

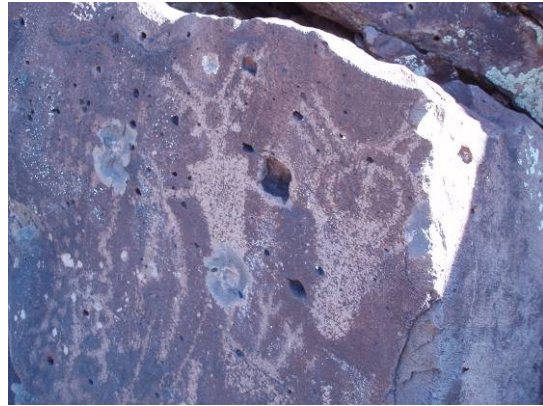
Lions Mouth

On Saturday, May 15th, under a beautiful sunny sky, eight members of DAS gathered, under the leadership of Dave Evans, to journey into the “Lions Mouth”, an amazing site west of Cedar City.

The first stop was to a “minor” site adjacent to a strip mall south of Cedar City. This site had a couple of panels that featured anthropomorphs, Figures 1 & 2.



(1)



(2)



DAS members at the Strip Mall site

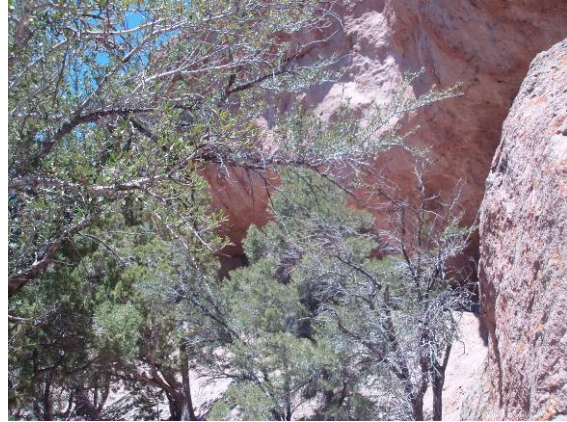
However the significance of this site is its recent history. This was at one time a large site with a number of important panels, however it has been said that the developer of the strip mall destroyed the site AT NIGHT before the Cedar City officials could get the paperwork together to protect the site. This should be a lesson to all of us that we need to keep pressure on our City Officials to do everything possible to protect our historical past from the threats posed by our increasing population growth.

The next stop was the Lions Mouth. The Lions Mouth is an alcove located in a sandstone formation high in a juniper forest. The alcove is about 200 feet long about 10 feet above ground level. The alcove itself is about 10 to 15 feet wide and about 10 feet tall. The

topography of the alcove generally follows the contour of the ground and is about 10 feet higher on the left side than the right. The alcove is generally south facing, with great views of an adjacent mountain and the valley below.



Sandstone Formation



Lions Mouth Alcove from Lower Right



View from the Lions Mouth

All of the rock art in the Lions Mouth are Pictographs, using reds, white, yellow and some black colors. It is thought that the art was done by Shoshoean or Paiute peoples. A report on the internet said that perhaps some of the art was colored over to enhance the images (<http://scienceviews.com/indian/lionsmouth.html>). Some of the images have colors that are very intense while other images are barely visible.

The major panel is on the left in the highest part of the cave. It is about 50 feet in length (3). The left portion is in (4) and the right in (5).



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)

The entire image is divided into 3 parts. There is a line in the center that represents earth. Figures on the line are earth people. Figures above the line are “sky” people while those under the line are in the underworld. The large image in the center (6) of the line is a transitional person; the earth appears to be emanating from his hands.

Some interesting images are:

- (7) – Various types of anthropomorphic figures. Most of the anthropomorphs were incomplete – lacking arms, legs, hands, etc.
- (8) – Bear clan symbols.
- (9) – Anthropomorph with concentric circles for a head. Numerous figures on this panel had concentric circles for either heads or bodies. Note there are other images within his body. He also has a yellow halo around his head.



(7)



(8)



(9)



(10)

(10) – Rain symbol (this was in the sky portion).

(11) – Anthropomorph with a trapezoidal shaped body (with a figure inside the body. The head and headdress are in black and utilize features of the rock for their form.

(12) – An eagle (Knife Wing) who was above and to the left of the main panel.

The second panel was on the right of the alcove (13). The dominate image was that of a rabbit (14) with an unusual scene to its right (15).

Figure 16 shows the DAS group under the main panel.



(11)



(12)



(13)



(14)



(15)



(16)

The group then returned to St. George by way of a number of back roads having extremely beautiful old houses, barns and mountain scenery.

The Lions Mouth is a site that must be seen. It is absolutely magnificent!

Thanks Dave for leading this adventure.

