

The Chase

Volume 2

Brown Canyon, Echo Park, Vermillion Falls & Evergreen

July 2017

John, Pat & Hank
Doug, Laurie, Garrett & Blake
John Soukup



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This trip started with an overnight stay in Trinidad followed by a campground stay just past Salida at Hecla Junction on the Arkansas River. The area is known for Mt. Antero (gemstones), the Collegiate Peaks and Princeton Hot Springs.



Chalk Creek receives the overflow from Princeton Hot Springs and then flows into the Arkansas River. Browns Canyon also empties into the Arkansas River. There is a Trout Rearing Unit downstream from Princeton Hot Springs on Chalk Creek. That area of Chalk Creek is all privately owned.





The next part of our trip began up the road in Leadville where we met up with Doug, Laurie, Garrett and Blake at the Delaware Hotel on 13 July 2017.



The next day we traveled to the Dinosaur National Monument area and then to the Echo Park area which is at Steamboat Rock that is located at the confluence of the Yampa and Green Rivers.

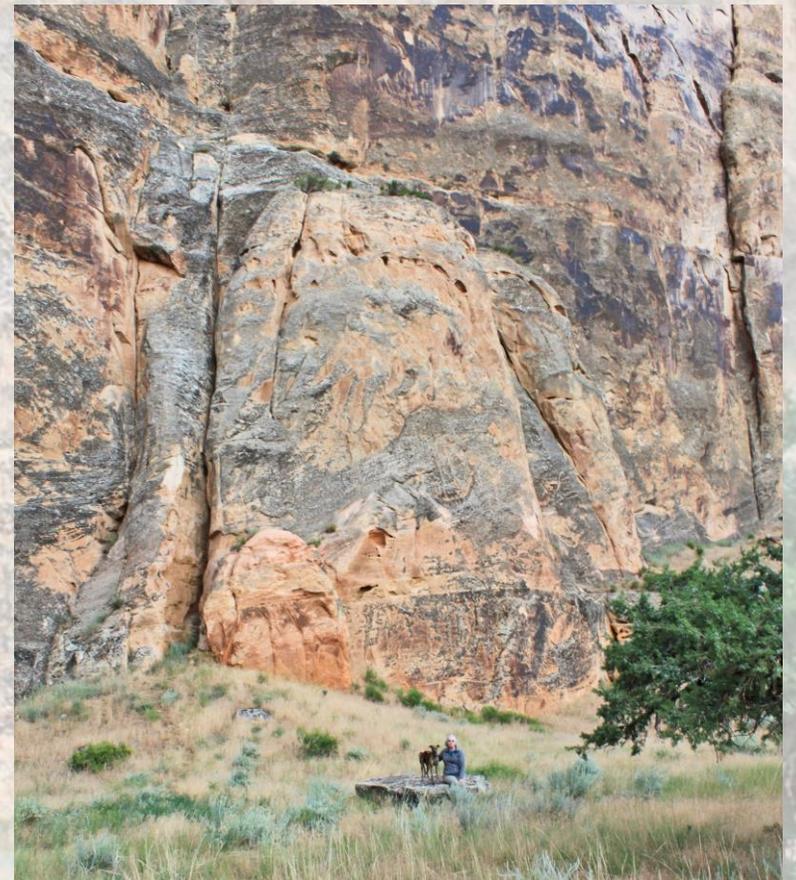




Doug was wise and located the Picasso pictograph. Searching began in earnest along creeks, in caves and under ledges, etc.

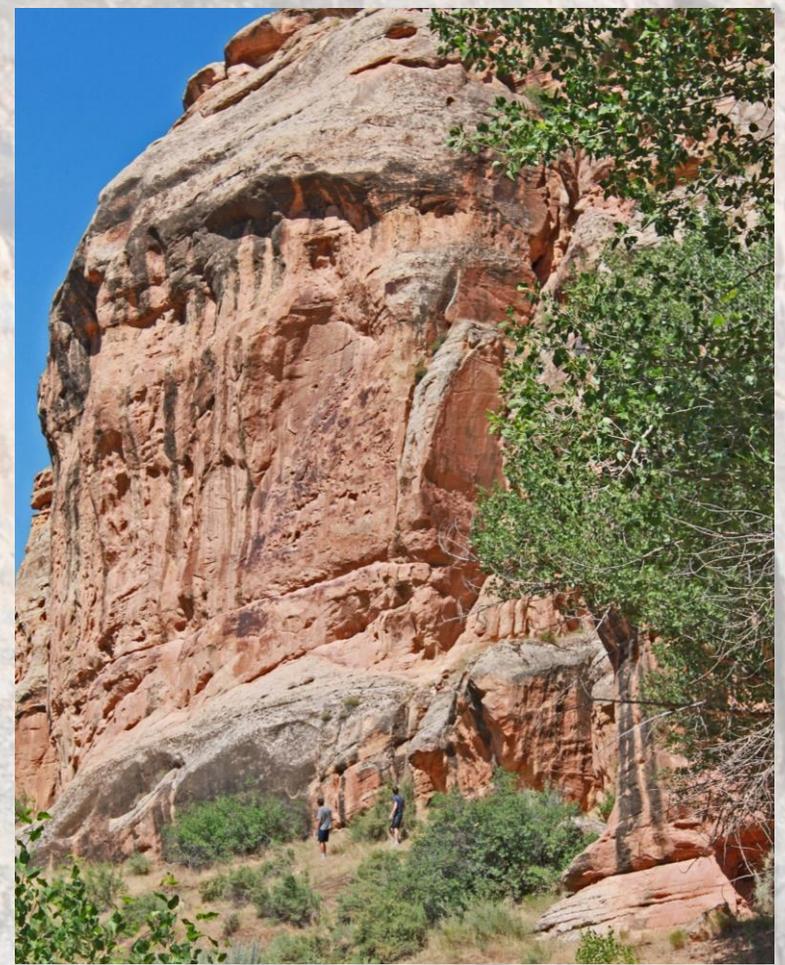


That afternoon we set up camp at the Echo Park Primitive campground. There were antelope grazing and Doug also found a number of antelope killed by mountain lions in various canyons and caves. The hot dogs, bacon and eggs were delicious. Even though it was 100 degrees, it didn't feel nearly that hot with the very low humidity.



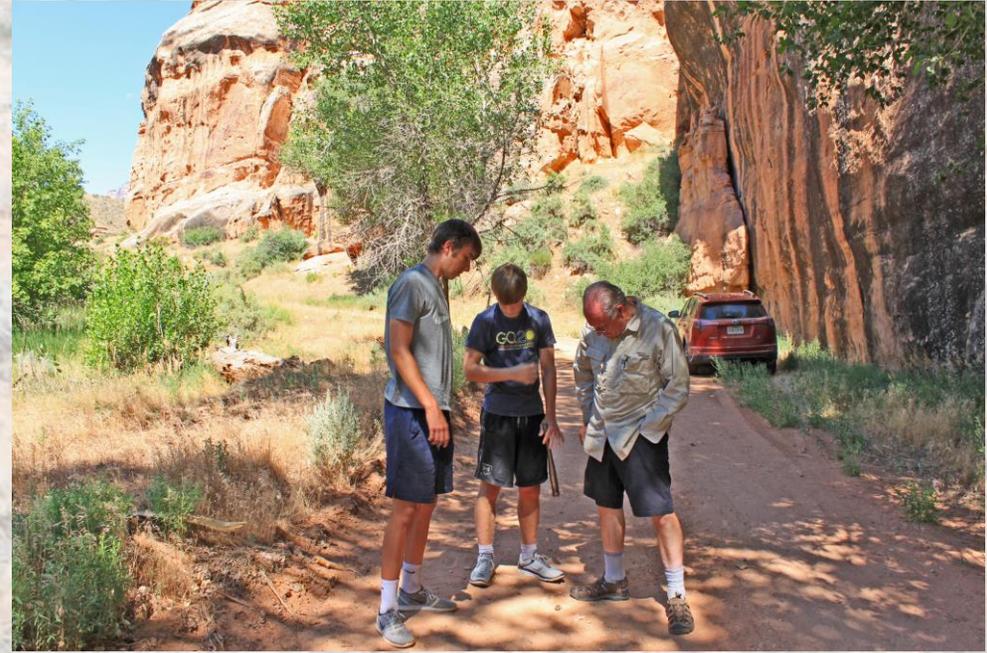


The next morning we packed up and continued to explore the area. There's a lot to look at around Echo Park. There was a cave that as soon as you stepped into it, the temperature dropped at least 20 degrees.

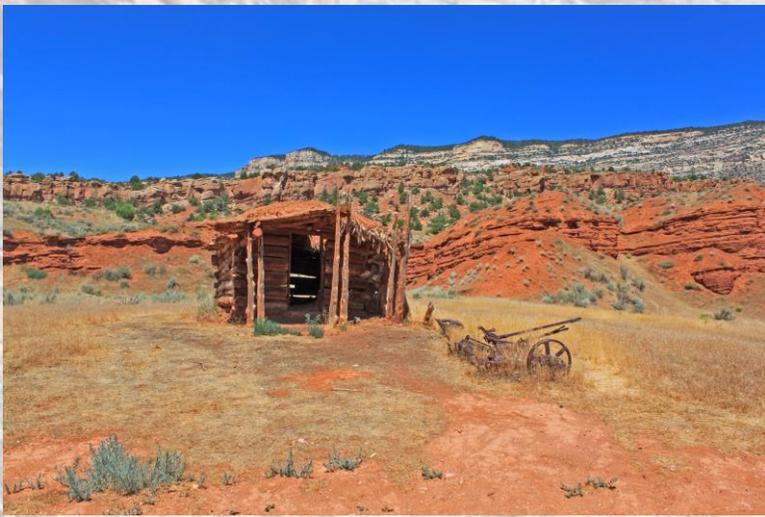


There are several pictograph locations that are unique and very detailed. Searching continued in caves and crevices that the Picasso pictograph appeared to be looking at. There are rocks that are so figured that it is difficult to tell what is a pictograph and what is a natural formation. Plenty of Blaze material that if it appeared in other areas would be a strong clue.

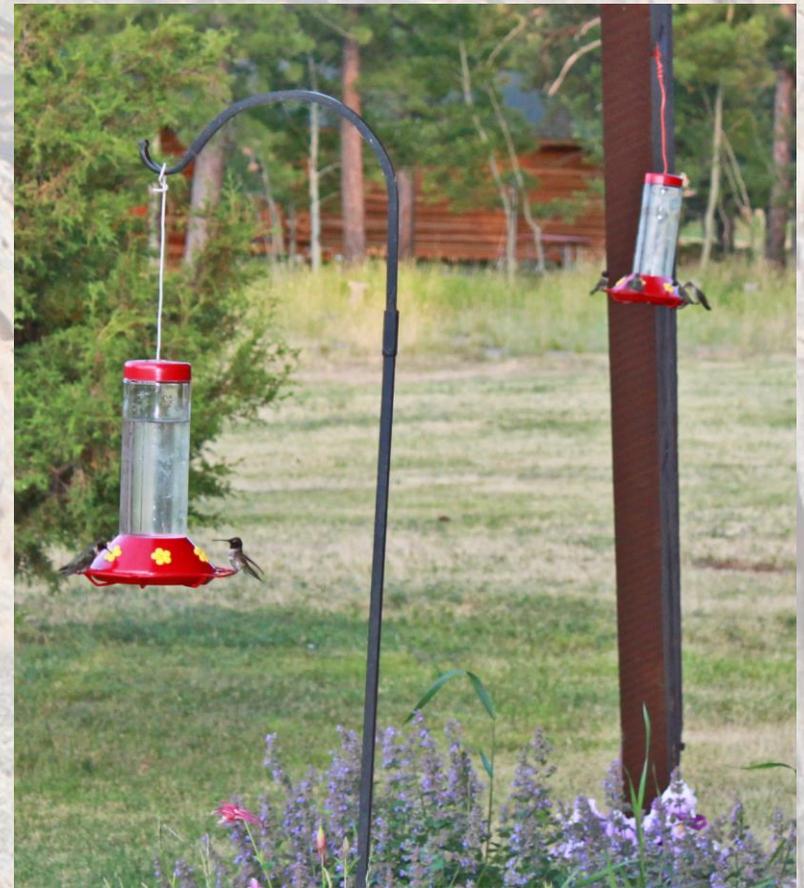




So after some final looks around and some stone gazing, we started the drive out of Echo Park.



Ruins of an isolated old homestead were along the rock road that led out of the area. Views back into Echo Park are stunning.

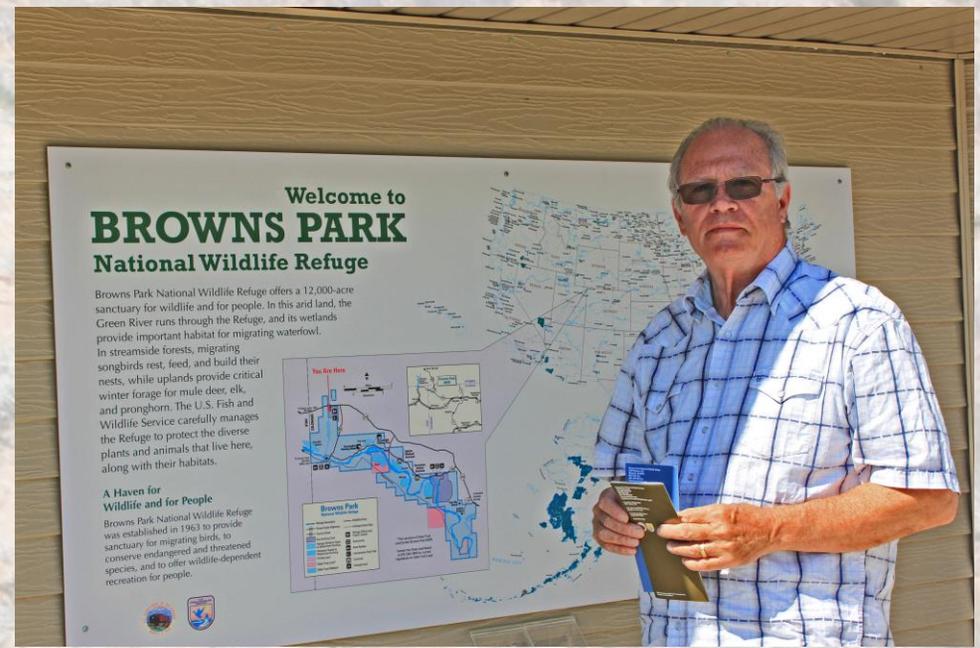


The next destination was the Red Canyon Lodge in Utah where Laurie had made reservations. We had dinner at the lodge where hummingbirds were hanging out.



The grounds were very relaxing and much cooler than Echo Park. The next day we dead-reckoned toward Browns Park back in Colorado. We stopped at Flaming Gorge dam for this picture before heading into the rock roads again.





We drove through un-fenced areas with free-ranging antelope and no power lines for many miles to reach Browns Park which is on the Green River above the Gates of Lodore and below the old Brown homestead. A search party was formed and Pat stayed with Hank at the campground to watch for smoke signals.



The search party returned after exploring down-river and up a dry creek from the park. We then proceeded to Vermillion Falls.





We poked around Vermillion Falls for a bit and decided to head for Steamboat Springs. Everyone got cleaned up and we went out on the town.



We parted ways with Doug and family then decided to visit our old friend John Soukup in Evergreen. We passed some nice stops along the way. Upon arrival, everyone was properly sniffed.





Pictures were taken all around and we drove back to Houston.

