



DAS Newsletter

June 2018

DAS Meeting, Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 7 p.m.

Gary Smith will show his photographs of summer solstice light daggers at Anasazi Ridge. Gary, a board member of DAS with a keen interest in archeology, spent the summer solstice of 2017 documenting the solstice light dagger show on Anasazi Ridge over several hours, primarily on the panels known as "Birdman," "Teacher," and "Bear Clan." This presentation shows the overall complexity of the site. Come see Gary's wonderful photographs!

Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 7 p.m.
Udvar-Hazy Building on the Dixie State University Campus
Room 121 (Boeing Auditorium)

Remember that we will not meet in July and August. The next meeting after June 13 will be on September 12, 2018.

June Un-sponsored Field Trip Suggestions

There is no official sponsored field trip for June. However, June is summer solstice month, and we have suggestions for outings with friends or family:

1. Anasazi Ridge (Land Hill) -- Thursday, June 21. One can go a few days before or after and still see the calendar markers. Take plenty of water, get to the site by 7:30, and wait for the two or more hour light show. Pack some patience. A full list of approximate timings will be available at the June meeting. Here are some examples:

Slanted rock that faces east and had the figure known as the Birdman:

8:31 a.m. There is a marker rock west of the Slanted Rock that shows marks for the Summer/Winter Solstices and Spring/Fall Equinoxes. The Summer Solstice marker lights up there.

8:37 a.m. Birdman's right hand lights up as the dagger moves.

And more ...

Rock below the glyphs that has a symbol that looks like a ladder:

7:53 a.m. A sun dagger appears on the back stone facing the Hero figure. There is a rock in front of the back stone. If you sit on that rock, the sun dagger moves through the body.

8:16 a.m. Sun dagger touches the Hero figure.

And more ...

The Rain God (Tlaloc) panel lights up about 9:04 a.m. and begins to hit the main figure at 9:15 a.m. Some call this the Bear Shaman. The shadow starts out looking like a hand and ends up looking like a Bear Paw. Other shadows/light appear one week before the Spring Equinox and one week after the Fall Equinox. There are many other glyphs at the site that have shadow and light shows.

Enjoy the light show at the site and see the photographs at the June presentation.

2. Summer Solstice at Parowan Gap -- Saturday June 23. This celebration is sponsored and organized by the City of Parowan, Nancy Dalton 435-463-3735. Several events are planned:

3:00 PM Parowan City Office, 35 East 100 North. A new DVD documentary that lasts about 25 minutes will be shown.

6:30 PM Barbeque meal at Parowan Gap site. \$25.00 per person.

7:30 to 8:30 PM Presentation by Nal Morris. A walk to the cairns to see sunset markers will take place after the presentation.

Bring chairs to sit during the presentation. Water, bug spray, and sun block are recommended, as well as sunglasses for the powerful late afternoon and evening sun.

This information was provided by the City of Parowan, but is not yet published. You may wish to recheck times closer to the actual date.

Members of club can get together on their own to form groups. But the club will not take names or signed waivers.

May DAS Meeting Report, Grant Carlos Smith

The May speaker for the Dixie Archeology Society was Grant Carlos Smith, a professional archeologist, who works for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Even as a child, Grant knew what he wanted to do with his life. He was always fascinated with the Indian artifacts he found and wanted to know the story behind them and the people who created the pottery or other objects he found.

In 1991, Joel Janetski, BYU anthropology professor, became Grant Smith's mentor. Professor Janetski assigned Grant to analyze the pottery they found in the Promontory Caves which are located on a peninsula that juts out on the north end of the Great Salt Lake. The land where the caves are located is owned by the Chournos family. The family is very protective of the land, especially George

Chournos, who keeps people out of the caves and feels strongly that the caves must be preserved.

Before Grant Smith began his study of the caves and the pottery in the caves; an earlier archeologist, Julian Stewart, studied the Promontory Caves way back in 1931. Stewart interviewed the oldest people he could find belonging to the Navajo, the Ute, and the Goshute groups. Through their stories and anecdotes; he discovered the type of dress, the design of the pottery, and the way they lived.

When Smith began his study of the caves, he found that nothing much had changed since Stewart had excavated sixty years earlier. Smith explained that the layers were like baklava: cedar bark, then twine, different elements such as buffalo hair remains, scraps of leather, scraps of fringe, buffalo horns, arrow heads, arrow shafts, pottery, and moccasins. The excavation revealed an incredible amount of residue. They hauled it back to the laboratories to evaluate the artifacts.

One of the questions that was asked was, "What is the relationship between the Fremont and the Promontory people? Are they the same or different?" The Fremont are the northern cousins of the Anasazi. Smith maintains that there are three possibilities of what happened to the Fremont people and how the Promontory people came about. First, was there a cultural adaptation? When farming became difficult, did the Fremont people revert back to hunting and gathering? The second possibility is that there was a cultural replacement. The Fremont abandoned the region, and another cultural group replaced them. This could have been the Promontory people. Lastly, there could have been culture mixing. Genetic mixing and cultural blending may have happened through interaction.

Smith's thesis is that the pottery of the Fremont and the Promontory people is significantly different. His analysis shows that the Promontory type of pottery is larger than the Fremont pottery. The Promontory pottery has thickened and incised rims. They are globular vessels and were probably used for cooking huge amounts of fish for feasts. The Fremont pottery varies in size and shape, unlike the huge, globular pots that define the Promontory pottery.

Grant Smith is passionate about the "Promontory Gray" pottery and enthusiastically shared his findings and speculations with the club. Smith and the other researchers' findings are also exciting as they discovered DNA on the moccasins and the results will be published in the near future.

DAS Memberships

It is not too late to renew or join DAS for 2018. 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
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