

Oregon Archaeological Tour

From Monday, July 15, 2019 through Saturday, July 20, 2019 the Sacramento Archeological Society provided a guided archaeological tour of paleo sites in southeastern Oregon for 21 members. On Tuesday, July 16 the group explored two rock art sites: Greaser Canyon and Petroglyph Lake. Greaser Canyon petroglyphs were easy to observe since they were mostly located on a main boulder along the road. Petroglyph Lake, on the other hand, required driving on a gravel road onto Hart Mountain and after another short drive on a back road, walking to Petroglyph Lake. The series of petroglyphs were located on boulders above the lake. Many were faint. Photos are compliments of Jan Johansen.



Greaser Canyon photo



Petroglyph Lake petroglyph photo



McGregors and others at Petroglyph Lake



Doug LaRocca at Petroglyph Lake

On Wednesday, July 17 the tour continued under the guidance of archaeologist, Bill Cannon. He took us to the site of the Dietz excavation with which he had been involved. Many Clovis artifacts had been found on the surface. Apparently, it was a manufacturing site about 13,500 years ago. We continued to Horse Mountain, a source of obsidian.



Group overlooking Dietz site



Bill Cannon pointing to obsidian flakes



Group at Horse Mountain

On Thursday, July 18 and Friday, July 19 Dr. Pat O'Grady showed us sites that he had been or is excavating: Rimrock Draw Shelter, Sheep Mountain and Sage Hen Gap. An archaeological

field school was in progress at Rimrock Draw Shelter. We were able to observe activity in two trenches. To date artifacts at Rimrock Draw Shelter have been dated to 18,300 BP. While in the area Eric DeMartini found a crescent on the surface.



Rim Rock Shelter trench



Group at Rim Rock Shelter



Eric's crescent find



Group at Sheep Mountain site

Sheep Mountain, an earlier excavated site was difficult to reach but offered a splendid view of the valley below. One could imagine tracking herds 20,000 years ago. Additional excavation is hopefully in the future. Finally, Pat showed us another observation point for game, Sage Hen Gap site near Burns. There 15 Clovis points among others had been found, dated to 17,400 BP. Denise Ruzicka was fortunate to find another Clovis point at this site.



Pat O'Grady with group at Sage Hen Gap



Clovis point found at Sage Hen Gap by Denise

On Saturday, July 20 Joe Wanamaker led 13 SAS members to Fort Rock Cave, near Fort Rock State Park. It was fascinating to have the depth of excavation illustrated with a marked walking stick. At this cave during an excavation in 1938 sandals dated to about 10,000 years ago were found. Other similarly constructed sandals along with historical artifacts were observed in Harney County Historical Museum, Burns on July 19th.



Joe Wanamaker and group at Fort Rock Cave



Fort Rock Cave



Joe illustrating excavation depths with stick cave



10,400 to 9,100 YPB dated footwear found in