

## QUAIL CREEK Feb. 18 2017

The sky was angry that day. Heavy rains had recently pounded the area and were forecast to continue. Nevertheless, enthusiasm ran high as the undaunted fourteen sought to fit a few hours into a predicted break in the deluge before weather once again turned bad. The Quail Creek trip had been cancelled the previous month because of freezing rain. All were anxious to see this trip through.

The site is, for the most part on private land. It is a petroglyph site which contains some of the most diverse rock art both in age and in style in southwest Utah. Thanks to the sharp eyes of our co-field trip leader, Nina Bowen, we were able to view an exceptional old and unique style rarely found in this part of Utah. But we will get to that later.

Prior to construction of the Quail Creek Reservoir in the mid 1980's, there was a formal archeological survey undertaken in what is now flooded and on the properties where this trip occurred. Eighteen sites were excavated and thirty one sites were tested. Preponderance of evidence gathered suggested the area was used primarily by peoples affiliated with what was then called the western Anasazi culture. These folks used the area between 600 and 1,200 AD. One site examined was from the Archaic period. It dated around 80 AD. And seventeen post Anasazi Paiute sites were found. The petroglyphs themselves suggest use by various people over a several thousand year period.



They're everywhere...!



Note the Hairbobs on the little anthropomorph... Hopi,  
Anasazi???



Dinner... Zoomorph with atlatl dart.



Five of our group.



“Strap Clan” Symbol



Typical terrain where glyphs were found. Most all were on patinaed rock.



Can you make out the bear tracks?



My favorite....  
Note the unique  
pattern in the  
circle. I find this  
glyph or  
variations of it at  
many sites.



The best for last. Nina's find. This glyph is representative of a very old Archaic rock art style known as Glen Canyon Style V. It is very rare in this area of Utah. It is typically found much further to east.

The style is characterized in part by narrow, densely pecked lines with bodies of both animal and human forms filled with parallel lines. Bodies are typically oval. This figure shows what appears to be a sheep and a deer. There are several other glyphs that are also likely to be classed as Glen Canyon Style V on nearby rock faces.



Some 46 DAS members had originally signed up for this trip but because treacherous conditions posed by rain slick rock were not able to make the trip. And many that did come where unable to reach scattered glyphs on the steeper terrain for the same safety reasons. We need to schedule a revisit soon.

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