



SID AND CHARLEY - NORTHERN SWELL



Rating: 5.7 C0 or 5.10+

Length: I

Gear: 1 - 60m rope, quickdraws, light rack of gear for getting to the first bolt or stick clip

Maps: SID AND CHARLEY, UT; SHORT CANYON, UT

Season: Any, hot in the summer

Notes: The road requires a high clearance vehicle. It is typically not very rough, but has sections of deep ruts best negotiated in a high clearance or 4x4 vehicle. A carefully drive Subaru Outback reached the trailhead without difficulty.

Note: If you're hoping for good pictures, climbing in the evening is recommended.

Waypoints:

Turn Off to Sid and Charley	12S 499455mE 4306469mN N38° 54' 26" W111° 00' 23"
End of Road	12S 500022mE 4311711mN N38° 57' 16" W110° 59' 59"
Sid and Charley	12S 500277mE 4311651mN N38° 57' 14" W110° 59' 48"
Panel	12S 499910mE 4311945mN N38° 57' 23" W111° 00' 04"
Panel	12S 499868mE 4311960mN N38° 57' 24" W111° 00' 05"
Loop Jct	12S 499557mE 4311606mN N38° 57' 12" W111° 00' 18"

Hype

Sid and Charley, named after brothers Sid and Charley Swasey who lived in the Swell in the early 1900's, is an Entrada tower standing in a lonely northwestern corner of the Swell. The tower is infrequently visited, but makes a great outing. It was first climbed in 2001 by Layne Potter at a grade of 5.10 C0, then later free'd at a rated 5.10+. That being said, if your not too proud to pull on bolts (and possibly use a stick clip), this can be done at a very moderate 5.7 C0 or so. The climbing is surprisingly fun, with great exposure and position. The summit offers commanding views over the northern Swell and Cedar Mountain in the distance.

For non-climbers, there is an excellent pictograph panel and partial run a stones throw from the tower and well worth visiting.

The trailhead doesn't offer any shade but is otherwise very good, solitary camping.

Tags: roadside, hike, climb, rock art, dog friendly, family friendly, access: high clearance

Trailhead

The first step, is getting to Moore. This very small community is about 50 miles south of Price Utah on UT-10, or just north of I-70, past the town of Emery. From Moore, take the Moore cut-off road that connects Moore to I-70. This is a paved, 2 lane road. Follow it about 10 miles from Moore to where a side road comes in on both sides, almost across from each other.

- Take the road on the north (left). It passes through a gate in 0.2 miles. (12S 499459mE 4306460mN / N38° 54' 25" W111° 00' 22")
- Continue, passing another gate at 2.5 miles. (12S 500957mE 4310137mN / N38° 56' 25" W110° 59' 20")
- Finally, and 3.1 miles, you will reach a junction, with Sid and Charley visible on your left. (12S 500734mE 4311367mN / N38° 57' 05" W110° 59' 29")
- Go left, following the road 0.25 miles to a parking area a short distance from the base of the tower. (12S 500204mE 4311580mN / N38° 57' 11" W110° 59' 52")

Route

Rock Art and Historic Site Etiquette

Rock art and historic sites are fragile, non-renewable cultural resources that, once damaged, can never be replaced. To ensure they are protected, please:

- Avoid Touching the Petroglyphs: Look and observe, BUT DO NOT TOUCH!
- Stay on the Trails: Stay on the most used trails when visiting sites, and don't create new trails or trample vegetation.
- Photography and Sketching is Allowed: Do not introduce any foreign substance to enhance the carved and pecked images for photographic or drawing purposes. Altering, defacing, or damaging the petroglyphs is against the law -- even if the damage is unintentional.
- Pets: Keep pets on a leash and clean up after them.
- Artifacts: If you happen to come across sherds (broken pottery) or lithics (flakes of stone tools), leave them where you see them. Once they are moved or removed, a piece of the past is forever lost.

Climbing Sid and Charley

The climb starts on the east side, up to the obvious chimney between the two formations. Stem up to the first bolt, about 25 or so feet up. Although the climbing is easier than it likely appears from the ground, climbing part way and stick clipping the bolt is relatively easy. Two bolts bring you around a constriction in the chimney, and to an apparent anchor. (1 bolt / 1 piton) Either belay here or back clean a bit to reduce rope drag.

The route now traverses right, on closely spaced bolts, to a chimney. Head up the chimney on bolts to the summit and register.

One 60 m rope is plenty for getting down.

Visiting the Pictograph

From the tower, walk the road a couple of minutes to its end. Look at the cliff band to the right (northeast). You can make out the panel from the end of the road. For a closer look, hike to the base of the dirt and pebble field, then hike up just right of the large boulder that has detached. The first panel you reach is the most interesting in my opinion. A hundred feet or so right of that is a granary wall, then a hundred feet or so right of the granary wall is a second smaller panel with a snake. Because the talus has eroded below the sites, they are difficult to access and in good shape.

A Small Loop Hike

I can't recommend this short loop hike enough for some great scenery. From the end of the road, go to the wash as if visiting the pictograph panel, then go left and hike up the wash bottom. It meanders for a few minutes before reaching a fork. Go left.

Once in the left fork, keep an eye out on the right for a notch between small cliffs. Hike up and through the notch, taking in the views at the notch, then hike down into the wash on the other side of the notch. Follow this back to the main wash you initially hiked up and follow it back to the trailhead.

