



DAS Newsletter – May 2018

DAS Meeting, Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 7 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Grant Carlos Smith of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will discuss Promontory Pottery from around Utah Lake and the Great Salt Lake wetlands and its connection to Athapaskan migration. Grant's master's thesis was on Promontory Pottery and he has analyzed artifacts excavated from Late Prehistoric sites around the margin of Utah Lake, as well as excavating Navajo, Pueblo I and Fremont sites. He last spoke to the Society in January 2018 on early Navajo rock art.

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 7 p.m.

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

May Field Trip: Rock Art on the Arizona Strip,

May 12, 2018, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (est.).

Please note that this field trip will be on the second Saturday in May this month.

Boma Johnson will lead a field trip to the Arizona Strip area south of Colorado City, visiting the sites of Paiute Cave, Nampaweap, and the P-II Uinkaret Pueblo. These sites are located between 5800 and 6500 feet elevation, so they will be cooler than St. George. We will travel south of Colorado City about 40 miles to a short and rocky walk to Paiute Cave with its colorful display of Anasazi and Paiute pictographs. Next we will go down to the Mr. Trumbell area, find a lunch spot and look at the Uinkaret Pueblo ruins, then on to Nampaweap to see an extended series of rock art panels and a unique natural landmark. From the parking area, the walk is one-half mile on an old road to the site. At the site there are many basalt rocks to test our ability to get from panel to panel. Our return to St. George will be via the Mt. Trumbell loop road from the old school house location north past Wolf Hole, and back into town from the south on River Road.

Vehicles: After leaving Colorado City the road are graded dirt or gravel. On dry days a high clearance vehicle is okay, but if it is wet, a 4x4 is required and more than welcome, for ride and gas cost sharing.

Trip leader: Boma Johnson

Phone: 435-688-7325 Land line -- leave message if not picked up.

Departure place: Hurricane Walmart west of Hurricane on Highway 9/State Street. We will gather at the big parking lot on the south side next to the highway.

Departure time: 8:00 am sharp. Fill your gas tank--no services on the Arizona Strip.

Limit: 12-15, must be a DAS member.

Please preregister: Please email name and phone number to Feather Robinson (whitefeather7@gmail.com)

April DAS Meeting Report, David Sucec, BCS Project

David Sucec was our speaker for April. He spoke extensively about the archaic Barrier Canyon Style rock-art that is found throughout Utah. Mr. Sucec was accompanied by one of the photographers, Craig Law, whose brilliant photography was featured in the presentation.

Barrier Canyon Style prehistoric paintings were created by Archaic Native Americans perhaps as early as 8000 years ago. The art is unique, featuring a preponderance of anthropomorphic figures. These are called spirit or ghost figures because they often lack arms and legs. These figures are usually placed high on the canyon walls and seem to be looking down over their realm. They often have antennae and oversized goggle eyes without pupils. Some are wearing headdresses such as feathers or crowns. One of these is the Holy Ghost figure at the Great Gallery. The Holy Ghost figure is eight feet tall. It has a parallel line motif, painted and scratched. It is obvious that an individual artist painted this because of its individual style.

There is often a connection between these spirit figures with plants and animals. Spirit figures are depicted holding snakes, turtles, birds, and lizards. Cougars, eagles, horned toads, and leopards appear with many of these spirit figures. One figure shows rabbits running up the spirit's arm, birds are flying over the arm, and rice grass is growing out of the spirit's finger. Another site features a figure with a human body, bird's feet, a sheep's head, and a snake's tongue.

Smaller figures of humans called citizen figures are always elongated ... always moving, dancing or hunting. Animals; including birds, sheep, dogs, rabbits, and snakes are always depicted as being very friendly with humans.

The art is clearly very spiritual and displays motifs of shamanism. There is a universality of the creative unconscious which is apparent in the Barrier Canyon Style and connects it with art around the world.

DAS Memberships Due

Please renew your dues for 2018 if you have not done so already. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a couple. This cost includes the monthly meetings and the field trips. You can find the form on our website, <http://dixierockart.com> or you can pick up the application form at the

meeting. Please make your check payable to DAS. Forms and checks can be mailed to:

Dixie Archeology Society

PO Box 611

Washington, UT 84780