



NEWSLETTER

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

DECEMBER MEETING

WHEN: January 12th @ 7PM

WHERE: DSC
HUVAR-HAZY BLDG.
ROOM 203

WHY: Chris Oravac will give a presentation on rock art interpretation titled "Native American Rock Art: Communication, Interpretation, and Cultural Symbolism".

What does rock art mean? Is it a language we could speak if we had the right dictionary? Is it a puzzle to be solved? Is it even possible for us to understand? Is your guess as good as mine?

The interpretation of rock art is an ongoing controversy. Fortunately, there are some guidelines that can help us separate good from not-so-good interpretations. We will be following these guidelines, and then we'll be taking a glance at four major kinds of rock art interpretation. The presentation is illustrated by examples and photos from sites in southern Utah.

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

The dues for 2011 are due in January. The dues are unchanged from 2010 - \$20 per person or \$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 December field trip to the Virgin River Gorge was cancelled due rain. The trip has been rescheduled for January 8th.

Field Trip Info

There will be two field trip in January.

The first field trip will be Saturday, January 8th. This is the rescheduled trip 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.

The second trip will be on Saturday, January 15th. This trip will be to Kohta Circus in the Gold Butte area of Nevada. Here we will see one of the premier rock art sites in the area. The hike is rather long (2-3 miles each way – I think). Bring water and lunch. This will be a day long trip. High clearance, 4WD vehicles are required. We will be car pooling.

I realize that many of you have seen both of these sites recently; however I would encourage you to consider joining us on these trips for the companionship but also to lend your experience to those who have not seen these sites before.

As always, the trips are subject of change due to weather, as we have found out in November and December.

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.

Field Trip Committee

A field trip committee was established for the purpose of planning and scheduling field trips and then leading the trips. This committee is composed of volunteers: Bob Rhees, Mel Langness, Ron Greenlee, Joe Brame, and Susie Nilsson. Boma Johnson will assist the group. The first four trips are:

January 8th – Virgin River Gorge
January 15th – Kohta Circus
February 19th – Little Black Mtn + a surprise site
March 19th – Fort Pierce + Red Man

Thanks to this group for volunteering. Additional volunteers are welcome – be prepared to lead.

Meeting Report

There was no formal meeting in December, but rather our annual Holiday Party. I would like to thank Dave Evans and Vicky and all of their helpers for all of their hard work in putting the party together which about 40 members attended. The evening included a

great pot luck dinner, entertaining videos, and a raffle of door prizes. The evening concluded with flute music supplied by many of our members. A great time was had by all!

Thanks again to all who made this fun evening possible.



It's Sign Up Time

It's time to sign up for Kat and Boma's next class.

Now Open For Registration!

Coming In January 2011!

ARCHAEOLOGY & ROCK ART

Of The St George Area



By Boma Johnson, Archaeologist



Continuing Education Course:

MONDAYS 6:00 TO 8:00 PM, Jan 10 to March 7, 2011

**Sun River Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room
(Open to Everyone- You don't have to be a resident of Sun River to attend)**

We live in an archaeologically rich area that was and still is, home to many different cultures. In the mountains, red rock cliffs and deserts of our home, we have many reminders of the ancient Native American residents of this land. We see petroglyphs, pictographs, the remains of pit houses, pottery and points- who made them? What were these people like?

This class will examine St George and nearby areas, for the fascinating evidences of Fremont, Virgin Anasazi and Paiute cultures. We will discuss how these people were alike, and how they were different. You may be surprised at the level of sophisticated culture and knowledge that originated here.

We have a variety of all new or updated media, including Power Point Presentations/Lectures, Hand-outs, Videos and DVDs. Class participation is encouraged, and classes are FUN as well as informative.

For Registration Information for the Above, Contact Dixie State College

Phone:435-652-7675

FAX: 435-628-1286

In Person: 300 South 800 East, St George, Utah

Fee: \$44 per person and you can register by phone or through the web at

<http://www.dixie.edu/ce/>

Final Thoughts

A year ago, at the 2009 holiday party, then president, Jon Gum, asked for a volunteer to take over the job of writing the newsletter. I volunteered for that position and the January 2010 newsletter was my first issue. Things then took a direction that I did not anticipate.

At the February board meeting I was offered the position of president of DAS which I accepted.

What a year! First I want to thank everyone who has helped me with my duties as president, including getting speakers, planning field trips, leading field trips along with all the other things (collecting dues, paying bills, getting insurance, securing meeting rooms, etc.) that are necessary for making DAS successful. The board and everyone said they would provide support and they did. For that I am grateful. DAS is lucky to have a great board and great members.

This has been a great year. We've had great speakers, exciting and interesting field trips, good parties and most importantly a lot of fun exploring the desert and learning about rock art. I am personally pleased with the DAS web site, which I believe is a tool that can be used to promote education about rock art. I'm also pleased with all of the new members who have joined DAS and the energy and they have brought to the club. But most importantly, I am grateful for all the new friendships that Joan and I have developed over the past year.

I look forward to 2011 and the fun we will have exploring and learning about rock art.

John

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



From the DAS Board

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