

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **March 31 – April 2, 2012**

Destination: **Northwest Colorado**

Leaders: **Gail and Marlo Schulz**

Number of Participants: **7**

On March 31, seven SJBAS members traveled to Dinosaur National Monument to look at dinosaur fossils and petroglyphs. To break up the long drive, we stopped in Rabbit Valley to hike the Trail Through Time located north of I-70 west of Grand Junction. This site contains the remains of eight species of dinosaur, two chelonians (turtles) and more than 130 plant species. I am not sure that we saw all of them, particularly since vandals had stolen 350 pounds of fossils three weeks prior to the opening of the park, but it was an enjoyable walk.

Marlo and Gail arrived early to Green River Campground and reserved spots for our group; the site is along the Green River and is very relaxing. The next morning we met BLM Archaeologist Michael Selle in Rangely for a tour of eight petroglyph sites in the Canyon Pintado National Historic District. The last area he took us to had holes ground into the rock surface that must have been alignments but there has not been a study of this site to determine for sure what these holes were used as. There was also a set of three holes that were in a line. We did not have exact explanations for these oddities, but they left us with lots of good speculative thoughts and conversations.

The next day we went to the McConkie Ranch in the Dry Fork to view their many impressive petroglyphs. The final panel, called the Three Kings, is very impressive and was written up in the January 1980 National Geographic. It is a must see! The glyphs are from the 1000 to 1200 AD period, and several styles can also be observed at Canyonlands National Park and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, that are of this Fremont Style. There are also many pit houses in this valley.

After lunch, we went to the Utah Natural History Museum in Vernal. To end the day, we drove out to view the McKee springs petroglyph site, which was spectacular, just smaller in area. We spent the morning of our last day driving out to the Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery, which has a cool refreshing stream. This area provided for us an easy hike with some archaeological interest has a lot to offer. It deserves much more attention!

- Prepared by Rich Robinson

Participants: Rich Robinson, Linda Robinson, Rhonda Raffo, Jim Mueller, Tom Hannula, Lydine Hannula, Irene Wanner