



DAS May 2019 Newsletter

DAS Meeting, Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 7 p.m.

Comparison of the Efficacy of Four Rock Art Documentation Methods

Presented by Nicole Lohman, M.A., R.P.A.,
Archaeologist, BLM Utah State Office

In 2015 research was undertaken to examine the measurable differences among four methods currently used for documenting rock art images. A comparison of the variables of time to complete, accuracy, and perceived ease for each method revealed the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. This presentation discusses the findings of the research and provides an adaptable approach to documenting rock art based on an individual's time, available materials, and purpose of the documentation.

Nicole Lohman is currently a BLM archaeologist in the Utah State Office. She began her archaeological career with the Forest Service in northern Minnesota at the age of 14, participating in volunteer excavations through the Passport in Time program. She attended the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse for her undergraduate studies, graduating with a B.S. in Archaeological Studies in 2007. After graduating, she worked for a series of private archaeological firms and four national parks prior to attending graduate school. Her graduate research involved studying the efficacy of rock art documentation methods completed at Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Prior to joining the BLM Utah State Office, Nicole worked in the Price and Vernal Field Offices and the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon.

Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 7 p.m.

Udvar-Hazy Building on the Dixie State University Campus
Room 121 (Boeing Auditorium)

May Field Trips

We had a great turnout for the April field trip and Petroglyph Party in April 20. Special thanks to Marie and Mel Langness for organizing, to Diana Hawks and Feather for interpreting, to Marie and Frank for help in showing how to throw the atlatl, to all those who helped set up and clean up, and to all members, both old and new, who participated.

Two field trips are planned for May: a weekend trip May 17-19 to San Rafael Swell with Gary Smith,

and a local field trip on Saturday, May 18, to Pine Valley/Baker Reservoir with Mel Langness.

San Rafael Swell, May 17, 18, 19

Those who plan to attend this field trip should have already made their own motel reservations, as suggested in the April newsletter. Please confirm your registration by emailing Gary Smith (bluemoose8313@gmail.com, 801-403-6180).

1. Meet Friday, May 17th, at 2:00 PM at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Green River, Utah, 765 E. Main Street. We will carpool to Se-go Canyon about 30 miles east of Green River. We can drive right to the site so it will be an easy day. This one site has archaic pictographs, Anasazi petroglyphs and historical Ute pictographs.

2. Saturday, May 18, meet at River History Museum at 8:00 AM. This will be an all day event when we drive into the San Rafael Swell and surrounding area. We will go to Black Canyon Wash, Head of Sinbad, Moore Cutoff Road's Serpent Panel, Ferron Box (tentative) and Buckhorn Wash. Bring lunch and start with a full tank of gas. Some minor rock scrambling is required to get right up to some panels but all can be seen with binoculars from below. High-clearance vehicle recommended on the gravel and dirt roads.

3. Sunday May 19th, is the hard day. This day is optional. Meet at 7:00 AM at the River History Museum to go to Horseshoe Canyon and the Great Gallery. This is a six-mile round trip hike with a steep hill to climb right at the end. Participants will need to carry food and plenty of water. This hike is for those in good physical condition. The payoff is seeing what is arguably the best rock art panel in Utah if not the American Southwest.

Motel Information: Please contact Gary Smith at bluemoose8313@gmail.com if you are planning on this field trip and have not yet made motel or camping reservations.

Local Field Trip, Pine Valley

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 4 to 5 hours

Meet at 9:30 AM, Hurst Ace Hardware parking lot at 160 N Bluff St

Mel Langness will lead this field trip. We will drive to Pine Valley to view Late Archaic (3,000 BC to 300 BC) and Anasazi rock art. Expect a short walk up and down a creek bottom. High-clearance vehicles are required for the last 100 yards. If permission is granted we will also visit a site behind Baker Reservoir that involves a light hike down a draw. Bring lunch and drinks, wear appropriate footwear for hiking on uneven ground, and bring a hiking staff for greater stability.

You may preregister by sending an email to spencercarola@yahoo.com or sign up at the May 8 meeting.

Summary of April Presentation by Amy Ramsland on Fremont Indian State Park Nancy Kramer

Amy Ramsland is the Curator and Archaeologist at Fremont Indian State Park in Sevier, Utah.

Originally from a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, she has loved history and archaeology since childhood. This led her to study archaeology at Wheaton College, from which she excavated for several seasons in Ashkelon, Israel. In college, her love of archaeology transformed into a desire to share archaeology and history with others through public interpretation and exhibit design in museums. She worked in several museums in Illinois and completed her Master's Degree in Historical Administration before moving to Utah to work in Utah State Parks. She has delved into exploring the historical landscape here and studying the fascinating cultures that lived throughout the Southwestern United States.

Her presentation was about Fremont Indian State Park, specifically the excavations of Five Finger Ridge and the rock art that fills this canyon, and what we have learned about the Fremont people through them.

The Fremont Indians' main habitat was throughout Utah. They lived here from 200 AD to 1350 AD, with the height of activity being from 1100-1350 AD. There is evidence of them using the bow and arrow from 200 AD and pottery remnants from 500 AD. Pit houses date back to 700 AD.

They are named after the explorer John C. Fremont. They were hunter/gatherers but also did some farming. Archeologists discovered stone balls and gaming pieces that were probably used in games. Their geometric rock art is also mimicked in their pottery.

Fremont State Park is located between the Pahvant Range and the Tushar Mountains. The I-15 freeway goes right past Five Finger Ridge. A child on a field trip alerted his father about mining that started at the Ridge, and they were able to stop the mining.

Archeologists found 100 structures, nineteen granaries, and thirty-seven pit-houses on the Ridge. They discovered ninety-four archeology sites at Clear Creek Canyon, forty-three rock art sites, and two granaries; these are the largest groups of structures found to date.

The structures are interesting. Pit-houses were built by digging down about three feet, then built up above ground with wood and dirt. The Coyote Granary had evidence of charred corn, cactus, juniper, and pinyon oak. The Falling Man Granary had remnants of corn, pine nuts, juniper, seeds, and bark.

While there was no evidence of fields or irrigation, there were over fifty wild plants, including pigweed and shade scale. The Fremont Indians must have hunted deer, mountain sheep, bison cottontail, and jackrabbits. Birds such as grouse, flickers, jays and raptors were abundant.

What happened in 1350? The answer might be that the Fremont migrated southward to Hopi lands. For now, it remains a mystery. However, archeo-astronomers are studying the petroglyphs in Clear Creek Canyon, comparing them with other styles. One panel is lit up by the Winter Solstice. It has thirty-seven dots with a man walking toward the Solstice. The other panel is a Summer Solstice panel and shows two men walking toward each other on thirty-seven dots.

On a sad note, excavators destroyed the Spider Woman panel, upsetting the Paiutes and the Hopi. A Hopi religious leader put a curse on UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation), and while some people don't believe in curses, there was a flood.

DAS Membership

It is time to renew or start a new membership for 2019. We are changing the dues slightly. Annual dues will be reduced to \$20 for an individual and remain at \$30 for a couple. This cost of membership includes the monthly meetings and the field trips. You can find the application form on our website, <http://dixierockart.com> or you can pick up the application form at the meeting.

The membership year is January to January.

Please fill out and sign the membership form ([click here](#)) and send it and your check for the dues to:

Dixie Archaeology Society
PO Box 611
Washington, UT 84780

Forms will also be available at the next club meeting.