

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **April 20 - 22, 2015** Destination: **Cedar Mesa and Natural Bridges National Monument**

Leader: **Lyle Hancock** Number of Participants: **11**

Eleven SJBAS members took part in this camping/motel trip in SE Utah. On our first day, some of us stopped at the Shiloh Bakery in Cortez for their delicious cinnamon rolls right out of the oven, and then drove to Cedar Mesa where we set up camp and had lunch at the dispersed BLM campsite in Comb Wash. We carpooled to Road Canyon for an afternoon hike to a popular ancestral Puebloan site known as Fallen Roof ruin (see photo in NYT article below). The weather was perfect. We returned to camp in time for happy hour, dinner under the stars, and a cheerful campfire.

We spent the second day in Natural Bridges National Monument hiking to several PI and PII habitation sites and older petroglyph and pictograph panels in White Canyon above Sipapu Bridge and at Kachina Bridge. We ran into a Park Service archaeologist who was supervising a small crew doing stabilization work at one of the sites we visited. She provided some good insights to the sites we were exploring.



On the last day we ventured into an unnamed canyon west of Highway 261 to find the Shield House complex. After some demanding hiking, scrambling around many pour offs and huge boulders that filled the canyon, we reached the site. It was a fascinating place that is visited by very few people. We made it back to our vehicles later in the afternoon than planned, but everyone made it home by dark.

Prepared by: Lyle Hancock

Participants: Peggy Morris, Jim Mueller, Rhonda Raffo, Susan Whitfield, Cathy Callahan, Sherry Suenram, Barb Hancock, Lyle Hancock, Bill Cagle, Linda Lawler, Carl Gutknecht