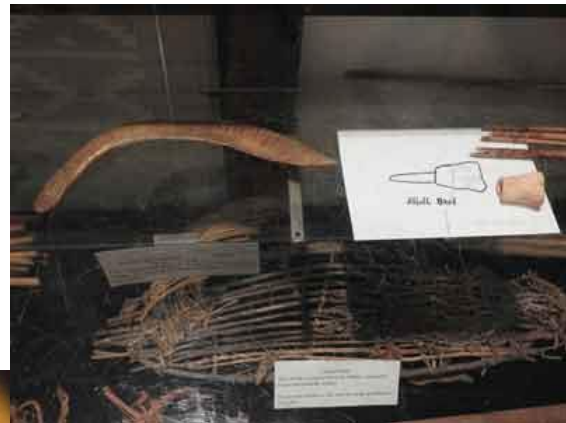


DAS Field Trip March 25 2017 -- Red Pueblo Museum and Bitter Seep Water Glyph by Jim King

Seems the 2017 field trips scheduled for the spring have been plagued with poor weather. So it was with the March 25, 2017 field trip. . . . The weather was cool and unsettled. Scattered showers of rain and occasional hail accompanied by peels of thunder greeted out eleven stalwart as they ventured eastward to Fredonia to visit the Red Pueblo Museum and to seek out four water glyphs and a pictograph reported to be in Bitter Creek Wash. Our host at the museum was Dixon Spendlove, curator of the museum and owner of many of the incredible exhibits housed therein. Mr. Spendlove gave our group a private showing of the artifacts with insightful and informed information about each of the exhibits. His obvious love for the archeology of our area was evident and infectious. Members of Dixie Archeological Society who missed this trip or who have not seen the museum should visit this local treasure. It is located at the northern end of Fredonia, Arizona .



Red Pueblo Museum; hunting and gathering tools



Lunch

Our next stop was a site that contained at least four water glyphs. After about a three mile walk we located the four water glyphs and a pictograph panel.

Water glyphs are localized on the Arizona Strip. So far, about 400 of these unique glyphs have been documented. Most, if not all, have the same characteristics. First, most all are on horizontal slabs of rock near the edge of cliff. Second, the shape is much the same, a circle or sometimes two with a line bisecting the circle(s) and extending some distance to either the edge of a cliff or into a crack in the rocks. Then there are one or two apparently random cupules or holes carved into the rock on either side of the line.

Their purpose is not understood. Some say they were “tar burners”. Other say they were symbols placed there by early pioneers or Spaniards to give direction. Others say they guided travelers to water sources. Some Native stories say they point to the skies. If you Google water glyphs you’ll get more theories as to their purpose. A group of local investigators comprised of Robert Ford, Dixon and Cody Spendlove and Maxwell Hutchings published their findings in a paper written in the late 1990 that you can view at the museum.

Here are pictures of the four water glyphs we found.



Careful, Pam!





And, finally here is our pictograph....

