

Photo Summary of Arrastre Creek Hike

May 21, 2023

Led by Mike Clinton, RCC Member, and Coordinated by Brent Reed, RCC Board Member

Photos by RCC Members Brent Reed, Melanie Howe, Mike Clinton, and by Phoenix Chapter Member Lee Chandler, and by Dennis Eaglestone, Phoenix Chapter
Sponsored by Rim Country Chapter (RCC) of the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS)

Generally, text and captions to these photos are from the photographers, with some editing by Dennis DuBose (not a participant on this hike). Dennis DuBose is responsible for all inaccuracies and errors in text and captions. Some illustrations added taken from Internet Sources.

On Sunday May 21 ten Field Trippers participated in a hike along Arrastre Creek in the Verde Valley.



Field trippers heading down the road to the trailhead. Note mustard weeds, some nearly 6' tall. Photo by Brent Reed



Starting on the trail leading down into the rugged canyon of dry Arrastre Creek
Photo by Brent Reed



The first glyphs we encountered at the top of the canyon

Photo by Brent Reed



A pool of runoff water, termed a tinaja by the early Spanish explorers

Photo by Brent Reed



Some remains of the historic stone corral on the edge of the canyon, most likely built by early 20th century Basque sheep herders

Photo by Brent Reed



3-4' high Ramparts of the Mesa-top portion of the corral

Photo by Brent Reed



Dry-laid volcanic boulders form the wall of the historic corral on the edge of the canyon

Photo by Brent Reed



Distinctive small circular glyphs

Photo by Brent Reed



Early, possibly archaic geomorphic or zoomorphic glyph

Photo by Brent Reed



Continuing into the Arrastre Creek Canyon

Photo by Brent Reed



A fine example of a metate ground into a very large basalt boulder

Photo by Brent Reed



The canyon is choked with boulders and thorny shrubs Photo by Brent Reed



A classic spiral Petroglyph

Photo by Brent Reed



A Closer Look ... Perhaps it is Concentric Circles

Photo by Melanie Howe



Field Trippers Photographing Petroglyphs on Boulders Photo by Melanie Howe



Andromorph Petroglyph Displaying Fingers

Photo by Melanie Howe

Is this figure signaling us to halt, or is he welcoming us onward?



Looking west down the canyon from the top of the big drop that creates a waterfall when Arrastre Creek is running Photo by Brent Reed



Field Tripper Melanie Howe Before Spectacular Background at Arrastre Creek
Photo submitted by Melanie Howe

Note she is wearing Snake Gaiters. Field Trippers were warned to wear such protection as the Rattlesnakes are out this time of year. And with its many rocks and boulders and tall brushy vegetation, it is good Rattlesnake habitation. However, no Rattlesnakes or any other kind were sighted on the Hike.



Our guide Mike Clinton pointing out a petroglyph

Photo by Brent Reed



Possibly a Hopi clan sign

Photo by Brent Reed



Hopi Fire Clan Symbol Image Provided by Lee Chandler



Hikers peer down into the Rocky Gorge

Photo by Brent Reed



Intrepid field tripper Lee Chandler climbs back up out of the gorge after photographing unusual glyphs just below the waterfall Photo by Brent Reed

Lee Chandler took some Photos of Petroglyphs below the Dry Waterfall that less adventurous Field Trippers did not visit ...



Petroglyph Panel Below Falls

Photo by Lee Chandler



Another Petroglyph Panel Below Falls

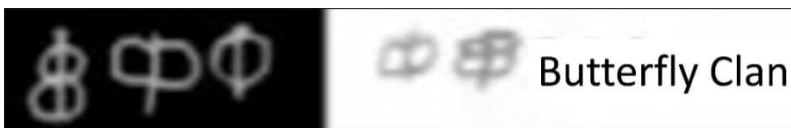
Photo by Lee Chandler



Petroglyph Panel Below Falls Photo by Lee Chandler

Katsina Masked Figure

Field Tripper Lee Chandler suggested that some of the Arrastre Creek Petroglyphs are perhaps similar to some Katsina Masks and certain Hopi Clan Symbols.



Some Hopi Clan Symbols provided by Lee Chandler



A Petroglyph Symbol below the falls that Appears on the Modern Hopi Tribal Flag
Photo by Lee Chandler

Field Tripper Lee Chandler also pointed out that the circled cross petroglyph with dots in the above panel appears as a symbol on the Hopi Tribal Flag (see below)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_Hopi_Nation



Hopi Tribal Flag

Apparently, this is a Hopi symbol *Tuuwaqatsi* (also spelled *Túwaqachi* and *tutskwa*) meaning "earth" or "where we live."

It perhaps leads to a question, "Did Prehistoric Americans know that the earth is round?" Well, yes. Consider standing on the earth at some spot and you want to draw a map of it as you observe it. Scan around yourself for the edge, it is the circle of the horizon. Draw that circle, with you at the center. The cardinal directions are east-west and south-north. Draw them in, centered on your position. Put in some other stuff you see on the earth, say, as dots. There you are.

To put this in perspective, consider this map of the earth below reconstructed from the map of the ancient Greek geographer Hecataeus of Miletus around 500 BC ...



Compare it to a modern map of the Mediterranean (Middle of the Earth) Sea and the Middle East. Hecataeus' hometown Miletus was located in Ionia (currently western coast of Turkey on the Aegean Sea) pretty much square in the middle of his round world map above.



Mike Clinton making his way up and out of the Canyon Photo by Brent Reed



Hikers ascending to the Mesa Top Photo by Brent Reed



We take a breather midway through our Hike Photo by Brent Reed



Field Trip Leader Mike Clinton Rests with Field Trip Participant Ron Snyder
Photo by Melanie Howe

On the Mesa Top Field Trippers got a better close-up view of the historic corral ...



Hikers explore the Mesa-top historic Stone Corral Photo by Brent Reed



The Stone Corral Surrounds an Area of About a Half Acre in Size
Photo by Brent Reed



Basalt Boulder walls are all that remain of a Cabin near the Corral
Photo by Brent Reed



An assemblage of surface finds near the cabin and corral, collected and left by a previous visitor Nails, an expended cartridge, etc. Photo by Brent Reed



Initials carved on a rock slab, possibly by the historic Euro-American Inhabitant
Photo by Brent Reed



More initials, fainter and possibly older than the preceding Photo by Brent Reed



Multiple metates ground into massive boulders or bedrock Photo by Brent Reed



Prickly Pear Cactus Blossoms Photo by Brent Reed

Dennis Eaglestone of Phoenix Chapter was not a Participant on this Arrastre Creek Hike, but he is familiar with the area. After he saw the brief account and a few photos in AAS newsletter *The Petroglyph*, he sent in a couple of his photos from a 2012 visit ...



Follow the creek down toward I-17. There is a massive petro display which I think may be Archaic. Desert Archaic are usually abstract, and often follow the contours of the rock they are carved on. Photo and Text from Dennis Eaglestone



This photo is very near the other picture and may be an atlatl design -- also an archaic subject. Looks like atlatl finger loops.

Photo and Text from Dennis Eaglestone

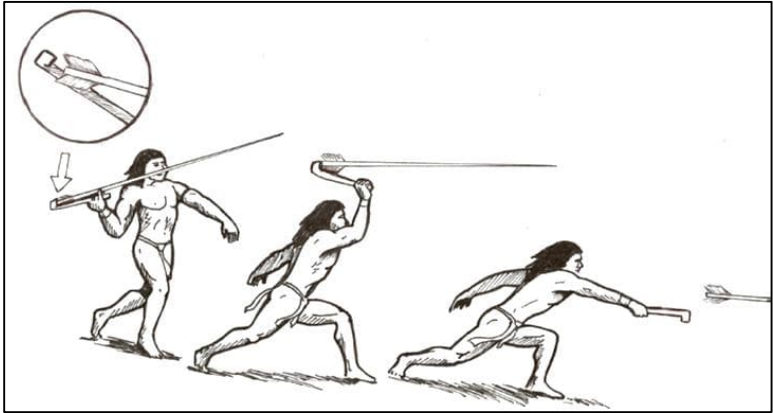


Illustration of Use of Atlatl

Illustration By Sebastião da Silva Vieira - Livro de minha autoria: CAVALCANTE, Messias S. Comidas dos nativos do Novo Mundo. Barueri, São Paulo. Sá. 2014, 403 p., CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=95109348> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spear-thrower>

Atlatls from US Southwest generally had Finger Loops and are depicted with them. Here below is an illustration from a Prehistoric American Atlatl User's Manual (about 400 BC edition) showing the Atlatl throwing stick (with loops), a dart (something like a five foot arrow), and a depiction of a person in throwing stance with a loaded Atlatl, along with examples of potential targets ...



Atlatl, Dart, Person Ready to launch Dart with Atlatl, with Typical Game Animals.
Atlatl Rock, Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada. Photo by Dennis DuBose.