

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611

Washington, Utah 84780

Jim King

Kay "Feather" Robinson

Chris Oravec

Judy Buchan

February Meeting

- When:** February 8, 2017 (Wednesday)
Where: DSU, Udvar-Hazy Building, Room 121, 7-8:30 pm
Why: Dr. Jim McDonald, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, SUU-Cedar City presents "Preserving the Paragonah Fremont Site: A Model Public / Private Partnership."

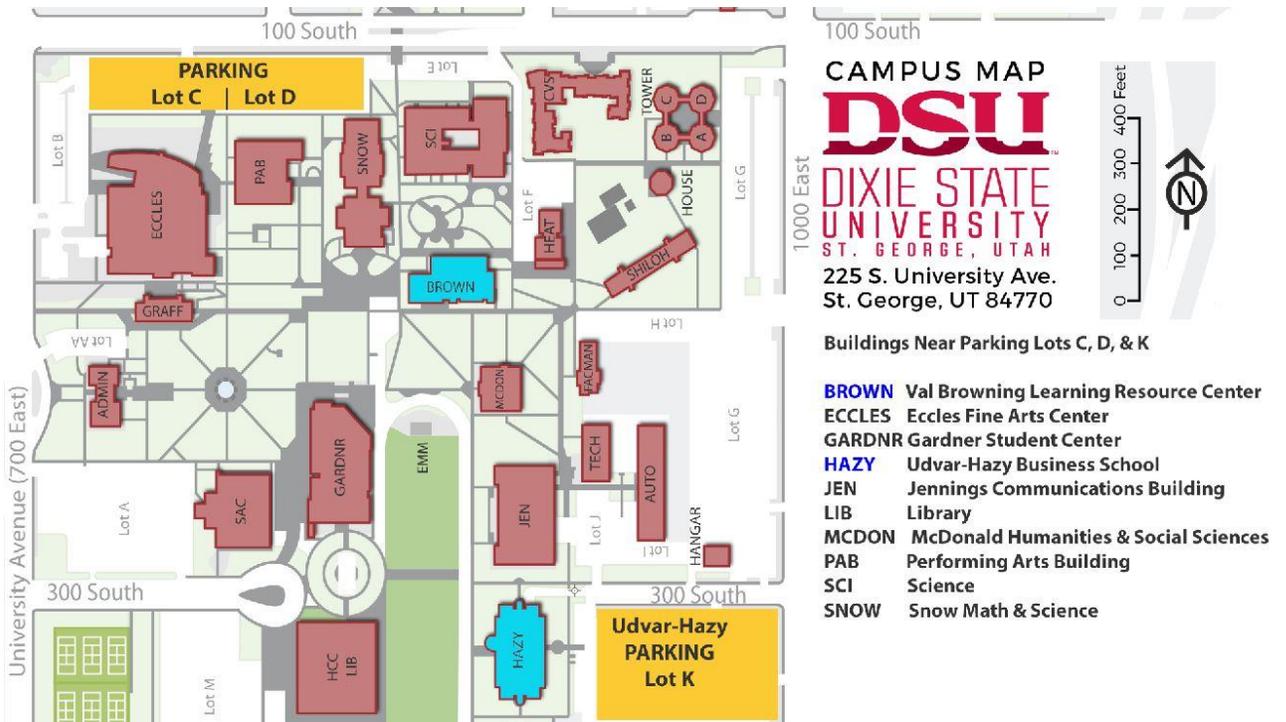
The talk will begin with background on the Fremont and historic chronicling and archaeological exploration of the Paragonah Fremont Site. The 12.5 acre site had been long forgotten until a phone call in 2012 opened a dialogue between SUU (the owner), a wide range of federal and state agencies, and regional American Indian groups concerning the preservation and conservation of the site. This was part of an initiative to identify at-risk archaeological sites in Utah in the wake of the damage done to the Galena Site in Draper with trolley construction. The Archaeology Conservancy, in collaboration with SUU, will preserve the site in perpetuity, conserving critical archaeological resources, honoring American Indian heritage and advancing educational outreach.

James H. McDonald holds a PhD in anthropology from Arizona State University. He is an applied cultural anthropologist with 25+ years of fieldwork experience in rural Mexico and the Maya Western Highlands of Guatemala.

Breaking News! March Meeting Changes!

March's DAS meeting will be on a different day and at a different location. Scott August, internationally known composer and performer of Native American Flute music will give a slide program on the archaeology of flutes in the Southwest. We will meet on the Tuesday night just before our regular Wednesday meeting night. The Browning Learning Center is in the center of campus east and north of the fountain. Parking is in the lots on or across 1st South Street or in the Udvar-Hazy parking lot. Come early and get your spot!

Tuesday March 7 at 7pm
Dunford Auditorium
Browning Learning Resource Center
Dixie State U Campus



Dues are Due

If you have not already paid them, the 2017 dues are due. They are \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a couple. Please fill out the membership form below (on the last page) or download the one on this website under “Membership Information.” Each person must sign the form. Bring the form and your dues to a meeting or mail them to:

Dixie Archaeology Society, PO Box 611, Washington, UT 84780

The dues are the primary way that DAS has to raise funds for our operations that include room rent, liability insurance, and speaker honorariums.

Field Trip for February

The scheduled field trip for Saturday January 21 was cancelled due to bad weather the night before and snow and cold in the morning. These are not good conditions for even moderate walking on boulders and slickrock. We plan to do the same trip in February..

Remember that you must attend the regular DAS meeting that precedes the planned field trip and be a member in order to be eligible to go on that month’s field trip. We do this to make sure that we have a complete list of possible attendees and to give the information on what to bring, where to meet, etc.

Field Trip leaders are always needed. If you know about a location of interest or if you want to assist in learning about new places, contact Jim King, Field trip Coordinator. He can use your help.

Welcome Our New Board Member

We have a new board member! AJ Torres-Robinson accepted a position on the Board. She is a resident of St. George, is a Home Care Nurse, has two daughters, has helpful skills and brings excitement and willingness to the position. Welcome, AJ!

Enrichment and Final Thoughts

Finally we introduce a new section of the newsletter, "Enrichment." We'll include information and content topics that make the lectures and field trips more meaningful. This time Jim King discusses basics for interpreting local rock art.

WHERE DO I BEGIN

"I'd bet my life on it... What we have here is clearly Virgin River Anasazi!!!" said the silver haired sage as he knowingly pointed to the petroglyph panel. "Not so fast" chimed in the youngest member present who was fresh out of graduate school. "Can't you see that heavy patina." "This panel predates Anasazi and moves the likely date to the late archaic or early Basketmaker." "Maybe" said the old rancher "but my dad would say that is definitely Paiute and it is most certainly a map showing camp sites along the Virgin River."

As someone new to enjoying rock art as a hobby you have probably heard this type of conversation. These folks may be all correct or they may all be wrong. So... how do you sort all this out and make an informed decision on you own as to what is before you? The answer is not simple but there are a few things that you can do to take the first step of that journey. And, guess what, the more you learn the greater you will come to enjoy and appreciate rock art and the society of people that speculate on its meanings.

It was not so very long ago that I too was at a loss. I had several thousands of great photos having been obtained by visiting sites in Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and even my home state of Washington. What I ended up with was a hodge-podge of information that was difficult to use or incomplete. Eventually I found myself having to revisit many of the sites. That was fun but would not have been necessary if I had a system of recording information in place before I started. So... after reading what others had done to collect data, I clipped and pasted together a form that has given me a consistent method of getting all the important preliminary data collected on the first visit. If you like, you will be able to download my form from the DAS webpage when it is posted. You may wish to add or delete items to make it more consistent with your needs.

At the same time you are visiting and recording sites you might begin reading some basics about rock art. This will help you immensely by adding a few new words to your vocabulary. Words that describe the people who made rock art and their cultural affiliation. Words that describe rock art style such as Great Basin Curvilinear, Barrier Canyon Style, Glen Canyon Style 5, etc. And words that describe the level of societies such as Archaic, Basketmaker, Ancestral Puebloan, etc. These words may seem simple to you at first but as you become more of an accomplished investigator you will find there is a lot of complex concepts that accompany them. Fear not, you will gain understanding in no time at all. Many of you will find the more you read, the more you will want to read.

Here are three books any one of which alone would be an excellent starting point. I am sure they are available for sale online or to be checked out in local libraries.

Legacy on Stone Rock Art of the Colorado Plateau and Four Corners Region, Sally J. Cole, 3D Press; Revised Updated Edition March 19, 2012, ISBN-13: 978-1-55566-3919

The Rock Art of Utah, Polly Schaafsma University of Utah Press, Revised Edition; January 7, 2002 ISBN 13: 978-0874804355

Indian Rock Art of the Southwest, Polly Schaafsma, University of New Mexico; July 1 1986, ISBN 13:978-0826309136

Finally, there is a lot of information that can be quickly obtained by searching from the web. Some of it good, some not so good but available nevertheless. A word of caution. Archaeology and the study of rock art are ever changing fields. Old theories and ideas can and do change rapidly even those in the books I have recommended. Over time you will develop your own ideas. That is good.

Next month we will offer some more hints that may help you elevate your game.

Jim King, Field Trip Coordinator



**Dixie Archaeology Society (DAS)
RELEASE OF LIABILITY 2017**



Send to: Dixie Archaeology Society PO Box 611 Washington, UT 84780
Include your dues

Name(s): Last First

Name(s): Last First

Address: Street Apartment #

City State Zip Code

Phone: email

I, the undersigned, participant(s) agree to abide by all rules and directions established by Dixie Archaeology Society (DAS), regarding all activities, tours, field trips, meetings etc. I do freely and voluntarily agree to release, save, hold harmless, and indemnify DAS from any and all claims of loss, injury or damage, suit action, demand, fine, judgment of decree and any expense thereof, including a reasonable attorney's fee, that may happen or occur to me as a result of or consequence of having attended and/or participated in any DAS meetings or activities. This release includes all representatives of said organization and/or sponsor(s), including the policy that only paid-up members who sign the Release of Liability form are allowed to participate in Field Trips and Activities. The undersigned named participant(s) agrees to bear the total cost of damages and fines resulting from his/her/their actions, thereby releasing Dixie Archaeology Society and its representatives from any liability whatsoever.

I understand that during my participation in the Dixie Archaeology Society outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death (Injuries and Damages) from exposure to the hazards of travel: the Dixie Archaeology Society has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence because of other reasons. I understand those risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Dixie Archaeology Society outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

I certify that I have read the Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement, fully understand its terms and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. I freely and voluntarily assume all risk of such Injuries and Damage, notwithstanding such risks. I (we) certify that I am of legal age and competence to act in this manner. If any participant is a minor, the legal parent or guardian will certify that he/she is acting in behalf of each of them in this release.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____