

Date: 4/15/2013 9:19:24 AM

Subject: Postcard 14

No WiFi in this room. No cell phone service. Come to think of it, there aren't any Kleenex here, either. That's annoying.

Today we trekked to Chaco Canyon to hike among the Anasazi ruins. Chaco is a dry, rocky desert environment that was home to pre-Pueblo Indians from roughly 1100 - 1400 AD. They built intriguing apartments from local rocks and imported trees and lived in their little town until drought or social unrest or some other activator caused abandonment. We took the trail to the Peñasco Blanco site and, although the canyon was a wind tunnel today, at least the wind was at our backs on the return leg.



In order to get to Peñasco Blanco, as well as the "Supernova Site", we had to cross Chaco Wash, which we did on a springy bridge made of brush. The wash was too wide to jump and we weren't into wading. Later in the year the wash will be nice and dry, but we were here now. (Can that be possible?)



According to “scientists” this rock art amidst the cliff swallow nests gives witness to a supernova that was visible early in the previous millennium. Yep, sure looks like it.

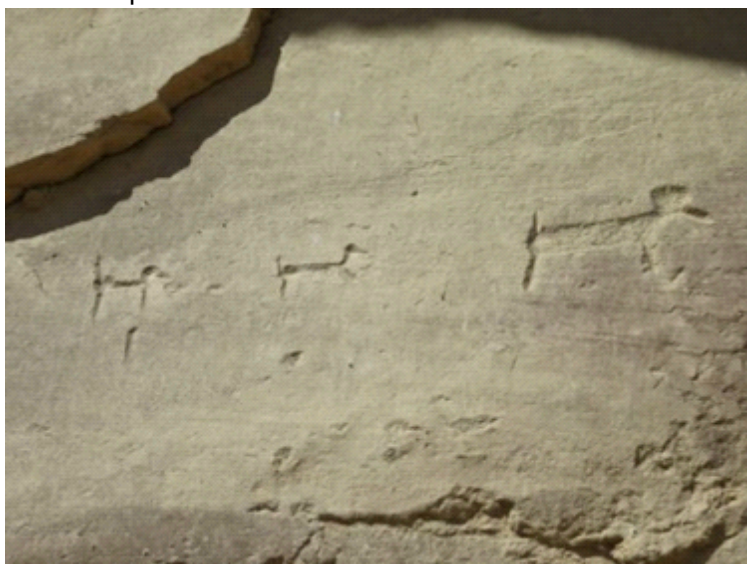


Ruins are an acquired taste and you really have to be there. Luckily for our cameras New Mexico has some of the best clouds in America.





Besides its inherent natural beauty, Chaco offers unlimited artistic inspiration:



By the Anasazi – *"Weiner Dogs on Parade"*.



By modern visitors – *"Chapstick in a Rock"*.



By current occupants – *“This is such crap”*.

Lunch at Fajada Butte.



We rattled down 11 miles of bumpy dirt – those were our bones rattling, car was fine – on our way to the highway, which we took to Abiquiu.

Had Orchard Salads with honey chipotle dressing (added salmon for \$2) and Chocolate Piñon Tarts for dinner at the Abiquiu Inn.

D&S