



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611

Washington, Utah 84780

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NOVEMBER MEETING

WHEN: November 10th @ 7 PM

WHERE: Dixie State College
Udvar Hazy Building
Room 203

WHY: Carol Patterson, archaeologist and rock art expert, from Colorado will be the speaker. She will discuss the **Ute Rock Art of the Uncompahgre Plateau.**

The following is an outline of her talk:

- Intro with oldest sites of Archaic animals and humans with atlatls.
- Formative era - game drives, animals, mountain lion warnings, hunters with bows and arrows
- Proto-historic era - mythology, creation stories, bear dance, cosmic tree and levels of the universe, medicine men spirit helpers, shaman, spirit world - all depicted in petroglyphs and sacred landscapes, petroglyph maps of the Plateau and of the Gunnison Gorge.
- Historic era - political narratives, battles, sign language symbols and petroglyph panels showing historical events from the Ute's perspective. Clifford Duncans interpretations of Shavano, Palmer Gulch medicine site, and other spiritual places.

Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society is up and running. We now have 21 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.

Field Trip Report

The October field trip was to the Mount Irish Rock Art and Archaeological District in Nevada. 17 DAS members took part in this adventure that began in the dawn in St. George. We arrived at the first site after over 3 hours of travel and only a couple of missed turns. However, Boma and Jeff seemed to want to explore the various roads at the site to see where they went. These excursions only went for 1 to 2 miles before turning around to come back to the next site.



Where are we?



Discussing the first site



How did you take that shot?



Anything up there?



This shot will be in a future class



Club member Dazzle

The largest cheer for the day was not for the rock art but for the “women’s” **out house** at the last site. The next largest scream was when Mel told new member Mary Lou Christy that a rattle snake had been quietly watching while Mary Lou was photographing a panel. No photos of the snake as I stayed well clear of that area.



The outhouse

Four sites in all were visited; the monolith echo panel, Paiute rocks, Shaman Knob and Shaman Hill. The rock art was early great basin style curvilinear and rectilinear with later

Shoshone and or Paiute style. There were a very large number of sheep and deer / elk figures, along with rain and star patterns. The anthropomorphs were called Pahrnagat Men, after the valley where the site is located. These seem similar in design to the “red man” at the Lions mouth site – but you be the judge. These are probably Shoshone and or Paiute. They look a like the typical form of aliens and they could be since there is a rock art picture if their space craft and since it is in the area of the extraterrestrial highway.



Pahrnagant Man



Pahrnagant Man



Red Man from Lions Mouth (Similar?)



Their space ship?



Were they Aliens?? Could be!

There were also figures called Patterned Body Anthropomorphs (PBAS) – recall a DAS talk about 2 years ago by a group from Las Vegas who talked about PBAS.



Patterned Body Anthropomorph (PBA)



Another PBA

This site is well documented on the internet as it is a public site and is jointly promoted by BLM and Lincoln County NV to promote tourism in the area. Trail guides are available for the main sites at Mt. Irish on the web. There are more sites on Mt. Irish as well as many more in the surrounding area of Lincoln County.

The following are some links:

<http://www.publicrockart.com/pubmtirishblm1.htm>

<http://lincolncountynevada.com/images/RockArtGuide.pdf>

Field Trip Info

The next field trip will be Saturday, **November 20th**. It is scheduled to be to **Indian Canyon** located near the Coral Pink Sand Dunes near Kanab. The road to the site is about 6 miles and is sandy. High clearance vehicles with 4WD are required. Participation will be limited due to limited parking (4 to 5 vehicles) at the site. The hike to the site is about 2 miles round trip with an elevation change of about 500 feet. You will be going down into a canyon, but there is a well marked trail. It will be an all day 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



Dena Sedar

Dena Sedar, the archaeologist and curator of the Lost City Museum in Overton NV made the presentation at the October meeting.

The Lost City was founded in 1924 to promote tourism in the Southern Nevada area. It was originally called Pueblo Grande de Nevada. Archaeological excavations began in 1925 and then were accelerated prior to the opening of Hoover Dam after which Lake Mead covered much of the Lost City. The archaeology continued to 1941. The Lost City Museum opened in 1953 to store and exhibit the artifacts unearthed during the various archaeological investigations.

The Lost City area of southern Nevada has been occupied since paleo / archaic times when the area was used mostly as hunting and gathering areas. Basketmaker II period (300BC – 400AD) saw evidence of habitation sites – pithouses and domestic corn in the Moapa valley area. Habitation continued to increase into the Basketmaker III (400 – 800AD) and Pueblo I (800 – 1000 AD) time period, where pithouses, adobe construction, joined surface room and increased agriculture were initiated.

The peak period was in the Pueblo II (1000 – 1150 AD) period. There was increased settlement size, increased storage capacity, intensified agriculture and a greater variety of pottery.

The Lost City area was abandoned during the Pueblo III (1150 – 1300 AD) period due to a variety of possible reasons including increased population, over use of resources, draught, pressure from outside groups and the general breakdown of trade and social contacts.

One of the largest sites was Mesa House, a pueblo containing 84 rooms that could have housed about 90 people. This was thought to be a walled, defensive site located about 120 ft above the valley floor.

There have identified 289 burial sites. These sites generally contain various amounts of grave goods including arrowheads, turquoise pendants, shell pendants and food offerings.

There is only limited rock art at the lost city.

To learn more about the Lost City go to the following websites:

http://museums.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=397&Itemid=125

<http://www.sunsetcities.com/lost-city-museum.html>

For Your Enrichment

Native American Day at Lost City Museum

October 23, 2010

9:30am to 3:00pm

OVERTON, NV. On October 23, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the Lost City Museum will hold a Native American Day. The day will begin with a pottery workshop at 10:00 a.m. led by John Olson, an expert in recreating prehistoric pottery. The pottery

class is open to the public and people of all experience levels. It will continue on a casual basis throughout the day.

Throughout the day, Native American artisans will be in attendance demonstrating different skills including flint knapping, beading, jewelry making and more. In addition there will be performances by Native American dancers, including The McCabe Family Indian Dancers, drumming presentations by Julie Smith and appearances by St. John's Ballet Folklorico. Delicious food will also be available for sale. Everyone is encouraged to attend this unique cultural event.

Native American Month at Pipe Springs National Monument

November is Native American Indian Month. Pipe Spring National Monument, in conjunction with the Paiute Indians, has developed a program that highlights various areas of archaeology and history of interest to those in the Southern Utah - Arizona Strip region. Events take place on a number of days throughout the month.

For more information, contact:

Amber Van Alfen

Resource Management

Pipe Spring National Monument

928-643-7105

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