



NEWSLETTER

JULY 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

June Meeting

When: July 13th@ 7 PM

Where: DSC
Udvar-Hazy Bldg.
Room 203

Why: Kaye "Feather" Robinson will share some "Stories from the Ridge" including the Hopi creation story.

Summer Party

The summer party will be a Pasta Party.

Date: July 21, 2011
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Pasta Factory in Ancestor Square

Please RSVP to Dave.

New Business

We still have an opening on the DAS board. This creates an opportunity for someone to step forward to help provide direction for DAS into the future. We are looking for someone who has a passion for rock art and is willing to work behind the scenes to assist in the running of DAS. Please contact me or any other board member to express your interest.

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

Robert Nash of Big Horn Archaeological Consultants spoke on the “**Excavation of Two Virgin Branch Puebloan Sites at the Proposed Jackson Flat Reservoir, Kane County, Utah**”

Bighorn Archaeological Consultants, LLC (Bighorn) is involved in on-going cultural resource mitigation work on several archaeological sites located within the proposed boundaries of Jackson Flat Reservoir near Kanab, Utah. This work has included the excavation of two Virgin Branch Puebloan residential sites dating from the late Basketmaker II period to Early Pueblo II period, roughly AD 250 to AD 1050. Virgin Branch Puebloans occupying these sites not only hunted and gathered wild resources, but also farmed maize, as indicated by numerous pithouses, large storage facilities, and a wide variety of artifacts. Bighorn will present their discoveries at these sites, and discuss their importance in furthering our understanding of the prehistoric occupation of Southern Utah.

Robert took us through the process undertaken at the Jackson Flats project. The project was funded by in part by the Kane County Water Conservancy District because the area will be flooded after the construction of a dam.

Initially a proposal had to be made to secure funding to work on the project. The proposal involved research questions that would come from the project. These included:

- Timing for the Archaic transition to horticulture
- Relative importance of hunting in the Kanab area vs St. George
- Evidence of site reuse and remodeling
- Environmental shifts on agriculture
- Timing of Numic migration into the region



Robert Nash

The steps in the actual archaeological process were explained using the Jackson Flats site as an example.

1. Cultural Resource Inventory was made
2. Date recovery
3. Surface collection of artifacts helped define likely areas for detailed investigation
4. Backhoe trenching to reveal a cross section of a site. This was made to a depth of about 3-4 feet.
5. Feature profile to identify walls of pit houses and other architectural features.
6. Detailed work to define the features and search for artifacts and other items of archaeological interest.

Site 42KA6160

The first site that Robert described was a complex of three pit houses that dated to the Basketmaker 2 period (AD 81-246).

The pit houses were round and faced south east. They consisted of a hearth, deflector stone, an entry way, post holes and a bench. There was a storage pit associated with this complex.

The artifacts found at this site included atlatl points, chert (sp?) from Jasper and quartzite, stone drills, bone tools and painted shaped stones.

Robert estimated that 5-6 people may have lived in a pit house at any one time.

Site 42KA6165

The second site that Robert described was dated to AD 450 – 1050 (basket maker 3 to pueblo 2 periods). Within this site were three areas of investigation.

The **Area 2** pit houses contained metates and foot drums. Black on white pottery was also found.

Burials were found in the midden area adjacent to the Area 2 pit houses. In total there were 30 burials of 40-50 individuals. They were both male and female and ranged from infants to adult. The infants and sub-adults burials contained “grave goods”. The burials were about 6 feet deep.

The reburial of the remains has not yet taken place, but they will likely be reburied on the general site.

The **Area 3** site contained two room blocks from the Basketmaker 3 period. The floor was “paved” and painted. The walls were plastered. There was evidence of “wattle and daub” construction in the walls and around post holes. The floor was at the “caliches” level with some features going below the “caliches”. There was evidence of “lots of corn”.

Robert went to great detail to explain that the pit houses were used over a long period of time by many groups of people. He showed evidence where certain architectural features were modified. There were many examples where hearths were modified and their locations changed.

One large pit house contained evidence that it was constructed over one or perhaps two smaller, earlier pit houses.

Artifacts

The artifacts found consisted of:

Stone pipes

Shell beads

Stone beads

Shaped bones

Shaped bone game pieces

A turquoise cache

Matates

Black on White pottery

The detailed analysis of the artifacts is ongoing.

Final Comments

It is important to note that while the general site consisted of a large number of pit houses in a village arrangement, not all pit houses were in use at the same time, making a population estimate difficult.

At the conclusion of the current work, the excavated sites were either destroyed with the construction of the dam or they were reburied.

More archaeology work at the site is necessary, but is currently on hold waiting funding.

Field Trip Report

The June field trip took 24 DAS members into Iron County to two sites.

Black Point:

The petroglyphs at Black Point are located on a lava ridge at the start of the Red Mountains north of Cedar City. The site we visited faces southeast overlooking a flat plain that was once made by Lake Bonneville.

The area north of Black Point is known to have been occupied since 2000 – 3000 BCE. This area most likely was occupied by archaic peoples, Anasazi, Fremont and Paiute.

The rock art is carved into the lava rock. It appears to be from many time periods and styles. Many areas are over written – Figure 8 and Figure 9. The anthros are of differing styles – Figure 6 looks like Barrier Canyon style, while Figure 7 looks to be Fremont style. The technique used to make these glyphs was also different – Figure 6 looks rubbed, while Figure 7 appears to be pecked. Figure 3 could be a Paiute style anthro.

There were a number of panels with round circles with dots (closed portals) and spirals. There are also ladders and curvilinear patterns (maps).

There were a number of sheep and two headed sheep. Also a number clan symbols; rabbit, turkey, bear, badger.



Figure 1 – DAS members at Black Point



Figure 2 - Portals



Figure 3 – Paiute anthro ?



Figure 4 – Birthing Scene ???



Figure 5 - ????



Figure 6 – Barrier Canyon Style



Figure 7 – Fremont style



Figure 8 -



Figure 9 – Over writing at least once or perhaps twice

Parowan Gap:

Parowan Gap is located about 5 miles north of Black Point at a location where there is a natural gap in the Red Mountains. The area has been found to have been occupied since 2000- 3000 BCE. The area was occupied by the archaic peoples, Anasazi / Fremont and Paiutes. The Hopi and the Paiutes consider this land sacred.

The rock art has some variations in style (Great basin curvilinear and Fremont / Anasazi) and age (differing levels of patina).

However the significant point is the very large amount of geometric linear / rectangular designs. Most unique is the “zipper glyph”, Figure 10 and the “lunar glyph”, Figure 11.

Archaeoastronomer Nal Morris and archaeologist Garth Norman determined that the Parowan gap site was an astrological observatory. They deciphered the “zipper glyph” to

be a solar calendar depicting all 365 days, including one extra day for leap year. They also determined that the “lunar glyph”, Figure 11 depicts the lunar calendar including the 28 day monthly cycle, the 52 week cycle and the 19 year lunar cycle. They also have shown that there are glyphs that depict the nine year Venus cycle.

This is one of the few places in the world where all of these observations can be made using natural features.



Figure 10 – Zipper Glyph – Solar Calendar



Figure 11 – Lunar Calendar



Figure 12 – Rectilinear Glyph



Figure 13 – 14 Sunset on June 18, 2011 through the Gap

Pot Luck Picnic at Parowan Gap

Petroglyphs are good, but good food and friendships are great. We had all three at the pot luck dinner at Parowan Gap. After dinner we enjoyed Nal Morris' presentation of the solar and lunar calendar glyphs, followed by watching the sunset.



Nal Morris explaining the Zipper Glyph



The group (100+ people) watch the sunset through the gap

Field Trip Info

The July Field trip will be to the **Lost City Museum** in Overton NV. This will consist of a tour of the museum given by Dena Sedar, archeologist and museum director. This will be an inside trip, to avoid the summer heat.

The field trip date is Saturday, **July 16, 2011**.

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.

Thanks

Thanks to Robert Nash for his presentation about Jackson Flats.

Thanks also to Boma and Kat for leading the field trip to “Black Point”.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the pot luck dinner. We will do this again.

News

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA, www.arara.org) will be holding their 2012 annual meeting in St. Gorge from May 25-28, 2012 at the Lexington Hotel. We will be asking for your assistance to help make this conference a success and show off St. George to colleagues from around the US and the world. I will keep everyone apprised of news relating to the conference as time progresses.

Final Thought

Summer is here – 100+ degrees. Be careful out there!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX