

# Minutes of the SW UFOP Meeting on 1/16/2019

Bill Biesele, our chapter president, opened the meeting right on time welcoming the 24 attendees.

- He reminded us to make timely camping/room reservations in Moab for our Annual Meeting on June 7-9, organized by our newest UFOP Chapter Gastonia, if we wished to participate. Details to be found on our website [www.utahpaleo.org](http://www.utahpaleo.org)
- Bill announced that our Vice President Anne Sherwood was stepping down and thanked her for her help during her 5-year tenure. The board has asked Jaleesa Spor to serve in her stead and she has accepted. He then welcomed her as our new Vice President amid applause of our appreciative members.
- Before the meeting started, dues were collected by Alan Rabinoff, our new treasurer. He noted expenses of \$19.99, making the new balance on our account \$1,713, 26. More dues payments were expected at our next meeting on February 20th. For those members who prefer to pay with a check, and not on-line, Alan's home address was provided (3499 E Blackbrush Drive, St. George, UT 84790) to send their dues by snail-mail. Members who planned to renew their memberships at the next meeting but can't make it, can send their checks now to above address.
- Elisabeth then read her Minutes of the previous meeting on November 28, 2018. They were voted on for approval, seconded, and entered as such into the record to be posted on our web site.
- Bill then announced the speaker for our next meeting on Wednesday, February 20. Andrew Milner, our named: "Paleontological Musing."
- Bill then introduced our speaker for the evening, Tylor Birthisel. Tylor is a familiar face for many of us here. He started his undergraduate degree at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, majoring in geology. Then he was the first intern with SGDS. From there he managed the prep lab at Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument for 3 years. The last 5 years he has been the prep lab manager for the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake,. He is now working on his Masters thesis at the University of Utah on ontogeny and histology of parasauropodus. He was actually featured in today's newspaper. The title of his presentation was: "Tarantula Mesa and Arachnoceratops."

Tylor gave us an interesting account of his work with the Natural History Museum of Utah on Tarantula Mesa, located within the Henry Mountains. Tylor and crew were there in 2014 to salvage a previously reported ceratopsian dinosaur skull and to search for Late Cretaceous dinosaurs and other fossils. The ceratopsian skull salvaged has several characteristics that differentiate it from other known ceratopsians known from Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). It most closely resembles a dinosaur called *Nasutoceratops titusi* from the Kaiparowits Formation of GSENM. All indications suggest that this new ceratopsian from Tarantula Mesa (nicknamed, "Arachnoceratops") is slightly older than *Nasutoceratops*, and is about 83-74 million years old. Aside from this new ceratopsian, several other important fossils from Tarantula Mesa include turtles, a partial hadrosaur, or duck-billed dinosaur, hadrosaur and ceratopsian footprints.

- After Tylor had answered many questions, Bill thanked him for his presentation and this meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary of UFOP SW Chapter, February 14, 2019*