



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

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
Sue Gum, Board Member	Jon Gum - Board Member
John Macumber, Board Member	

DECEMBER MEETING

WHEN: December 8th @ 6 PM

WHERE:

WHY: There is no formal meeting in December. Rather we will have a Holiday Party for members only. Details will be emailed to each member.

Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society web site (www.dixierockart.webs.com) is up and running. We now have 27 members signed onto the site. There has been almost daily traffic. There have been blog replies and a forum topic started.

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

The dues for 2011 are due in January. The dues are unchanged from 2010 - \$20 per person and \$25 per family. The dues include monthly meetings and field trips, a summer party and a year end holiday party – good value for your money.

Application forms for membership can be found on the web site, along with directions for sending your money. You can also bring your dues to either the December or January meeting, however please have your forms filled out in advance. This will help Dave with the collection process.

Remember, you must be a member to participate on the field trips.

Field Trip Report

The November field trip to Indian Canyon was cancelled due to injury, illness and threat of bad weather. This trip will be rescheduled for sometime next year.

Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, December 18th. The scheduled trip is into the Virgin River Gorge. We will see 3 rather unique panels. The hike is about 1 mile to the first 2 panels and is considered a level 3 hike because of some scrambling. The last panel is about another ½ mile and is considered a level 4-5 hike because of unsure footing along a

ledge about 30-40 feet above the Virgin River. Bring water and food. This will be about a 4 hour 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



Dr. Carol Patterson, from Montrose Colorado gave a talk titled “Ute Rock Art of the Uncompahgre Plateau”.

The Uncompahgre Plateau is in Western Colorado and runs north – south with Grand junction being at the northern edge. The rock art in this area runs from the archaic period (3000 BCE) to historic time.

The archaic (3000 BC – 400 AD) rock art has animals with large bodies and long legs. Deer will have long, branching antlers. The anthropomorphs are thin. Single pole ladders (tree of life) are common.

The rock art style changed during the formative period (200 – 1300 AD). The animals and people become smaller, with gestures. Images with bow and arrow begin to appear.

The plateau during the later period (13300 – present) was populated by the Numic peoples (Shoshoni, Ute and Paiute). The rock art style changes again. The people become more stick figure with large hands and feet and spread fingers and toes. The animals have exaggerated paws. Horses begin to appear (~1700?).

The rock art begins to take on a conceptual realism form, with panels being read from left to right. The gestures of the stick figures begin to take on meaning.

There were also abstract designs which at first appeared to be scribbles. Carol along with her mentor, Clifford Duncan, a Ute elder, have proposed that some of these abstract design are maps. Clifford provided the clue that the Utes considered south the major direction (the source of light from the sun) rather than north as we see things.

Carol and her team then began to look at the abstract designs more closely in comparison with topographical maps of the area surrounding the various rock art panels. They found that by inverting the designs and adjusting the scale, that they could be overlaid onto topographical maps almost perfectly. The scale of the petroglyphs was correct. She found that animal tracks with the design indicated animals trails that could be used for hunting, circles were location (mountain tops etc), lines were trails, wavy lines were streams, and terraced lines were canyons.

Carol and her team have shown that the abstract designs at the following sites were indeed maps:

Shavano Valley

Smith Fork of the Gunnison Gorge

Lindsey Canyon

Dry Creek Digging Site

Newspaper Rock in Dominguez Creek

The Gateway at Bull Hill

She is currently working on additional sites.

My take is if it looks like a map it probably is one. So get you photos and your “topo” maps and prove it.

Thanks to Carol for a very interesting talk and to Rich Cline for inviting Carol and her group to come to St. George.

Final Thoughts

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving Holiday.

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