their meanings.

Come be surprised and amazed at the amazing variety and beauty of the rock art right here in our own back yard.

We'll also show a short "Coming Attractions" video to let you know what will be featured in our Fall DSC Community Education Class that starts October 17.

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.

Meeting Report

“Observations of the Solstice and Equinox Events at Anasazi Ridge”

By
Paul Taylor



Paul Taylor



Paul Taylor has studied the summer and winter solstice and the equinox events at Anasazi for a number of years. He showed photos of the “Birdman” shaman, the “Hero” shaman, the “Bear” shaman, the “Baby” shaman and the sheep panel, all of which exhibit solar events.

His photos show that not only are the location of the images important in the solar story, but details such as the angle of the sheep heads and the exact position of the hands, arms legs and feet of the shaman as well as what appear to be extraneous “markings” are also located in perfect alignment to the cast shadows. He has identified marker stones that indicate the timing and sequence of the events.

Paul’s theory is that these alignments are not accidents – but rather expertly planned designs that incorporate the light into the story of the panel. Paul feels that the story these

images are trying to portray are much more than merely a calendar event identifying the time of the year. He also feels that the light must be a major part of any story involving these images.

His research will continue to determine if other relationships exist with these or other panels at this site.

The following examples of the sheep panel and the “Baby” shaman panel serve to illustrate his work.

While many of you have seen these events numerous times, Paul’s detailed observations bring new light and meaning to the panels.

Go to the Technical presentation section of the website (<http://dixierockart.webs.com//Technical%20Presentations/Observations%20of%20the%20Solstice%20and%20Equinox%20Events%20at%20Anasazi%20Ridge.pdf>), for a complete summary of Paul’s talk.

Sheep Panel – Winter Solstice

Notice how the shadow aligns perfectly with the first sheep’s head (Figure 1). The angle of the shadow then changes and aligns perfectly with the second sheep’s head (Figure 2). The shadow will then align with the outstretched arms of the “Y” shaped spirit person (Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

“Baby” Shaman – Summer Solstice

The “Baby” shaman appears to be drawn with some rather unusual body positions. However, he positioned such that during the summer solstice, the sun first touches his right hand, Figure 4. The shadow then changes shape and follows the contours of his body – The his right side, Figure 5, The left side, Figure 6, The head and upper body of the left side, Figure 7.



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

“Baby” Shaman – Winter Solstice

The “Baby” shaman still appears to be standing in an awkward position. However on the winter solstice, it appears that he is standing on the beam of light, Figure 8.



Figure 8

Field Trip Report

The September field trip was to Nampaweap, in the Arizona Strip. The trip was delayed one week due to poor road conditions caused by a week of monsoonal rains. However the day of our trip was picture perfect, blue sky, bright sun and moderate temperatures.

The journey included a stop at the Mt. Trumble schoolhouse (Figure 9). This is a reconstruction of the original, one room schoolhouse that burned in the year 2000.

Nampaweap is located on the south side of Mt. Trumble, in a canyon surrounded by a juniper / pinion forest at about 6000ft elevation (Figure 11). There are numerous caves in the lava rock cliff face (Figure 10 and 12), some of which have petroglyphs surrounding the cave openings.



Figure 9 – Mt. Trumble Schoolhouse



Figure 10 – DAS members at Nampawep



Figure 11 – Lava Rock Cliff Face



Figure 12 – Lava Cave



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