

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **October 19 - 21, 2015**

Destination: **Indian Creek and Canyonlands National Park Rock Art**

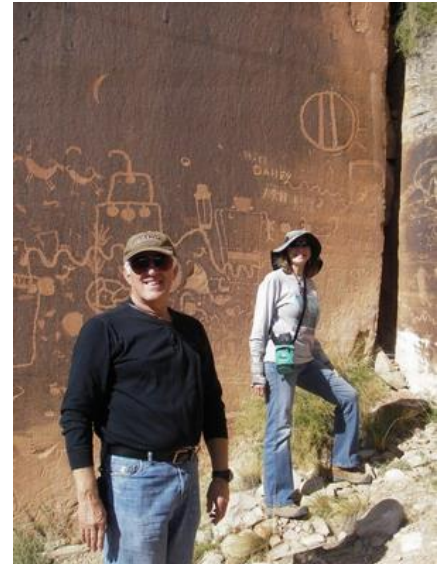
Leaders: **Barb and Lyle Hancock**

Number of Participants: **13**

Despite a rainy weather forecast, thirteen hardy SJBAS members headed to Utah to visit a variety of rock art panels in Indian Creek Canyon and the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. We met at Newspaper Rock State Park, had lunch, and viewed the popular Newspaper Rock panel. Petroglyphs from Archaic, Fremont, and Ancestral Puebloan culture groups were represented, and there were also many historic petroglyphs and inscriptions. Over the next few hours, the group visited numerous panels along the highway; many were just a short walk from the vehicles, but we were glad to have binoculars.

We camped in the group campsite at Squaw Flat Campground in the spectacular Needles District. After a group happy hour and almost after everyone had finished dinner, the heavens cut loose with driving rain, hail, and some lightning. Water careened off the nearby sandstone formations and small creeks flowed through the campsite. Almost everyone stayed dry under the tarps and shelters we had set up, but one tent got flooded.

Unfortunately, it rained almost all night and the roads we needed to access a number of wonderful panels were impassible on Tuesday. The group made the best of the situation, with a few driving to Blanding to visit the Edge of the Cedars State Park and Museum and the rest hiking in the Needles backcountry. The Edge of the Cedars Museum is truly exceptional. Their presentation of rock art was fabulous, with accurate depictions of actual rock art panels painted on museum walls and many wonderful rock art photos with explanations of style and location. Many panels were reproductions of rock art that was flooded by Lake Powell. They have a



wonderful pottery display of at least a hundred pieces with a computer setup that allowed the viewer to use the mouse to “click on” a piece and have an explanation of its utility, what style it was, and where it came from. The Chacoan great house at the park has been partially reconstructed; there were many helpful interpretive signs and visitors could climb down into a well-preserved kiva.

It rained again on the second night and the third morning was wet, so everyone went home.

Prepared by: Lyle Hancock

Participants: Barb and Lyle Hancock, Jim Mueller, Rhonda Raffo, Joan Kellogg, Susan Whitfield, Letha and Bill Cagle, Sherry Suenram, Kristine Johnson, Jay Culver, Marion and Andy Simon