

# VALLEY OF FIRE FIELD TRIP

On October 15, 2016, DAS members traveled to Nevada's Valley of Fire State Park. The trip was planned to complement the lecture given by Dr. Kevin Rafferty, a professor at the College of Southern Nevada. Dr. Rafferty has spent the bulk of his career investigating the various prehistoric cultures that have inhabited the Valley of Fire. This trip served to add context to points presented in his presentation.

Three general areas were visited. These are commonly known as Petroglyph Canyon near Mouse's Tank, Atlatl Rock, and The Cabins. All are easy to find and should be considered as starting points for those wishing to peak into a more remote site should further trips be made. Yet, any one of these sites could take a full day to carefully examine.

According to Dr. Rafferty, most rock art in the Valley of Fire are either of the Archaic or Anasazi styles. Many of the sites located in the Valley of Fire could date from 5000 BCE.

Our group consisted of twelve hearty souls and one dog all enjoying wonderful weather, scenery, and society.





## Petroglyph Canyon

Viewing the rock art in Petroglyph Canyon requires a pleasant 1.4 mile roundtrip stroll in a relatively narrow canyon. Petroglyphs are many and are found mostly on the northeasterly side of the canyon. Nearly all are on the patina surfaces. Be sure to look high upon the rock faces for

some of the best. If you visit, don't ignore the rock faces located immediately across the road for the main trailhead parking lot. Lots of good stuff...

Could this be "Bat Women"?







This interesting petroglyph is way up high about half way down the canyon.

## Atlatl Rock

The main panel at Atlatl Rock is well know and easy to find. But our group spent extra time exploring nearby nooks and crannies and were rewarded by finding some addition nearby panels. This included a



pictograph panel located in a sandstone alcove a short drive north of the main parking area.

Here is part of the most popular panel. Note the atlatls at the top.

Flowers?



John gets a close up.

Nearby Pictographs





## The Cabins

Finally, we visited The Cabins. Here you will find three sandstone structures were built by the CCC volunteers in 1935 to serve as shelters for Park visitors. The petroglyphs are located on the rock panel immediately behind the cabins.



Is this Element Prehistoric or Historic? Maybe a brand...

