

Montezuma Castle Field Trip

2020 October 17

Rim Country Chapter Payson, Arizona
Arizona Archaeological Society

Twenty people assembled in the parking lot for Montezuma Castle National Monument near Camp Verde, Arizona, at 10 am on October 17, 2020.



Assembly before Presentation

We then descended to a picnic pavilion in the shade next to Beaver Creek for a presentation by National Park Service Archaeologist Matt Guebard about the history, archaeology, and some recent research discoveries. Matt was originally scheduled before the pandemic arrived to be speaking at one of our Chapter's spring monthly meetings.



Group Gathering at the Picnic Pavilion for the Presentation by Matt Guebard, at right.

Matt passed out some sample Ceramics from the area for the Group to examine.



Some Sample Ceramics for the Group to Examine





Matt Guebard Speaking to the Field Trip Group at the Picnic Pavilion



Field Trip Group Listening to Matt at the Picnic Pavilion

Note the portable loud speaker box in the above photo and in the next. Matt is using a wireless microphone.



Q&A at the Picnic Pavilion while Others in the Group Examine Sample Ceramics

After the initial Presentation, we moved on to the Shaded Interpretive Center Pavilion with a direct View of Montezuma Castle.



Just Before Arriving at the Interpretive Center Pavilion with View of Montezuma Castle in the Background

After a further short Presentation at the Interpretive Center Pavilion there was an extended informal Q&A about various features, details, and characteristics of the Montezuma Castle ruin in view right before us.

Then the Group went on to the Castle A ruin at the base of the cliff.



Some of Field Trip Group on Way to Castle A

At one time the Castle A structure was much larger than the cliff dwelling above, but it has suffered from greater exposure.



Park Service Archaeologist Matt Guebard Perches on Castle A Ruin and Points to the Clay Mortar used for Archaeomagnetic Dating of when the Structure was Burned



The Field Trip Group Listen from the Shade while Matt Guebard talks about Castle A while Standing Above on what is Left of it



Finally, we moved on to the far viewing pavilion for final comments and Q&A.



Field Trip Group at the final viewing pavilion.

Some Field Trip Members departed at this point for other commitments or activities.

Next the Field Trip group drove about 10 miles to Montezuma Well National Monument. Near the entrance we stopped at the picnic area for lunch.



Picnic lunch at Montezuma Well Picnic Area.

The outflow stream from Montezuma Well flows right by this area almost encircling it (not shown).



At Montezuma Well Looking Down at the Grotto and Across at the Mountains

There are several unique species of organisms that live only in Montezuma Well and nowhere else on Earth.



Looking Down at Montezuma Well

The water is naturally laced with Arsenic. Do not drink. There are no fish.

Several Tribal Peoples view Montezuma Well as sacred and have historical connections.



Field Trip Group Heading Down into the Well towards the Grotto



Down in Montezuma Well

The water in Montezuma Well is not stagnant, as many thousands of gallons flow in and out every day.



Viewing some Ruins down in the Well Grotto

The water from Montezuma Well exits out in the back of the Grotto. Indians used it for irrigation.



A Cliff Dwelling Ruin in the Side of Montezuma Well



Field Trip Group Back on Top of the Well Rim, Viewing and Discussing before Departure

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