



# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2012

## 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
Boma Johnson - Board Member	Keith Rhea - Board Member

## July Meeting

**When:** July 11th @ 7 PM

**Where:** DSC  
Udvar-Hazy Bldg.  
Room 219

**Why:** We will have a Movie Night to show "Cave of Forgotten Dreams"

## Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society web site ([www.dixierockart.webs.com](http://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 Party

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The summer picnic will be at the Pine Valley Recreation Area. Things start at about 3 PM with horseshoes and badminton followed by hot dogs and hamburgers at about 5 PM. At 7 PM the Zion Flute Circle will entertain in the park amphitheater.

This is a pot luck picnic, so bring dish to share.

Please RSVP to Dave Evans by July 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have a final signup sheet at our next meeting.

This should be a great time and a great opportunity to escape the heat of St. George.

# Field Trip Report

The formal field trip and pot luck dinner at Parowan Gap was cancelled due to very high winds.

However a number of DAS members attended the Parowan presentation at the Gap and viewed the sunset which was as wonderful as ever. The winds were very high in the early evening, but decrease to almost zero at sunset.



Parowan Gap



Solstice at the Gap – June 23, 2012

We will reschedule a trip to the petroglyphs at the east end of the Gap in the future.

# Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, July 21st. The trip will be to the SUU campus in Cedar City to view the Archaeology Museum / Conservatory. Normal vehicles can be used. Attendance may be limited due to space considerations. A field trip with AC!!!

**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

Bill Banek of the BLM discussed “Vision Quest Sites in Southern Oregon”.



Bill Banek



Bill discussed the general topic of Vision Quests used by Native Americans in the past and even into the present. He defined a vision quest as wide spread, ritual religious ceremony taken by an individual (often with assistance) who is seeking direction or supernatural power. A vision quest is often taken as a sign of passage into adulthood.

Bill described how vision quests were practiced by Native Americans in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Working with Native Americans, researchers in the late 1960's identified a number of archaeological features that identified “Vision Quest” sites. These include:

- 1) A prayer seat or Tseksel, This is a place of dancing, fasting and prayer for an extended period of time either by an individual or with a “trainer”.
- 2) Rock Stack. This is a place of ritual purification on the approach to a “sacred place”.

- 3) Rock Cairn. These are piles of rock that act as trail markers. Some are associated with prayer seats.
- 4) Rock Alignments. These are straight or gently curving walls. Their use is not understood.
- 5) Rock Circles. A circle of rock that do not touch, generally found near prayer seats.
- 6) Rock Hearth Rings. These rings have some ritual activity. Archaeologists have found charcoal associated with the rings. They could have been used by the trainer or companion.

Bill then described his research with regard to vision quest sites in Southern Oregon. His work was in the Winema National Forest area and concentrated on sites associated with the Klamath Indians. The archaeology and ethnography indicates these people lived in the area since about 7000 BP. They were fishermen and their life was adapted to living in marshlands. The shaman was the most important person of the tribe.

These people used vision quests as part of their religion. They sought power from the spirits (birds, animals, wind, lightning, etc.) They believed that the spirit manifests itself in song. The “dream song” then follows in a vision, which serves to give direction to the person’s life.

The location of a vision quest site was not random. Spirits dwelt in particular geographic locations.

Bill investigated a large number of sites. The sites in this area were generally rock stacks or cairns. The piling of stones was considered a form of conditioning in preparation to the reception of a vision.

The sites were generally on rock outcroppings with a view of the horizon. They were often oriented toward a particular feature on the horizon. There were a small number of “prayer sites”. It is thought they were reserved for the shaman. They seemed to correlate to the number of small tribal villages in the area. Most vision quest sites were generally on ridges above a village.

The images are of a couple of vision quest sites that Bill described.



Rock Alignment



Prayer Seat

Bill's contribution to the vision quest research was to develop a detailed form that an archaeologist was to use to describe a vision quest site. Prior to the use of this form in the 1980's, the site documentation was very limited and was most often not useful in understanding what was really at the site.

To see more about Bill's presentation, go to <http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/Vision%20Quest%20Sites%20in%20Southern%20Oregon.pdf>.

## Educational Outreach

Susie Nilsson manned a DAS booth the the Tuachan Farmers Market in conjunction with a number of other groups (BLM, National Forest Service, NPS, etc.) that celebrated the outdoors in Southern Utah.



Susie at the DAS Table teaching the kids about Archaeology and Petroglyphs



Susie and Friend



# ARARA 2012 Annual Meeting

The **Stewardship Award** was given to Dorothy and Gordon Zitting, the owners of the Quail Creek Ranch for protecting the rock art on their property while providing access to groups (such as DAS) to view the rock art.



Dorothy and Gordon Zitting with the ARARA Stewardship Award

## Thanks

Thanks to Bill Banek for giving the monthly presentation.

Thanks also to Susie Nilsson for manning the DAS display at the Tuachan Farmers Market.

## Final Thoughts

I spent the solstice morning at Anasazi Ridge watching the solstice events and talking to a number of people including DAS member, Paul Taylor, as he continues to document the solstice events on the ridge. I thought about the dedication of our DAS members as they go about doing the thing they love - talking about archaeology and rock art and spreading the word to all levels of people. Just in this newsletter we have Bill Banek who taught us about vision sites, Susie Nilsson who loves teaching children. We have the Zittings who open their property to those that want to study the petroglyphs. We have all the DAS members who serve and have served in leadership positions with larger organizations such as URARA. We have people like Kat and Boma and Feather who have taught all of us about rock art and native cultures. This list goes on.



Paul Taylor on Anasazi Ridge – June 20, 2012

What a group of people we have in DAS, who are not afraid to give of themselves to help educate others about our valuable cultural resources and the cultures that created them. This exemplifies our goal of “Protection through Education”. I consider myself lucky and humble to be associated with this group.

It’s hot!!! Be careful out there. Go hiking someplace cool!

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