

Snow Canyon #1

On Saturday, March 20th, nine members of DAS gathered at the Chuckwalla trail head for our journey to the top of Snow Canyon. It was a “Maize and Blue” type of day, bright sunshine with blue sky and temperatures in the low 70’s; a perfect day for our adventure. Sue Gum led the hike to four separate rock art sites.



The Wall

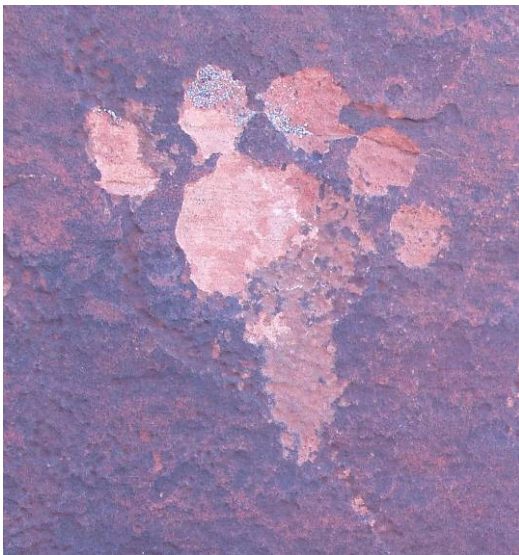
This panel was about 10 foot tall by about 50 foot long and was covered with petroglyphs of various ages, evidenced by different levels of re-patination and over writing. This panel was in a prominent position overlooking a major wash. The panel had a number of sheep, deer and feet from various ages. Prominent were an a large atlatl symbol (1) and a tree like symbol with five branches with what appeared to be well defined round shapes at the end of each branch (2). There were also two foot symbols that had the round shapes at the end of the toes (done by the same artist?) (3 & 4). These figures appeared to be more recent than the majority of the panel.



(1)



(2)



(2)



(4)

The Canyon

This consisted of 2 panels, one on the way into a canyon and the other at the bottom of a 15-20 foot deep canyon but within sight of “The Wall”. The glyphs appeared to be from one time frame, no over-writing and the same degree of patination.

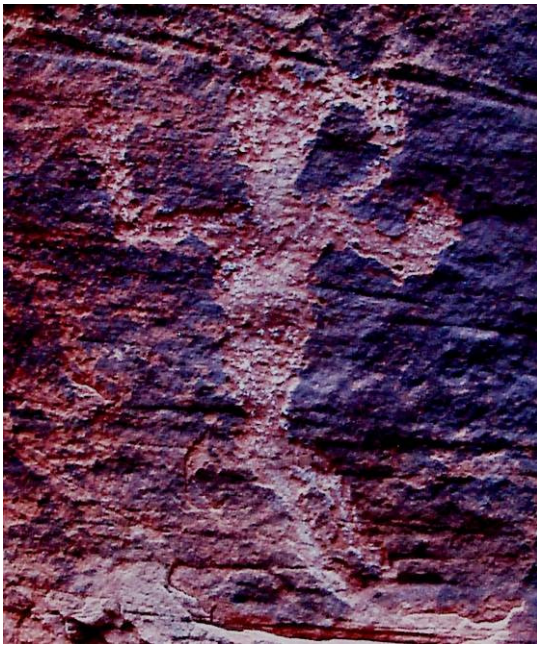
This panel appeared to be about rain. There were two rectangular arrays of dots (5) symbolizing rain or perhaps stars. There also was an array of horizontal line below a rainbow symbol (6). There were a number of rainbow symbols. There also was a sheep with his horns looking head-on (6). There was one anthropomorph (7).



(5)



(6)



(7)

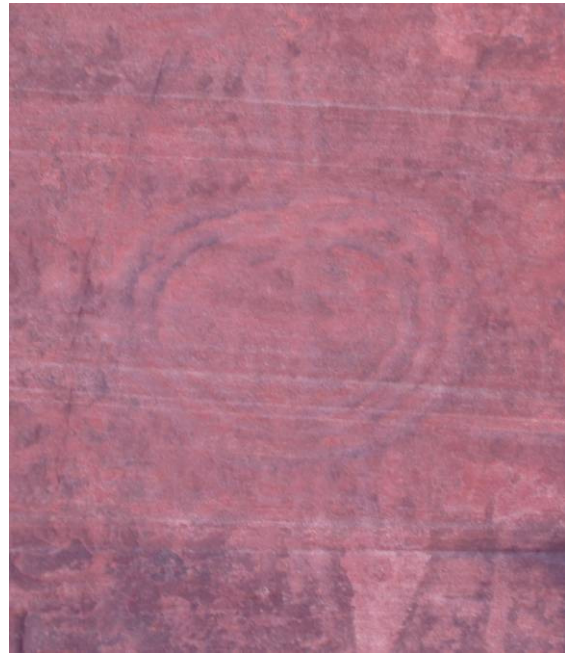
The Pyramid

The pyramid was a stand alone monolith a few hundred feet from the first two sites. Interestingly, the glyphs were on the north side of the pyramid shaped rock. It was a “newspaper rock” panel with number glyphs, with a high amount of over writing and varying degrees of patination.

One section of the panel appeared to be very old, perhaps archaic period (greater than 2000 years ago) where the entire glyph was re-patinated. This must have been an important symbol, or set of symbols, because there was no over-writing on this portion of the panel. The first symbol was a series of 3 parallel lines in a somewhat wondering, loop pattern (8). Next to it was a large “atlatl” consisting of a 3 concentric circles with a set of 3 parallel lines through the circles (9)

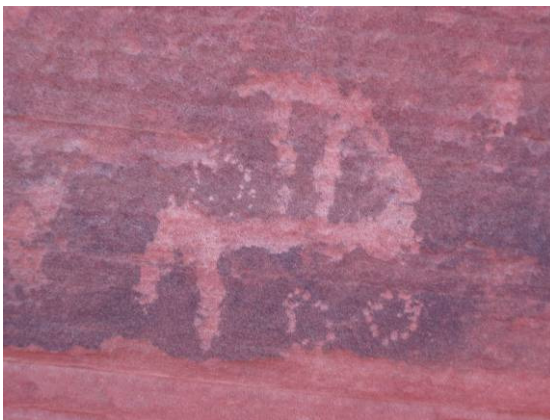


(8)



(9)

To the joy of all my flute friends, there were 2 symbols of a reclining flute player (10 & 11). Next to one of the flute players was the symbol of the Venus star (12).



(9)



(11)



(12)

The Slot Canyon

The slot canyon is located about ¼ mile and within sight of the first 3 sites, however the route to get there is rather torturous, but Sue, Marge and Sandra did manage to locate it. It truly is a slot canyon (13). There must have been a very special place for ceremonies, because it is not in a visible location as the other glyphs in the area.

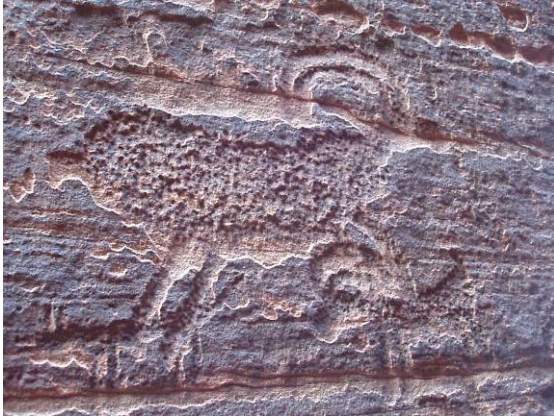
The glyphs are very old and deeply pecked. They were completely re-patinated, with no over-writing. The symbols were difficult to photograph due to poor lighting and limited viewing range. The symbols were a serpent, a tree of life next to a “menorah” (14), a few sheep (15), a deer, a set of feet pointing down (16), and perhaps an anthropomorph. Interestingly, the glyphs appeared to be only on one wall of the canyon.



(13)



(14)



(14)



(16)

This was another great trip, with glyphs unlike any other in the St. George area. Thanks to Sue for leading the trip; everyone had a spectacular time.