

## Snow Canyon #2

Pithouses, lava tube, geocache, treasure map, a native sacrifice, Kit Carson and yes even petroglyphs. All were part of the day that 13 DAS members spent at two sites north of Snow Canyon State Park. Thanks to Sue Gum for leading the adventure.



### “Kit Carson” Site

Hiking to the site involved traveling up a wash that was formed from a collapsed lava tube. Some mild rock scrambling was involved (1).



(1)

Prior to entering the wash was a grouping of about 6 pithouses. These would have been in visual contact with other sites atop Snow Canyon and would have been an easy walk to the “winter quarters” site (see below).

The first petroglyphs were on the rock walls of the wash, in soft sandstone (2). These glyphs were badly eroded. The one striking glyph was a serpent that was about 4 ft. long and wrapped around the rock face (3).



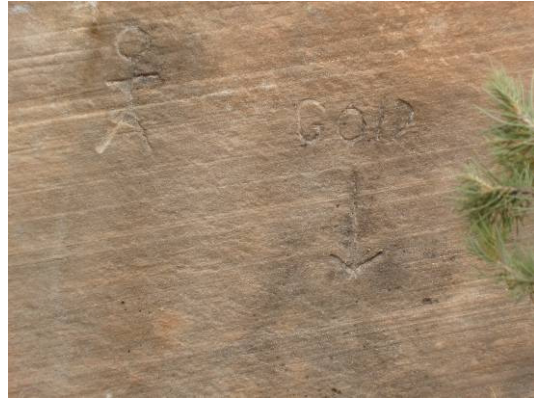
Upon exiting the wash, was a set of glyphs high above an alcove (4). Again the glyphs were of poor quality, due to the nature of sandstone.



In the alcove was a “modern” glyph that said “Kit Carson – 1869” (5). Although he could have been in the St. George area, this is probably not real since Kit Carson died in 1868.



(5)



(6)

We also found something more interesting – a glyph that said “Gold” (6). Do you think this was real? There was evidence of digging below the glyph???

There’s more – as we were leaving we saw a rock “pile” that looked unusual. Upon further investigation it was a geocache site (7). Unfortunately – no treasure – maybe that’s what the “Gold” glyph was all about.



(7)

### The “Winter Quarters” Site

This site was reached after about a 1 ½ mile hike across the sagebrush covered desert and along a dry, sandy wash. The site was located on an east facing cliff face with view of the north and east. At the base of one cliff face was a large basin that would hold a large quantity of water in wet seasons. This site was not in visual contact with the pithouses at the wash entrance to the Kit Carson site, but would have been an easy walk for the natives (about 2 miles).

The petroglyphs were pecked into sandstone with little protection and were consequently eroded. There were a number of panels (4-5) at the site.

The main panel appears to be story panel with symbols that appear to be of three different ages. The oldest area is in the lower left quadrant, with the newest areas being the sheep and bear (?) print in the center and center right (8).



(8)

An older panel appears to be more roughly pecked, with peck marks clearly showing (9).



(9)

There were glyphs showing what may be “spider woman” (10) & (11)



(10)



(11)

Amongst the petroglyphs was one pictograph of a double serpent (12). And then the first sign of modern civilization – the “golden arches” (13).



(12)



(13)

The following picture of an eroded spiral was just a beautiful photo with the rock pock marks and the orange and blue rock patina (14).



(14)

But a surprise awaited. In a concealed ledge was a perfectly formed sea shell (15) – probably meant to be an offering from a native to their ancestors. This made the entire trip for the group and showed that these sites are indeed sacred and must be respected and protected.



(15)



This was a wonderful trip and a great day! Thanks Sue.

