

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **September 27 - 30, 2014**

Destination: **Horseshoe Canyon and Capitol Reef**

Leader: **Lyle Hancock**

Number of Participants: **9**

Despite a marginal weather forecast, nine intrepid SJBAS members joined forces to travel to the remote Horseshoe Canyon unit of Canyonlands National Park and to rock art and historical sites in and near Capitol Reef National Park. After a rainy evening at the Horseshoe Canyon dispersed campsite, the group had clear skies for the hike into Horseshoe Canyon to see world famous Barrier Canyon pictograph and petroglyph panels.



The group then traveled to Capitol Reef to camp in the secluded group campsite at Fruita Campground. The following day they visited the Cove site near Torrey where they viewed many Fremont images, including especially prominent pictographs that looked like huge headless elk. They returned to Capitol Reef to hike into Capitol Gorge and see the pioneer access route into the Fruita settlement, view pioneer names carved into the rock walls, and view a variety of petroglyphs. An additional hike took the group to a site called the Tanks, huge water-filled basins in a side canyon that served as a water source for indigenous people and pioneers. The group finished the day with a delicious gourmet dinner at Café Diablo in Torrey.

The last day included visits to historical sites in the park, including the Gifford House, the one-room Fruita schoolhouse, the Behunin cabin, and a popular rock art panel along the Fremont River.

Prepared by: Lyle Hancock

Participants: Barb and Lyle Hancock, Cathy Callahan, Sherry Suenram, Susan Whitfield, Tish and Pete Varney, etc.