Minutes of UFOP SW Chapter Meeting of 12/6/2017.

Pres. Bill Biesele welcomed new members and returning members for the last meeting in 2017; the first meeting of 2018 will be on Wednesday, January 17th.
After accepting nominations for officers, he requested a motion that the current board serve another term. All were in favor. He informed the attendees that Elisabeth was under the weather, but surely wouldl be back the following month.

Joanna then gave an overview of our financial status as of Dec. 6, 2017. The starting balance on 10/20/17 was $ 2,227.25. Two amounts for dinners for the amount of $ 77.13 were deducted. There were no deposits, so the current bank balance was $2,150.12.

Bill proceeded to relate changes in the GSENM and BENM terrains.
GSENM lost Cretaceous Straight Cliffs, Tropic Shale, Naturita, and Cedar Mountain formations. All Triassic and Permian strata.
BENM lost Cretaceous, and Paleozoic except for a piece of the Cutler Group.
He suggested looking up the link vertpaleo.org. for relevant news releases.

He then introduced our speaker of the evening, Dr. Randall Irmis. Dr. Irmis gave our group a previous lecture on November 14, 2007 titled: *"The Rise of Dinosaurs: New Discoveries in the American Southwest."* He then was still a PhD candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology and Museum of Paleontology at the University of California-Berkeley. Dr. Irmis earned his undergraduate degree in geology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Broadly, he studied the evolution of early Mesozoic terrestrial vertebrate ecosystems, with a focus on the Late Triassic Period. His PhD dissertation focussed on the origin and early evolution of the dinosaurs. He has done fieldwork in Arizona, New Mexico, California, Mexico, Argentina and Ethiopia.
He currently is the Curator of Salt Lake City's Natural History Museum.
Tonight the title of his presentation is:

An Equatorial Lost World : Discovering the Age of Dinosaurs in Ethiopia.

His research asks how vertebrate animals living on land evolved through deep time, particularly in response to climate change and other extrinsic events. Much of his research has focused on the beginning of the age of dinosaurs, the Triassic Period. He is interested in how ecosystems changed during this time, and why dinosaurs became so successful while other animal groups died out. This research has resulted in many field seasons at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, where critical fossils have been found documenting this early time of dinosaur evolution, as well as in similarly aged rocks in Utah, Arizona, Argentina, and Ethiopia. Dr. Irmis is also leading a long term field project in the Late Cretaceous of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (Utah), where his team is investigating why this area had such unique dinosaur and other vertebrate species 80-75 million years ago, despite a lack of physical barriers.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. UFOP SW Chapter
Considerably helped by Pres. Bill Biesele's Agenda for this meeting
January 16, 2018