The Curious Case of the Invisible Panel

A New Barrier Canyon Style Rock Art Panel in Southeast Utah
• Discovery Trip
• Monday October 9, 2017
• Location: Robbers Roost
Where is Robbers Roost?

- East of Hanksville
- South of Green River
- Adjoins Dirty Devil River
The hike in —
Joe Brame & Randy Johnson
At the Wolf Panel
On the hike out — using binoculars, I spot a faint circular image, high on the canyon wall.

Joe Brame takes these photos with his high power zoom lens.

With no time to investigate — we hike on out.
Revealing a new... very large... Barrier Canyon Style (BCS) rock art panel
The Tools of Our Time

Dstretch

- Technique pioneered by NASA for aerial sensing
- Modifies the “color space” of our photos
- Works on painted images... pictographs... especially RED

Adobe Photoshop

- World standard photo editing software
- Powerful and reliable
As Shot

Fran Barnes Panel
Fran Barnes Panel

DStretch
Four days later....
...my hiking companions on the return trip

David Succec & Craig Law

aka Barrier Canyon Project
“A-Team”
The Invisible Panel
The Shamans
How can we better interpret these images?

What is the “best fit” in terms of age and style?
Zoomorphs: Marching, Swarming, Swirling

Invisible Panel
San Rafael

San Rafael

Great Gallery
San Rafael
Harvest Depictions

Invisible Panel

Devils Lane

San Rafael

Harvest Scene Panel

Richard Jenkinson photo
“Main Shaman” – Outstretched Hand

Invisible Panel

Harvest Scene Panel
The Invisible Panel - Horned Serpent

- The signature element of the panel – 15 feet long
- Running horizontally above the other glyphs
The Horned Serpents of BCS

Invisible Panel

Capitol Reef

San Rafael

Molen Reef

San Rafael
The 2nd (left) Panel
The Canines of BCS

- A solitary observing canine
- Upward curved tail
- Seem “out of place” compared to other elements
Invisible Panel

The Creator Dog?
Sinauv, or Sinauvi, or Sinauf

Moab
“Neighborhood” Dogs

Invisible Panel

Great Gallery

Needles

Great Gallery

Harvest Scene

Richard Jenkinson photo
Invisible Panel

BCS Class Order

Moab
- Prayer
- Servitude
- Ritual Offerings
- Ancestor Veneration

San Rafael
Moab
Needles
Invisible Panel
San Rafael
The Invisible Panel is:

- Large pictograph panel in the Barrier Canyon Style
- Late Archaic or older
- Closely related to Canyonlands BCS panels
- Most similar to Harvest Scene panel in the Maze
- Adds to our body of knowledge (ritual offerings)
Plans for the Future

• Photograph up close with long extension pole
• Measurements to determine actual size
• Walk the walls to find the ends of the panel