



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611

Washington, Utah 84780

John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Dave Evans - Treasurer
Keith Rhea - Board Member	Susannah & Mark Nilsson, Board Members
Boma Johnson - Board Member	

August Meeting

When: August 8th @ 7 PM

Where: DSC
Udvar-Hazy Bldg.
Room 219

Why: We will have our first annual Rock Art Trivia contest. Study hard!

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 Picnic

The summer picnic was held at the Pine Valley Recreation area, a beautiful location about 40 miles north of St. George and more importantly it is at a 6800 feet elevation making it much cooler than St. George.

The picnic was great – good weather, good food, good company. It was followed by a performance of the Zion Flute Circle at the campground amphitheater.



Thanks go to Dave and Vicki for organizing the event.

Thanks also go to Dave, Keith and Ken for going above and beyond. Shortly before Dave was to start the grill for the burgers and hot dogs, the rangers came and put a notice on the grill – no open fires of any kind or face a \$5000 fine. Well we had no gas grill (this was allowed) so what to do. Well the guys went to a local restaurant (yes there is one in Pine Valley), the Branding Iron Steakhouse, and luckily it was open. They agreed to let us grill our food on their grill – the meat was delicious and all was well!!! You can't have a picnic without a story to tell afterwards. I'm sure the guys can really embellish it, given the chance.

Field Trip Report

The July field trip was to the SUU Archaeology Repository.

The Southern Utah University (SUU) Archaeology Repository is located in a non-descript building on the campus of SUU in Cedar City Utah. The repository is headed by its curator, Barbara Frank.

The repository holds archaeological artifacts from various BLM and Utah state excavations from South Western Utah (Washington, Iron, Kane, Beaver, Paiute and Garfield counties) and the Arizona Strip. This repository stores primarily pre-history artifacts although there are a few historical ones. The historical artifacts are stored in another repository.



The majority of the artifacts are ceramic pottery shards and arrow heads. There are also figurines, jewelry and stone and bone tools. There are also some fiber artifacts (sandals and a few examples of basketry).

Most of the artifacts are stored in a floor to ceiling system of drawers. Some were stored in large metal cabinets.



Examining some of the artifacts



The main storage area

All the artifacts are cataloged with an identification number and a code from where they were found. However they are stored by artifact type rather than the location where they were initially found. We did not see any reports dealing with the history of the artifacts (origin, time frame, etc.) although I'm sure they exist.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Field%20Trip%20Reports/SUU%20Archaeology%20Repository%20field%20trip.pdf> to see photos of some of the artifacts.

Field Trip Info

There will be no field trip in August. Our next field trip will be September 15th.

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 presentation for the July meeting was a viewing of the movie, “Cave of Forgotten Dreams” by Werner Herzog.

The movie, “Cave of Forgotten Dreams”, tells of the story of the discovery of an ancient cave, Chauvet Cave, and documents the brilliant cave art (pictographs) that has been dated to 30,000 to 32,000 years ago.

The cave is located in Southern France and was “found” by three cave explorers, headed by Jaen - Marie Chauvet in 1994. The cave bears his name.

The cave entrance was covered by a landslide over 20,000 years ago. This fact was a key factor in the preservation of the rock art and other artifacts found within the cave.

The importance of the cave is the rock art that was found within the cave. Brilliantly detailed drawings of lions, rhinoceroses, bison, mammoths, deer, elk and horses are depicted in great detail. Most of the drawings are in black (charcoal) with some in red. These animals are typical of those found in this region at that time in history. Thirty thousand years ago, this region of France would have been cold and dry, but ice free, as the “ice age” glaciers did not extend this far south.

The cave art has been dated to have been created over a period of 5,000 years – with no real stylistic changes in the art.

Interestingly, there were a set of human handprints in one location (in red paint). Also there was a partial figure of a woman in another location.

There were animal bones found in the cave, but no human bones.

One location has an animal head on display on top of what appears to be an altar. This indicates the cave may have been used for ceremony. It is thought that the cave was not used for human habitation.

The following are some photographs taken from the film. Note the loose, free “brush” strokes. Note the location of the various body parts and the relationships of the various animals to each other to indicate motion and action. Note the accent lines, shadows and contrast to give the images form. The people who created these images observed what they saw and knew how to represent it. They were great artists and would be considered great even today!

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/Cave%20of%20Forgotten%20>

[Dreams.pdf](#) to see images from the cave and to see further references about this important cave and its cave paintings.

Thanks

Thanks to Barbara Frank of the SUU Archaeological Repository for allowing us to visit her facility. Thanks to Keith Rhea for the photos.

Thanks to Dave and Vicki for organizing the picnic.

Thanks to Barbara Bergman for her service on the DAS board. Her knowledge and insight will be missed.

Final Thoughts

Its hard to believe that the summer is half gone and its time to plan for the next year. Your board will be meeting this week to put together a speaker and field trip plan for the year and to discuss potential new members to the board. This is always an active time for the behind scenes work that insures that DAS runs smoothly throughout the year.

Please let me or t he other board members know of ideas that you would like to see in the upcoming year. Also let us know if you would like to serve DAS in any capacity. This is your organization; we need your help and want your ideas.

Remember it s hot out there. Be careful of the heat and the threat of flash floods. Explore with care – hopefully in a cooler location.

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