



SUNSET & STORM – STANDING ROCKS BACKGROUND RIGHT – 5/8 19:10

# May 4, 2017

May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you.

- 3:49 cloudy and 51 F with a slight breeze, driving by the prison where Ranger is being boarded and trained.
- 17:30 Indiana and rain, rain, rain
- 20:12 Illinois the Land of Lincoln
- 23:25 Missouri stop at a Love's for fuel and a 4 hour nap 547 miles behind us



# May 5

- 4:00 driving through Missouri
- 6:26 hit Kansas. It is a big state but sunny and 64 F and very pleasant. We cooked up some bacon – to go with the Rockstar.
- 12:48 (10:48 Ohio time) we hit Colorado and drive to our first photo stop in Genoa CO, the Wonder View Tower – See 6 States and one of the owners drives up, chats for a while.
- 19:50 at Rifle CO Wal-Mart getting food
- 20:50 Grand Junction CO did a Jeep Sleep in the Visitor Center Grand Junction and visited the war memorial there. Weather was great sunny and 70 but didn't sleep well.





## May 6

Up at sunrise driving north toward Rangely, this cuts through a valley and turns into a small mountain with lots of trees and we see a lot of large deer. Then down the other side into Canyon Pintado to see our first rock art. These are a series of road pull-off's easy to find. We take a few pics, then on to Island Park on the back side of Dinosaur National Monument for some real rock art arriving at the panels at 12:23. In Utah at 12:30 68 F and sunny – have driven 1,654 miles



ISLAND PARK ROCK ART





19:25 We find the gate to Black Dragon Canyon but thinking it in a wash I drive the wrong way, head back, then find the canyon and drive into it. We are the only ones there. Besides the dragon, there is a barrier style piece that is heavily marked on, and another site with smaller drawings. All the big pieces are outlined in white paint or chalk.







**BLACK DRAGON CANYON**











## May 7

Another Jeep Sleep this time in Green River – then drove back to the Black Dragon and hooked up the GoPro on the hood and drove into the canyon and then back out. It was 60 F and sunny, I headed to Wolf Canyon and hiked in, discovered I was in Spring Canyon and decided to venture into the correct canyon and it took longer than I expected and while scenic didn't provide many photo opportunities, or at least nothing unique for this time of day. We are off towards Hanksville at 14:17 drove past Butterfly Bend but it was long and down and hot, skipped the hike in. We setup the tent in Hanksville and waited for the showers to be cleaned.

After showering we drove toward the Henry Mountains with hope of finding the buffalo herd. We drove for a long time and thought we were near the top of the mountain when we hit Dandelion Flats. Looking at the map we still had a long way to go, thought about returning but pressed on. I thought that the map must have been wrong. We had to cross Bull Creek 2 times and it was a little deeper than it looked but we bounced across quickly and it was no problem. We got to Wickiup Pass and decided to bail out by hitting the next route down which was Eagle Pass. We got to the peak but the last 100 yards was still in snow so we had to back down the mountain for a while. We made it back down ok, but with light fading we were a little nervous. It is no wonder that we didn't see a single person on the mountain paths, only deer. We picked up some brake noise on the way down and the front end started knocking as it has in the past, probably rocks stuck somewhere on the frame. Off the mountain at 19:30 in good shape





WOLF CANYON



# May 8

It was a cold and windy night in Hanksville and didn't get a lot of sleep, we tore down our tent and were on our way to Panorama Point, it was cloudy. We checked into the ranger station and towards our camp at 9:05. It is a rocky trail but made it in good time; it took us about 3 hours to go 8 miles. We setup camp and had some lunch which was special because of the squashed bread (rocky trails + gravity = squashed bread). We hiked to the tip of the point and we had nice clouds and a light rain mist but could see a storm developing in the canyon with lightning so I needed to get prepped and so we returned to camp. It was 80F and breezy and as the sun was setting we got a little lightning storm to watch and a pretty good light show with some color in the clouds and a nice little rainbow.







STORM IN THE CANYON – CHOCOLATE DROPS LOWER LEFT – STANDING ROCKS LOWER RIGHT – 5/8 18:57



# May 9

Off we go, leaving Panorama Point at 9:50 (7:50 OH) 50 F. I got a lot of storm and a couple lightning shots at sunset. We slept in the tent on the ground with just sleeping bags. Today it is cloudy and looks like rain. Elevation is 6640 and we make the 8 miles back at 13:15. We had the GoPro on the hood for the climb out of the canyon. We bottomed out once hitting the frame on some rocks, I picked the wrong line. I am not feeling great and worry about rain on the Flint Trail so we head to Hans Flat Ranger station for a weather update. Ranger says that it should rain but the heavy stuff should start at 3:00 PM and last for 24 hours which worries me. Skies are gray and the trail in can be muddy, we opt to go around the Flint Trail and enter via Hite and stay at a different camp called Sunset Pass. We fuel up at Hanksville and eat a meal at the burger shack. At Sunset pass we find some great rocks and petrified wood. This location is just 2 miles from Clearwater Canyon and one of my targeted hikes, this one to the Perfect Panel.



ENTERING GLEN CANYON AT HITE – ON OUR WAY TO THE MAZE



# May 10

We leave Sunrise Point camp at 6:15 and backtrack 2 miles to Clearwater parking in the wash. This hike is a couple miles into the canyon and I have two sets of directions and they are different, so I'm following the Michael Kelsey map and my Google Earth photo. The first part of the hike is in the wash so it's sandy, we stay on rocks as soon as possible. Soon we find the cave and we are confident we are on the right path, we continue and find a huge drop off mid-canyon so abrupt and invisible that it took my stomach away for a second. It's a long way down, we follow the directions around to the right and in about a half hour of scrambling find the ledge that leads to the Perfect Panel.



MOUTH OF THE CANYON – END OF SAND



INSIDE THE CANYON

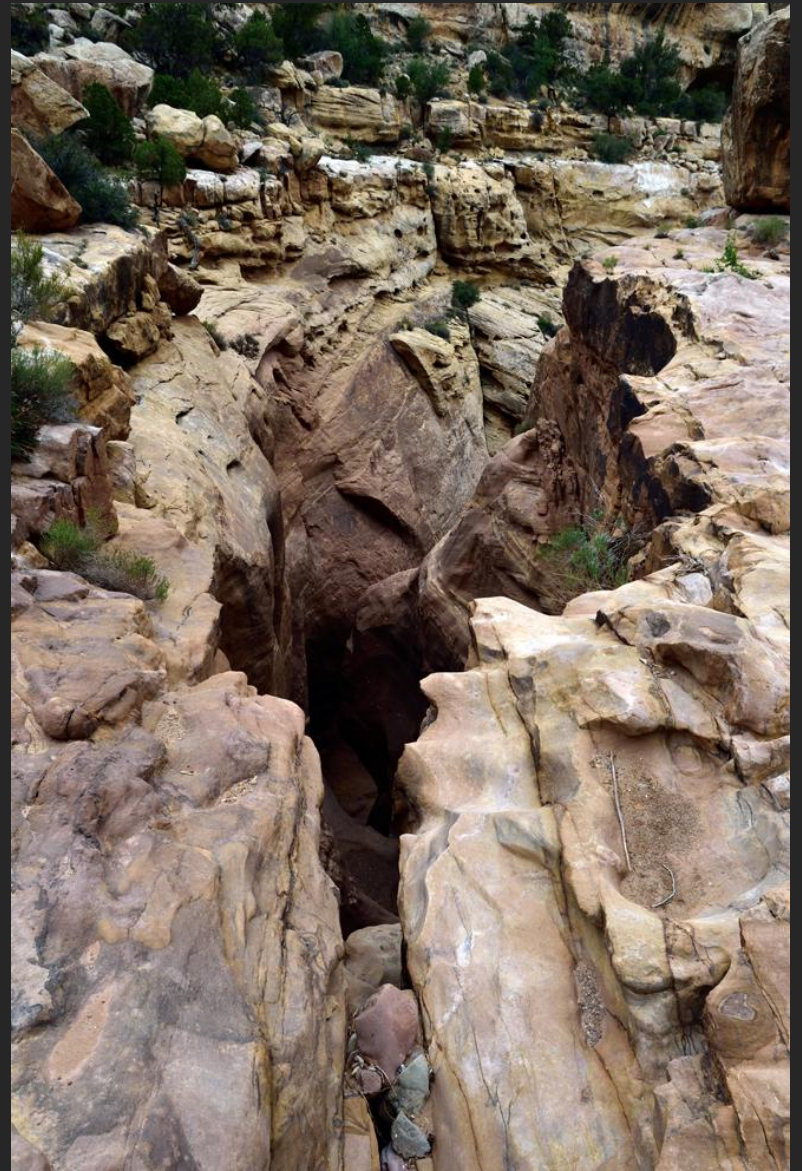




ANCIENT ART ABOVE THE CAVE



THE BIG DROP



LOOKING DOWN YOU CANNOT SEE BOTTOM  
BUT IT IS 2 OR 3X WHAT IS VISIBLE – GO RIGHT

















A day or so after visiting the Perfect Panel we found the petroglyph on the right in the Needles section of the Canyonlands. The art above is a pictograph, painted on the rock. Both include some sort of animal, these are about 354 miles apart. The figures in the Perfect Panel are life size. The one on the right is less than a foot tall.











There was a threat of rain, but it diminished as we exited the canyon. I still wasn't feeling great so we bypassed the wall and headed back to Hite. It was 16:30 and we headed for Mule Canyon and saw the Towers. It got dark so we did the Jeep Sleep at Mule Canyon. It was a full day.





# May 11

6:45 44 F at 9:30 we were at the Butler Wash and it was 53 F and sunny as we hiked toward Target Ruin. The path was easy but it was hard to tell where to cut over, I saw the ruin but opted to move on. The hike took us to a place called the Ballroom, but you had to climb a rope to get in, it was early, and passed on that also even though I was starting to feel better.

We moved on the Butler Wash and tried to find Split Level ruin but all we found was a bunch of cows and cow manure and had trouble locating a good trail. We found a dead cow in the creek and took it as a sign to see something else.

We went to Bluff and gassed up and ate at the Twin Rocks diner, then headed to Gooseneck State Park, drove through the Valley of the Gods, then went back north on the Butler wash to find the Wolfman Panel. Meggan and I looked for this a couple years ago thinking it was in the lower valley but it was just a short hike on the cutback. We didn't accomplish a lot on this day but the Wolfman Panel was a great ending. The sun went down as we exited Butler Wash and we slept again at Mule Canyon.



A SMALL RUIN ON THE BUTLER WASH NORTH OF HIGHWAY 95





DEAD COW POINT



# May 12

Mule Canyon is on the Cedar Mesa, so we enter at Cigarette Springs road and find the trailhead to Fallen Roof Ruin. Another location I tried to find previously, had bad directions and now better informed. It was a great hike, cool, rocky and very little slickrock. We finished up at 12:15.



RITA BELOW HOODOO  
TIME TO HEAD UP HILL

FIRST SIGHT OF RUIN FROM CANYON FLOOR

















After this hike we headed back to Hanksville for our well deserved showers. We drove around and went to Little Wild Horse but didn't walk all the way in. We got some ice cream and drove to Factor Butte but the sunset was a snoozer. Most sunsets have been just a gray-out for some reason, seems unusual. We slept in the tent at Duke's and they had a band play late but the biggest problem was the parents of some school group from CO. They talked all night, and went in and out of the bathroom all night slamming doors. So when I got up at 4:11 I tried to return the favor. I drove back to Factory Butte to a gray sunrise, then back to break up camp and wake the neighbors up for good.

## May 13

We gassed up and headed to the Needles section and Beef Basin. We had lunch at Subway in Blanding at 13:20 it was 60 F sunny but very windy. We stopped at Newspaper Rock then to the ranger station to find Beef Basin road closed, or in unknown condition. They said that nobody has been there since the rain and it was pretty muddy. On to plan C, we head to Moab and change our cabin nights and add a couple tent-sight nights. We then head back to the Needles and visit Davis Canyon. We sleep in the wash that night and I take some star photos, but the moon is a factor and the ring of the Milky Way isn't present yet. Short story, not a good night for stars.

Our visit in Davis Canyon was rewarding as we found some new ruins and some new art. This was my third visit to this canyon and the best so far. I like Davis Canyon, it's an easy drive with a lot of variety and some great scenery.





THE 5 FACES IN DAVIS CANYON – RUB STONES IN THE FOREGROUND









DAVIS CANYON



# May 14

We watch the sun rise in Davis Canyon, it happens quickly. Driving out, we drive up and down Indian Creek finding rock art and cowboy signatures. We tried to hike into Shay Canyon but the water was deep and too early for me to get my feet or butt wet. We headed north to Moab stopping at Looking Glass Rock and then drove around Moab to setup camp and take showers. We took a ride around town looking at scenery and rock art. We found some, a lot of it was shot up with bullet holes.





DAVIS CANYON







WINGMAN

## INDIAN CREEK

COWBOY SIGNATURES 1880





# May 15

Well rested and clean, we were up at 4:30 and headed to the Island in the Sky section of Canyonlands. Drove to Mesa Arch where we counted 30 cars and a bus, we pressed on to the Green River Overlook and I watched sunrise while Rita slept. We then drove to Hell Roaring Canyon so I could check the hike to the barrier canyon art, it is accessed via the Crawling Route and I needed to understand it better. I opted out, and we drove to the Secret Spire.

Driving out we saw a double alcove and I told Rita that this area had to have some more art because it is visible inside the canyon. We passed a dirt road, backed up, and drove to the alcove where we found a sign indicating it was Bartlett Canyon Rock Art site, barrier style:)

We explored this whole area, then headed back to camp.

















# May 16

Left at 5:00 headed to Canyonlands for a sunrise but got a late start so had to do the Mesa Arch thing. Same scene, 30 cars and a bus, so I walked past the arch to the canyon rim and took some alternative shots.









We stopped at the ranger station then drove down the Shafer Trail to Potash Road and took it the back way towards Moab. This road passes by Dead Horse Point, Thelma and Louise site, and has a good overlook of the Colorado River. It ends up at the salt ponds then turns top pavement past Jug-handle Arch. A nice drive.

We headed back to the campground because we were switching from a tent to a cabin, preparing for our last day. Converted, showered, then headed on the other side of the Colorado to see Kane Creek and we found some more rock art. There is an alternative entry to Hell Roaring Canyon that is supposed to be easier down, but longer walking. Maybe I will need to do this another time and earlier in the adventure.

Back to Moab, stopped at the Rock Shop, dinner at the diner (breakfast) and then to cabin 91.







COLORADO RIVER IN MOAB – crazy man that guards the bridge says that the mark on that top rock is a map







## May 17

Up early about normal time 4:30 and we head to Dead Horse Point, nobody at the gate so we drove to the overlook, took a quick photo then left. It was very cold (40's) and very windy especially at the overlook. The few people that were there had a blanket wrapped around them.

We continue to the Island in the Sky and pass Mesa Arch again and head to False Kiva. Rita naps in the back seat while I hike. I intended to just make it to the overlook, but the path was more predominant than previous visits and the walking was easy. Still cloudy breezy and cool, so when I get to the canyon I go ahead and hike to the kiva. I have visited here several times and like the location but my photos have been not-so-great; new day new camera.

So I take some pics, relax, wish I had brought a snack because I'm hungry. Another lone hiker makes his way in, we talk and then I leave. The hike out brought back memories; very different when you have to climb up a couple hundred feet and I had to stop and catch my breath twice, totally gassed. Got out of the canyon by 8:30.

We drove down to the Upheaval Dome, I have never visited this location before. I hiked in (up) it kicked my butt also. The upheaval is interesting, but not visually impressive.





FALSE KIVA





DEAD HORSE POINT





BENT TREE ON PATASH ROAD



Wore me down on the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup>, we decide to head home. Back to the diner one more time for breakfast and heading out at 16:08 Moab time. It has been raining for the last few hours and supposed to continue for at least 24 more. It was 48 F and windy.

Got into Colorado by 17:17 and the temp dropped to 37 F with a rain snow mix and still, lots of wind. Hit Vail at 20:26 and it was 33 F and snow. There was a winter storm warning in effect for the mountains but our timing was right and we drove through it. Almost to Denver and it is 37 F and sunny. 21:45 into Denver, traffic is light, timing is good.

Into Kansas at midnight we stop at the first rest area and I do the 4 hour Jeep snooze.

## May 18

Driving 85 through Kansas but the wind was relentless. Our mileage dropped from 20 to 15 until we got out of the plains area. Cutting north to miss KC I fell into a speed trap but ended up with just a warning. Kansas cop said that if I didn't have a gun that they would have to issue me one, a nice guy.

14:10 Trenton MO 71 F and sunny

16:05 into IL

19:23 into IN cloudy and 86 F

22:00 into OH and home before midnight.



# TOTAL DRIVING TIME 95 HOURS 45 MINUTES

MAY	SLEEP	STEPS	MILES	STAIRS	CALORIES
4	6.50	13,654	6.44	4	3,525
5	-	1,853	0.87	0	2,167
6	6.50	15,432	7.28	76	4,141
7	7.30	25,955	12.24	298	5,451
8	7.70	22,996	10.85	120	4,569
9	7.70	19,630	9.26	214	4,336
10	8.10	25,757	10.77	76	4,552
11	6.25	26,964	12.71	110	5,088
12	9.40	12,396	5.85	38	3,289
13	-	9,949	4.69	49	3,183
14	7.75	21,078	9.94	82	4,262
15	6.50	25,475	12.01	173	4,463
16	6.00	23,523	11.09	158	4,442
17	6.00	14,223	6.73	112	3,394
18	5.25	2,795	1.32	0	2,246
	90.95	261,680	122.05	1510	59,108









GREEN RIVER





HIKING ON THE KANE CREEK LEDGE





HAND-PRINTS INSIDE RUIN – DAVIS CANYON





PANORAMA POINT – LIGHTNING IN THE NEEDLES