



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611
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John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Dave Evans - Treasurer
Karen Monsen	Mel & Marie Langness
Boma Johnson - Board Member	

March Meeting

- When:** March 13, 2013
- Where:** DSC, Udvar Hazy Bldg, Room 220 (Note the new room)
- Why:** To hear Al Matheson talk about “The Old Spanish Trail and Petroglyphs”.

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 February field trip was to Serenity Hill which is located south of St. George. About 25 DAS members joined the trip on a beautiful sunny day. The group spread out over the hill to see the glyphs at their own pace, however many joined Boma to gather more detailed information. Bob Johnson and I honored the ancestors by playing Bob's flute. But the dogs, Sitka and Kramer, were the stars.







The Serenity Hill glyphs are from a wide range of time periods based on the degree of patination. Boma felt that some of the glyphs may be over 7000 years old! Some of key panels include



The group then traveled to two more sites. Serenity Hill West is noted for the large number of necklace glyphs and the Confluence / Blue Man site has a large blue pictograph, that is probably very recent but very well done, along with a number of other petroglyphs.



Go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Serenity%20Hill.pdf> to see more information on the Serenity Hill site.

Go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/Serenity%20Hill%20West.pdf> to see more information on the Serenity Hill West site.

Go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/The%20Confluence%20Site.pdf> to see more information on the Confluence / Blue Man site.

Field Trip Info

The March 16th field trip will be to Santa Clara Canyon. This is a trip that has been postponed at least twice in the past 2 years because of weather. This trip will be a 2-3

mile hike (one way) over an easy dirt road / path. There will be some slight scrambling involved to see two sites. Bring water and snacks. This will be about a 4 hour trip. Normal vehicles can be used.

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

Boma and Kat Johnson gave the monthly lecture entitled “The Flower World Symbols in Rock Art”.

Boma defined the symbolic “Flower World” of the Ancestral Puebloan/Anasazi people as the achievement of a state of being in beauty, balance or peace of mind, through proper choices and behaviors. It represents a spiritual condition, not a physical place.

Boma then gave a very brief history of the Southwest and a summary of the religious belief system of the Ancestral Puebloan/Anasazi peoples.

The symbols of the flower world appear in Southwestern rock art and kiva murals, and in Mesoamerican murals, sculpture and artifacts. The main Flower World symbols, always associated with water, are:

- Flowers
- Corn plant or the tree of life
- Butterflies, birds, and feathers
- Musical instruments
- Water symbols Dragon flies Sunflowers
- Water creatures

He showed examples of these symbols in both rock art and images from kiva murals. He went into the meaning and significance of these symbols and how they related to the peoples belief system.

In conclusion, Boma stated that it is necessary to have a better comprehension of the Ancestral Puebloan/Anasazi culture and belief system if one is to begin to understand the meaning and significance of the rock art symbols seen throughout the Southwest.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/The%20Flower%20World%20Symbols%20in%20Rock%20Art.pdf> to see more information on Boma and Kat's presentation.

Thanks

Thanks to Kat and Boma for giving the February lecture and to Keith for leading the February field trip.

Thanks also to Susie Nilsson for her assistance with over 100 6th graders at the BLM's "Day in the Desert" program that was held in November. Thanks to the other DAS members who helped Susie. DAS's involvement in programs like this helps DAS to fulfill its goal of preserving archaeological sites through education.

Final Thought

There are a number of new people in Kat and Boma's class at Sun River. Likewise there has been "record" attendance at both our January and February meetings. There were over 50 people in Mesquite to hear me give a lecture on the rock art. Happily this has translated into a number of new members joining DAS.

This shows the increasing interest in rock art and Native American culture. People want to know about the people who populated the St. George area in the distant past. It also shows that our "preservation through education" method is working. The interest and enthusiasm of these "new" people will be passed onto their friends who will in turn hopefully become interested in rock art and archaeology. These people understand the significance of the archaeology resources in our area and realize they must be preserved for future generations.

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