



FLAT STANLEY AND ANCESTOR

This trip was a little different. It was the first time by myself on the Cedar Mesa and Glen Canyon in the Jeep. I also took Flat Stanley with me, a project for grand-daughter Kiley. This trip was less than a week so I traveled light and slept in the back of the Jeep on an air mattress.

Hiking was rough because my left foot developed blisters and my left leg was not 100%, I also have a sore hip problem that seems to come and go, but lately has been lingering. My scrambling on rocks was a little less enthusiastic.



Also because I was alone, I recorded some of my notes and at times got a little wordy, but included some of my thoughts here anyway. Above, driving through Denver and Vale Colorado, and at right down one of the many dirt roads on the Cedar Mesa. With all the dust, it is sometimes hard to keep the Jeep and the photo equipment as clean as I like to.

# October 5 Thursday - Ohio to Missouri

Left the house at 15:40 – no trailer hitch storage because I am traveling light and it is just me and Stanley and we'll be sleeping in the Jeep. It is raining, cloudy, heading to St Joseph Mo. I changed oil in prep for this trip and used Royal Purple for the first time. I also bought a quart of Lucas gas treatment; thought I would keep a close eye on mileage. The Jeep has about 54,000 on it, not bad for 5 years old and this it's fifth trip to Utah.

I received a Kindle 7 for my birthday and downloaded 2 audio books, Slaughterhouse 5 and Light Falls. I missed the White Buffalo release by one day, but did get 3 pre-release songs for my Ipod. I also got Jackson's 2<sup>nd</sup> acoustic album, but on first listen it is just ok and more of the same.

Indiana state line at 17:12 PM. Sky is blue.

Indianapolis 18:15 cloudy and the sky is very dark.

First gas at exit 4 just east of Illinois, and it is dark out. Have been on the road 3 hours 32 minutes averaging 20 mpg. 243 miles traveled averaging about 70 mph. Broke the guns down and separated clips heading through IL.

19:43 into IL after 4.5 hours heading into Decatur IL, into the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of SL5. Very awake, not tired, traffic is light, a nice night, going to see how far I can go. Jeep computer says getting 19.5 mph my math says 21.5 it is very foggy, probably have to slow down.

23:30 driven 508 miles and just outside Macon MO, might make it to St Joe but going to catch some sleep at the next rest stop. A lot of state patrol in MO, I'm not really speeding, cruising at +5.

# October 6 Friday - Driving Through Kansas

Slept at Love's about 4 hours, heading out at 4:20 and have drive 540 miles. Sleeping in the back of Jeep wasn't too bad. The only annoyance so far is the shift knob, the top popped off and had to duct tape it into place.

120 Miles to St Joseph, it is 4:30, the sun may be up when I hit the diagonal past KC to 70. Next stop put the guns back together. Raining but no wipers RainX is doing well, still pleasant, no traffic.

8:00 Ohio time, driven 753 miles, through Topeka and on 70 next turn is 505 miles and should be in Grand Junction by 17:30, 19:30 Ohio time. May be able to make it to Butler Wash tonight. I am well ahead as usual, but timing so far through busy spots has been good. Going to eat something. 6 chapters left in Slaughterhouse 5, it is a book that I will need to listen to more than once.

11:00 Ohio time, 952 miles, just east of Hayes KS, heading to Denver. Made a turkey sandwich and bacon chips, cloudy but stopped raining. Good driving. Someone pulled into the gas station and lost their trailer hitch pin. Thought I had a spare, but guess I left it at home.

300 miles to Denver, looks like I hit there at 13:30 their time. In Colorado driven 1108 miles and just got gas, drizzling. Going through more fuel, now getting 16 all the way through Kansas, probably get worse in the mountains.

140 miles from Denver, in that weird stretch where I feel like I am on a ledge, or a funnel. The light is weird in this area, seems like it always is. Been driving 16.5 hours according to the Jeep.



**EAST OF DENVER – BEING ON THE ROAD IS A BIG PART OF THE TRIP**

## October 6 Friday - 31 Hours to Butler Wash

Traffic 5mp in Denver all lanes. 15:27 been held up 15 minutes so far. And ... it was a wreck, and we are off and rolling. First time I can see the mountains, I always thought that you could see them earlier, sun is out, a nice day. Got some gas ate a sandwich and 200 miles to Grand Junction. Rita just called then Scott called from work.

18:40 and 60 miles east of Grand Junction running at 80 and weather is good. Averaging 19.5 mpg again and going to make it to the Butler Wash, I think. At Grand Junction 5:40 19:40 Ohio time. Sometimes, I think I should slow down and take a few more pictures, maybe when I retire.

On Route 219 heading to Moab 21:00 driving 23 hours 27 minutes and listening to high school football on the radio. 69 degrees and averaging 19 mpg. Going to stop at the Diner and have a late breakfast. Getting dark.

21:00 23:00 Ohio time 40 miles till Blanding heading to Butler Wash – gas tank topped off, got some Ice in Moab and even washed the Jeep. All set.

23:45 Ohio time – in Blanding gassed up again. Blanding is dead, heading to the Cedar Mesa. One gas station open, I would have been ok, but I like keeping it topped off.

# October 7 Saturday - Target Ruin

Rise and Shine on Cedar Mesa – The air mattress lost it's air. It is 7:19 Ohio time stars are out, going to change my clothes, jeans and hoodie, eat a snack and hike to Target Ruin. Going to wait till just a flicker of light, lots of woods and grass and don't want to step on snakes or small furry creatures. Coyotes are going crazy, pretty cool. Sunrise is 7:19, it is 5:19 so I have 2 hours yet, no hurry starting out ½ hour before the sunrise. Vitamins, and bug spray next. Got some time so I might snooze a half hour. I am the only car in the Butler rest stop. Tonight I will be at the end of Slickhorn, feels spooky, guess that makes it an adventure.

11:00 Ohio time just finished hike to Target it was nice, cool but only beat the sun by 5 minutes. Met two people as I was leaving. I should have left 15 minutes earlier. So far, only thing pissing me off is I can't find that little Leek knife, I have backup but it is a big one. I found the Leek at Wolfman a couple years ago, always felt it was lucky. Heading to Hat Flat.



11:40 just left Kane Gulch RS, lots of people there , surprise! Got my permits, took a pic of Stanley, all set. People in the ranger station were real nice. I looked at the permit book and only saw about 1 or 2 names per day. Seems underutilized, surprised. Paid my fee \$5 for 5 days on the Cedar Mesa and \$2 for Moonhouse; \$7 to see unique and very historic locations, a bargain.



## October 7 - Exploring In Slickhorn Canyon

Hat flat was remote and nice but a hot and rocky hike and to be real honest I am very anxious to find that Caprock ruin at the end of the road. So, heading to Slickhorn.

16:47 Ohio time, got back from the little hike and saw 3 really good ruins, the first one I saw before was nice, the second was bigger than expected, and I saw the caprock. All 3 look nice but all 3 in the sun so I am going to clean the Jeep and eat and wait for sundown.

18:40 going to change clothes and take D700 and tripod and wait at Caprock till the sun goes down. Got my headlamp and GoPro. It will probably be dark when I get back, dressed warm and have snacks will travel.

A great evening. Got back to the Jeep just before it got real dark. Pictures are good but lighting wasn't super, heavy shadows till the sun went down and then not enough light. Need more light and more clouds to diffuse. Going to shoot some star shots, and get some sleep, catch the other 2 ruins in the morning.





## October 8 Sunday - Morning Passed Quickly

A rough night, leg cramps in both legs seemed to last for hours, then it got cold. Back is killing me, crawled out of the jeep at 6:15 and not too bad outside. The moon is giving off a lot of light, got about an hour after sunset before the moon came out. Going to hike to the little grainary and then the ruin on the way out, then on to Fallen Roof or the Citadel.

Sunday morning 10:42 OH time, leaving caprock and also shot video and photos of the little ruin but the sun came up quick so I didn't make it to ruin 3 in time. Sun is so bright I might pass on Citadel, going to head to Blanding and get a sandwich, gas, ice, etc. and the head to the Citadel a little later near sunset, maybe.

Slight change in plans, going to Shieks first, going to see Yellowhouse Ruin before going to Blanding. I need to return to caprock when there are clouds in the sky..

First venture into Shieks was fun (got lost) and challenging. Found the rim, but then GPS let me down, I did mark a waypoint that helped me. I may try again tomorrow but right now getting a snack and some water. NOW I am going to Blanding.

Still Sunday 15:23 leaving Blanding and now at the Butler Wash, I am going to the Citadel, about 1.5 mile hike around the rim, plan is to sleep at Slickhorn 1 tonight and hike in the morning. I still want to get back to Yellowhouse, pissed that I got lost and missed it.



In Slickhorn Canyon near first ruins at sunrise

No. 0030757

CEDAR MESA DAY USE FEE ENVELOPE/PERMIT

Date 10/02/17

OPTION ONE: Single day use pass is \$2.00/day/person  
# of people \_\_\_\_\_ x # of days \_\_\_\_\_

OPTION TWO: Seven day use pass is \$5.00/person  
# of people 1

After completing, detach permit stub and deposit envelope in the box provided. **PUT THIS PERMIT STUB ON VEHICLE DASH**

Cedar Mesa is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Monticello Field Office, 365 N. Main St., Monticello UT 84535 (435) 587-1500.



*M. H. H. H.*







NICE TO TURN A CORNER AND WALK INTO THIS

# October 8 Sunday -

At Yellowhouse TH I met a guy that said they had been to Shieks and now they were going to the Grand Gulch. He talked a lot about their day, but when I returned they were already gone. Now I am heading to the Citadel, and see them pull out of Fallen Roof, so I guess they changed their mind. I never do that. On to the Citadel.









Back at Jeep 19:23 Ohio time, it was eventful. Lost my hat, lost Flat Stanley. I did find Stanley after back-tracking ½ mile. Coming back was 2.47 miles took me an hour and 6 minutes. Elevation 5953 and it is dry, going to take a break. A crazy day, but sitting at Slickhorn now & the sun is going down. 3 guys here camping, I guess they are going in canyon also. Got my camera and snacks ready. I did get my GPS working, had to calibrate the compass!! Glad it is working now, it is Sunday, tomorrow is really the first day of vacation, maybe get back to Yellowhouse tomorrow. Have covered a lot of territory in 4 days.



# October 9 Monday - Slickhorn Canyon Rim Hike

Monday 8:15 Ohio time, still dark out, sun should be up in an hour. Going to get a snack and change clothes. The first 3 hours weren't bad sleeping but after that I tossed and turned and have a pain in back and hips. Listened to Slaughterhouse 5 again, eating and then heading out. One guy left the camp early. Ready to walk the rim and hopefully find Perfect Kiva, have my rope just in case, waiting on a hint of light. I am ready, where I want to be and at the time I want to be here. 8:48 Ohio time, the sky is starting to lighten, it is windy and cold; gloves, hat and hoodie, monopod, 2 cameras, GoPro, snacks, Camelbak.













LEFT – THE PATH DOWN

LOWER LEFT – SUNRISING

BELOW – CAPROCK RUIN IN  
THE SHADE







Made it back, didn't get to False Kiva, the drop was too much but I did see the ruins on the ledge above. I walked 6.7 miles in 3 hours 15 minutes. It is 46 F now and 1:24 Ohio time. Going to lay down on the big flat rock in the wash and stretch my back straight, eat and then on to Yellow House.

13:42 Ohio time, back to Blanding for a sandwich and a loaf of bread. May see Yellowhouse then maybe on to Moonhouse may sleep in the parking lot. In my Jeep at Sheiks, some Indians pull up and start talking about hunting. Said was spotting for Elk, but never did. When I told them about what I had seen they didn't seem interested. I didn't like the way he pulled up and was looking into the Jeep. Seemed odd. I am the only car in the lot so for now am pulling out and heading to Moonhouse. Yellow house maybe another time.





DRYFALL IN CENTER – CROSSING HERE  
MAY BE A GOOD WAY IN FOR ME NEXT TIME

# October 9 Monday - Slickhorn II

Drove into Moonhouse just to check out the road and scenery, took ½ hour but that's not bad. I headed back to Slickhorn and going to hike to the ruin that I didn't get to shoot on day 1. Mission accomplished. Probably get cold tonight, was cold today. Plan is to be at Moonhouse on the trail at sunrise, as usual.

Monday evening 18:45 sitting on the little corner at Slickhorn just before the drop down. Charging batteries on the go pro. An hour to get to moonhouse so I need to get up earlier. Today it was cool and windy hiking. My feet are hurting, left leg is hurting also, limping so I was a little worn out. Hike back was good, the other cars at Slickhorn were all gone, I felt better after stretching out my back. The food Subway was good, I was starving. Moonhouse is big. Today I walked 5 miles to see 2 ruins, tomorrow a short hike to see many ruins, so tomorrow should be a good day.

It took me 2 hours to get ready for Tuesday. It is about 20:00 Utah time, dark. I did wash up, changed clothes, first time since being here. Ready to go in morning, going to listen to my audible book and fall asleep.

 Monticello Field Office 435 587-1500	<b>Moon House</b> <b>Recreation Management Zone</b>
	Date <u>10/10/17</u> Permit # <u>30757</u> # People in Party <u>1</u> Vehicle Disc. <u>GIN 2670</u> <u>Jeep</u> <u>CH</u>

## October 10 Tuesday - Morning Driving & Thinking

6:00 Ohio time, 4:00 here, my alarm will go off in an hour. I slept good but fell asleep early. It is cold. The windows are frosted, jeep says it is 23 F but I left a window cracked :0 Changing from booties to long socks. Will see what temp is when we get to Moonhouse but it will probably be chilly, going to eat something now.

These two or three hours when I wake up early, I find time to straighten up the jeep. Brush my teeth. I fixed Flat Stanley. Now I can't find my remote shutter release for D5500, I did find my little knife it was hooked to my headlamp. I developed a system of rotating sleeping gear to photo gear into the back seat. All organized, eating now. I only brought one long pair of socks, should have probably bought more. Breakfast of chumps, Rockstar and Nutty Bar. Still thinking about that Indian, all the time we talked he was eating Doritos. At first thought weird, but now seems rude.

On route 95, got a signal at top of hill near Mule, so I uploaded some pics to Facebook. Going to Mule Canyon to use pit latrine. It was clean. Heading back to Moonhouse TH it is 8:06 OH time. I read the first couple chapters in the Window, enjoyed it. Heading up to Butler Rest stop saw a lot of deer on the side of the road. Car going the other way slowed down but deer almost ran into him. Deer seem small like in NC. I did see elk or something near Target but didn't have my camera ready. Stumbled trying to get it out, and then they were gone.

## October 10 Tuesday - Moonhouse

On Hwy 95 and at the turn. I like it here, not sure I would ever want to live here, but think I will always want to visit here. The sporadic nature of the visits, seem to make it more special. Looking forward to today.

8:16 OH time heading to the Cedar Mesa, horizon is lighting up. Morning is my favorite time of day. Thinking about the Window, it fits my trip, seldom do I read and seldom am I ready to keep reading, but so far so good.

I make it to the entrance, driving through the twisty turns I am anxious to see how many cars are here; zero perfect. I start hiking and follow the cairns but they take me left and I end up nowhere. I head back but can't find the trail down, then I see it, it goes straight down the slickrock so I head that way. It's still morning, my shoes aren't the best, and it is a little slippery, but no problems.

I make it onto the ledge, hike to the down spot and then sit there, take a quick break and shoot a couple pics of Moonhouse from across the canyon. The sun is already hitting the opposite wall and I fear that I am later than planned. I am, but should be ok if I hustle.



I make it across ok, take a quick pic of Stanley and then start taking pan photos of the exterior. After a couple series I head inside to explore and take some inside photos. There are rooms to the left, head there first, and then some outside smaller rooms on the right separated by a large square room in the center with wooden beams across the top. I try to be methodical and move quickly, still trying to enjoy it but also racing the sun.



ON THE BOTTOM



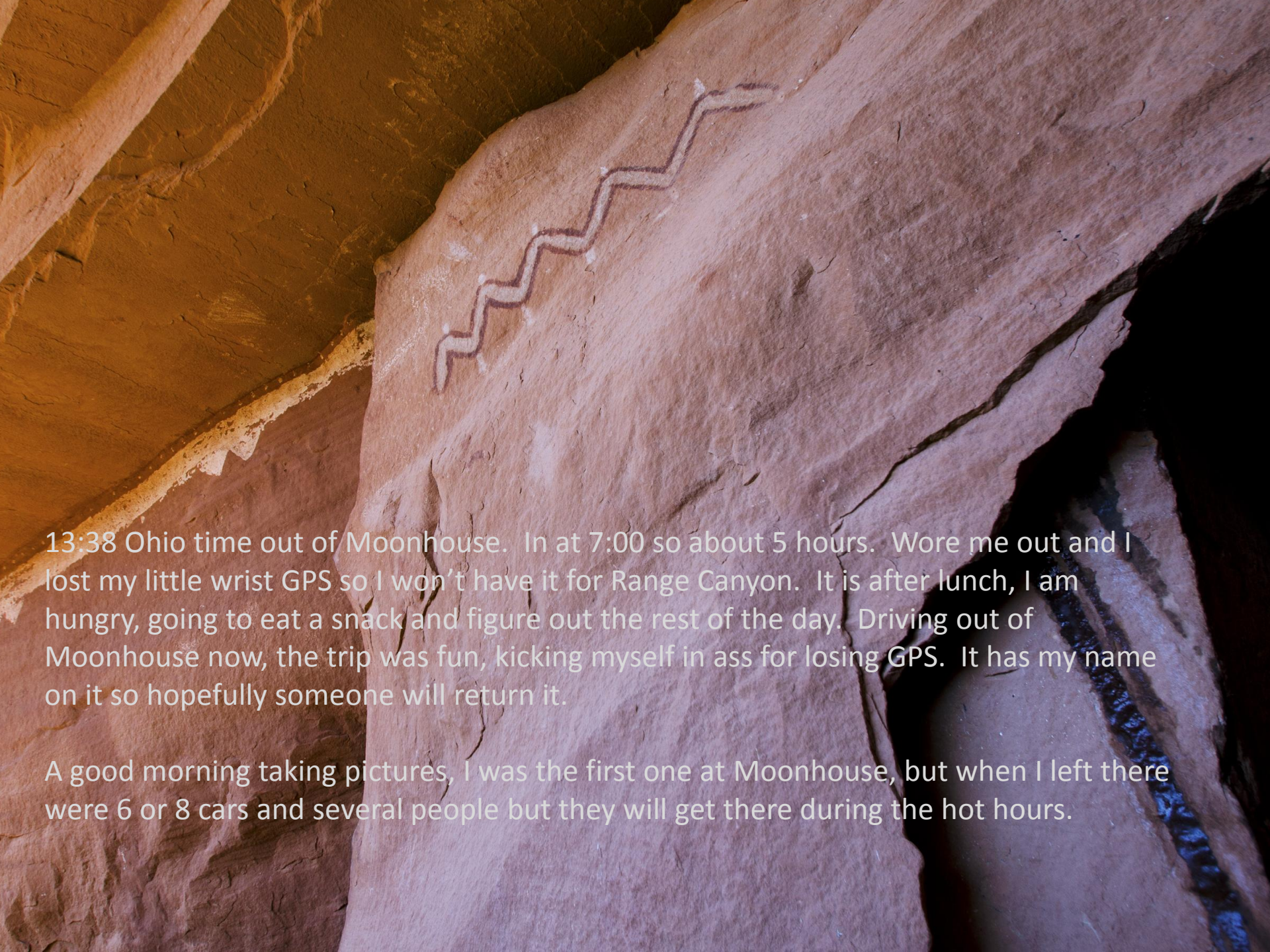












13:38 Ohio time out of Moonhouse. In at 7:00 so about 5 hours. Wore me out and I lost my little wrist GPS so I won't have it for Range Canyon. It is after lunch, I am hungry, going to eat a snack and figure out the rest of the day. Driving out of Moonhouse now, the trip was fun, kicking myself in ass for losing GPS. It has my name on it so hopefully someone will return it.

A good morning taking pictures, I was the first one at Moonhouse, but when I left there were 6 or 8 cars and several people but they will get there during the hot hours.

## October 10 Tuesday - Refuel and on to Hite

I am going to Blanding, I need a hamburger, another loaf of bread, the old bread is still good but smashed, a bag of ice, I may just head up toward Hite and make a couple little stops along the way. On the highway at 14:25 Ohio time heading to Blanding.

That feels better, burger and fries and root beer. Heading to Hite but I am ruined out so going to head to Glen Canyon and take my time, take some pictures. I may just get into Glen Canyon and find a place to sleep. Pisses me off about that GPS. Getting out of Moonhouse wasn't bad, but I noticed that my recuperation time takes longer. Leaving I got 1/3 and had to take a break, then 1/6, by the time I got out I was wringing with sweat and whipped. Maybe because not eating right. I am content driving around sight-seeing, but would like some clouds.

At Hite, topped off the gas. Odometer says have driven 2222 so far. Average is 21.4 mpg and have been driving for 45 hours. No permits needed at Glen Canyon, I can go to the Canyonlands border and camp anywhere in Glen Canyon. 21:05 Ohio time 10/10 Tuesday night, am sitting 6 miles from PP trailhead on a rocky corner, sun is going down. Going to see PP in morning, charging batteries and going to record trip on GoPro then drive to the wall. Leaving wall will see range even though lost my GPS. All is good, getting dark. I set up for a couple hours reading the Window read about 10 chapters sitting in Glen Canyon.

# October 11 Wednesday - A Perfect Day

6:00 OH time, alarm set for 1.5 hours away. Just lying here, moon is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  and lighting up the sky. Semi-cloudy hopefully will hang around. Laying there I noticed that my hip doesn't hurt any more. Trying to remember when it was hurting me last, and I can't remember it being a problem at Moonhouse. Maybe the naproxen is starting to take effect. Going to warm up the jeep, shave, eat and read a couple chapters then head to the panel. Inventory = lots of snacks left and  $\frac{1}{2}$  case of Rockstar.

Driving at sunrise always perfect, taking pictures of sunrise on my hood. Tunes and Jeep driving . 40 F. Fit Bit says heart beating 83 bpm and in fat burn mode, I am either excited or sick. 8:19 OH time, an hour before sunrise, sky is covered with clouds ☺

9:00 OH time – entering Canyonlands, 2 miles to TH to PP. Nice sunrise.

9:09 at trailhead, time to start walking.



















## October 11 Wednesday

13:00 Ohio time out of Clearwater, a good hike, hot coming out again. Just beat the sun to PP so got a few good pics in. Did some HDR and stitched photos which I did not do last visit. Clutch feels like slipping, can smell it, probably ok but am going to head to Hanksville, get a shower and a meal and figure it out.

I needed that. Fueled up and sitting in the burger shack uploading photos to Facebook. I figure I'll head on home. I feel a lot better after the shower, but it will be two days total to get into and out of Canyonlands and that is a small window and if I return on Sunday, have to work on Monday, so it will be there when I return.

Sun is setting fast as I leave Utah, it is cloudy. I make it to Denver around midnight and on to my favorite rest stop at Genoa to crash. I slept pretty good. The rest of the trip home was very uneventful. I made it to Indianapolis and slept in a rest stop on the other side of Indy.

Morning was foggy, but made it home Friday about noon. I relaxed the rest of the weekend. About a week later my gps arrived in the mail sent by the Kane Gulch RS. Many Thanks !



WRINKLED STANLEY AND RANDY

