
FROM THE ROAD; 2016 UTAH TRIP

11/20/2016

Hello Everyone,

It is nearing time for us to depart on our December trip West. This year we will head to Bryce, then Springdale and finally to Moab, Utah. Today was spent loading film holders.



This is a test mailing to make sure everything is working for our 'From the Road' posts. If you received this and do not want to be included this year, please reply and we will remove you from the mailing. Otherwise, consider you are on the list and we will begin sending our periodical updates and photos once we depart December 3rd.

Hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving!

JB & Susan

FROM THE ROAD 12/05/2016

Hello Everyone!

We have finally arrived at Bryce Canyon NP. We left Benbrook in the rain and finally found dry road just the other side of foggy Amarillo. Been blue skies and sun the rest of the trip to this first stop. We are settled in here at historic Ruby's Inn just outside of the park.

We did a little exploring before sunset, driving the park road, but the wind was horrendous. It was in the upper 30's and dropped rapidly to freezing at sunset. That 10-15 mph wind makes for a nice wind chill and big cameras are not wind friendly!

Looks like the forecast has changed and the NWS is saying -5F tomorrow night with a 30% chance of snow. . . that has changed since Saturday. The worst part is more wind, gusting to 22mph with wind chills values as low as -25.

Tomorrow is suppose to be mostly sunny with a high near 36F, its just that wind gusting to 23 that makes things difficult. We will do some scouting to see what we can find. . . you never know!

We will report more From The Road as the days progress.

JB & Susan



The truck looks something like this. . .



Mr. Tumbleweed Snowman is still in Albuquerque. . .



Typical hotel room. . .



First stop!!!

FROM THE ROAD 12/07/2016

Hello Again Everyone,

Been a couple of days of varying weather here in Bryce Canyon NP. Yesterday it was cold with a high of about 37 or so. . . the biggest problem was the wind that was gusting toward 20mph at times. We did get out and make a few negatives in Red Canyon, just outside of Bryce. We were able to hide in some places somewhat out of the wind, but the gusts will find you no matter where are are.

The NWS predicted a low of -4 and 30% chance of snow last night. . . didn't happen. Nothing fell all night, not even much frost on the vehicles, but it was 16 when we got up. Nice thing was, we had clear skies and it made it to about 26 or so. The wind was almost calm. . . almost! We did get out and worked for several hours in 4-6 inch deep snow left over from their last storm last week. The entire park is still about 50% snow covered from that storm that was near 10" in some places.

This is our last day here, tomorrow we move to Springdale, UT and our most favorite area, in and around Zion NP. Here are a few snapshots from the last two days.

More to come,

JB & Susan



Red Canyon yesterday complete with a nasty wind. . .



Susan holding her camera down in the wind. . .



JB with even more wind yesterday. . .



Susan working in the snow today. . . much cooler, but much less wind. . . only about 23 or so. . .



Ruby's Inn lobby. . .

FROM THE ROAD 12/09/2016

Hello Everyone,

Here we are in one of our favorite places on Earth. . . Zion NP. We arrived yesterday and spent a little time driving around checking out some of our favorite places and scouting some new areas. Got checked in at the hotel and went through the usual task of setting up our base of operation for the next two weeks.

Today we were up early and headed out to look at a couple of places we wanted to look into again. The weather was cold in Bryce, running from the mid teens to the mid twenties, but that area is at 8,000 feet. Zion is around 4,000 feet and the weather is forecast to be a little warmer. . . maybe even too warm for us. Lows not even reaching freezing and warming to near 50 for the next few days. We would like to see it a little cooler and snow would be nice! We will take what we get, since this is an amazing place no matter the weather.

Today we started off slow. . . working along the road so we don't have to pack cameras very far. . . yes. . . it is a good idea not to over do it. We will work up to much more aggressive hikes after a few days getting acclimated. It is noticeable leaving Texas at 600 feet MSL to what we have here.

Again, this place is amazing! Here are a few more snapshots.

JB & Susan



Working along the road heading toward the East Entrance to the park. . .



Susan and her 4x10 vertical camera. . .



Yes. . . the image is upside down and reversed. . .



JB with the 11x14. . .



Much easier to work from the vehicle than to pack. . . That will change in a few days!



All that stuff in the truck!



This is an amazing place!

FROM THE ROAD 12/11/2016

Hello Everyone,

We had a busy day today. We worked in all formats we carry. . . a very busy day! The weather is what you would call mild here for winter. . . lows just above freezing and warming into the low 50's. . . you get what you get. We did have light rain over night, which always adds a nice dimension to what you find to photograph.

We will not bore you with more details. . . how about some more snapshots?

Oh. . . Yes. . . How about a movie? Follow this link to see a one minute clip that Susan made of JB working with the 16x20 camera today;

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/r63h5h8sttfzu1t/16x20b.mov?dl=0>

Thanks for traveling with us!

JB & Susan



You need a lot of film holders when you travel. . .



The wet leaves are amazing. . .



Standing on top of a really big rock. . .



Yep, we work from the side of the road a lot!



Just stay aware of the tourist traffic. . .



Read the meter. . . check it twice. . . thrice!



Yes, that is a 16x20!

FROM THE ROAD 12/13/2016

Hello All,

Not a lot to report, so here are some snapshots from the last two days. . . we have been busy!

As always, thanks for traveling with us!

JB & Susan



Just at sunrise in Springdale, UT. . .



Big camera first thing while you have the stamina to get it there!



Not quite hidden. . .



You have to operate the camera by feel. . .



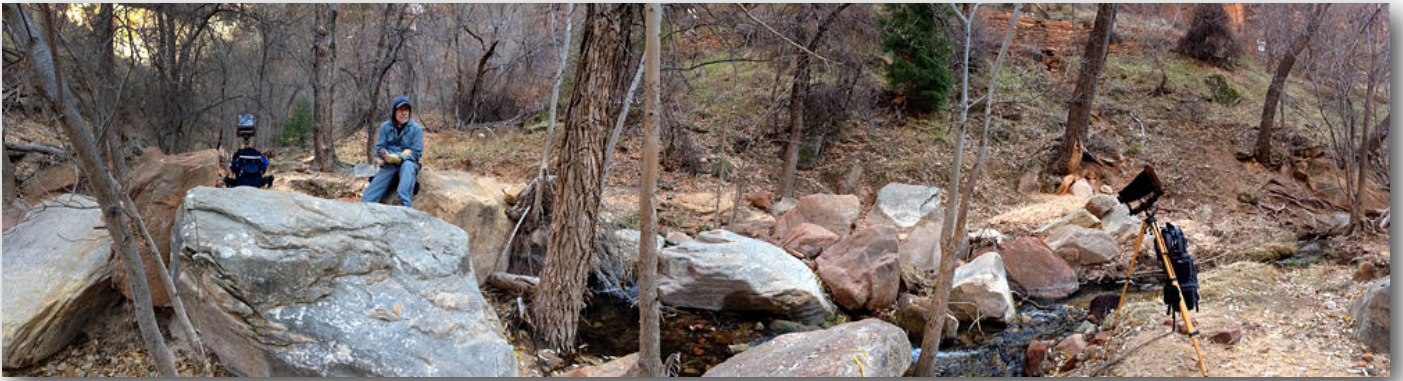
Oh Darn. . . a selfie!!!



Lunch time. . . Nutterbutter and coffee. . . YES!



Back on the trail. . .



There is always time to just sit and enjoy. . .



Got to get the muck off the tripod. . .



. . . the shoes also. . .



Ring around the Moon. . . it will rain in three days. . .

FROM THE ROAD 12/16/2016

Hello Everyone,

Been a busy few days, with the changing weather comes changes in plans. Wednesday we saw the beginning of a weather pattern shift. We photographed a little then hiked into one of our favorite areas to check for places to return. . . after the storms that is.

Yesterday (Thursday) the sky began to show interesting patterns. Susan made her first ever negative from the bridge of The Watchman. This is the first time in several years the sky has been nice. . . been mostly chalk and haze for several years now. We spent some time trying to catch a few rocky vistas as the clouds continually changed. We loaded in early and made a quick run to the store for supplies, seeing how storms were in the forecast.

Today was a total wash. It started to rain just at dark last evening and this morning the Virgin River, about 50 yards from our back door, was bank full of rushing red water. It has rained most all day and the wind at times has been gusting to 35 or above. Still warm, in the lower 50's but once the front they promised passes we may see a little snow later and lows tonight in the 20's. . . YES! NWS says sunny and 39 tomorrow with winds settling down to more manageable levels.

Today we stayed in, did some housekeeping, web site maintenance and reloaded some film holders. Tomorrow we are back at it.

Here are a few more snapshots from the last few days. . . enjoy!

JB & Susan



Gotta have a Snowman!



The 11x14 at Hidden Waterfall. . .



Yes, I hauled that camera all the way up there!



Susan working her 4x10 at the base of Hidden Waterfall. . .



This is an amazing trail. . .



Sometimes you just hike and take in the sights!



Other times you make a negative. . .



Susan prepping her vertical 4x10 for a run to the bridge. . .



Susan on the bridge photographing The Watchman. . .



Susan and her 8x20 along the switchbacks heading toward the tunnel and the East Entrance. . .



Yes, you have to haul the stuff out there. . .



Sunset yesterday. . . a change is in the air. .



Plenty of muddy water just across the parking lot today. . . It will be much better tomorrow!

FROM THE ROAD 12/19/2016

Hello again everyone!

We have been busy the last three days. After the flood the weather has become more seasonable, with lows in the 20's and highs near 40 for a change. We have made several hikes into some of our favorite areas. . . they change from year to year. Rather than go into a lot of details, here are some snapshots from the last three days.

JB & Susan



Frozen windshield at 21 in the morning. . .



Wildlife in Springdale, Utah. . .



Along the river after the flood just before sunset. . .



Hiking into the canyon. . .



Frozen water and frozen sand along Pine Creek. . . this sandy beach was like walking on stone. . .



Yep. . . that is a filter. . .



This tree has been like this for as long as we have been hiking this trail. . .



Water seeps out of this rock wall year round. . .



Focus. . . Focus. . .



Along the road. . .



Amazing Rocks! There was a major rock fall blocking the road just beyond this point a couple of months ago. . .



Heading to the next photo. . .



From the bridge below the Watchman this afternoon. . .

FROM THE ROAD 12/22/2016

Hello All,

Today is the last day here in Springdale, Zion NP and the surrounding area. Good ol' NWS was saying two days ago, sunny and in the mid 40's for the foreseeable future. Today. . . you got it. . . raining most of the night and they now say most of today. So, today we are staying in and getting things packed up and preparing to move our base camp.

We did get in quite a bit of film time the past two days. Mostly packing into some of the more difficult areas, shooting 8x10 and 4x10. As is most every year, we found a new area that we had driven past in previous trips and never explored. Hope that answers the question, why do we keep coming back?

Here are a few more snapshots from the last few days.

JB & Susan



That's us. . . Zion Lodge entrance. . .



Looking into Pine Creek Canyon. . .



Hiking into Pine Creek Canyon. . . Yep, full packs and tripods for a day's work. . .



Vertical 4x10 along the river. . .



Icicles along Pine Creek. . .



Susan working along Pine Creek. . .



Hiking on sand beach along Pine Creek. . .



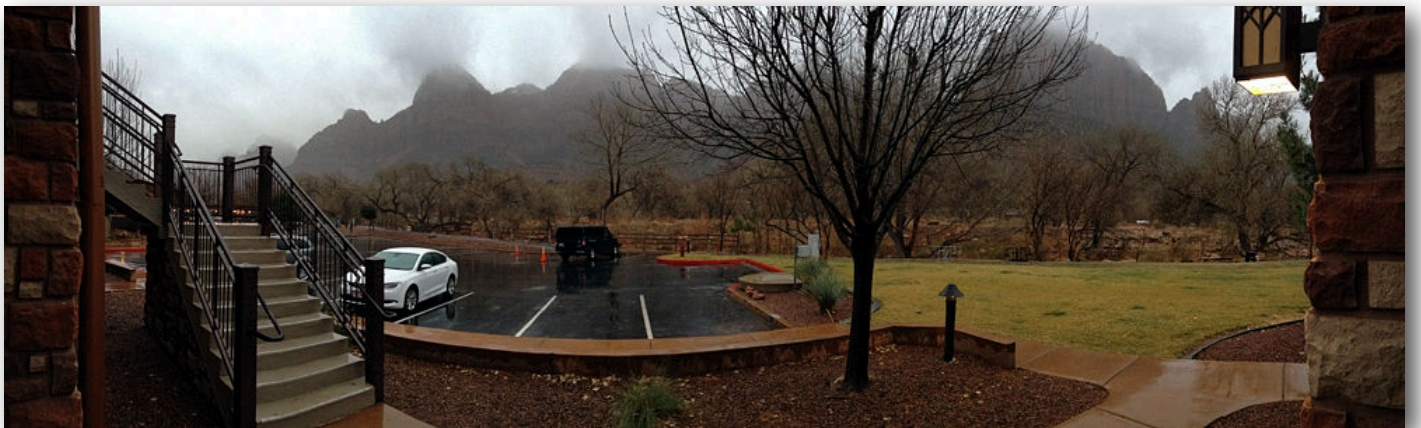
Rock wall seeping water along Pine Creek. . .



A broken, weathered stump. . .



Whatever it takes. . .



Raining this morning. . .

FROM THE ROAD 12/24/2016

Hello Everyone,

Yesterday was moving day. We have moved our base of operation to Moab. It was an interesting travel day. We loaded and departed Springdale in the rain. We drove in rain, dense fog, snow, wind, icy roads and dry roads. All in all it was a beautiful trip, through some beautiful country with unusual weather, beautiful clouds and snow covered mountains. . . conditions we have not seen before on this drive. . . we just keep coming back!

The weather is going to be the big issue for the next couple of days. The wind started in here about 3:00am and now at mid morning is steady at 25 and gusting to near 40. Not a good day to be out with a big camera. . . not even nice to be outside at all. We are, at this hour, behind a warm front and the thermometer on the front porch reads 50, really way too warm to go out. Radar shows rain and snow heading our way later in the day. We stopped by the store on the way into town last evening and are prepared to ride out this storm. . . they say clear and sunny by Monday.

Hope everyone is ready for Christmas. Here are a few more snapshots. . .

JB & Susan



Early morning loading up in Springdale in the rain. . .



All packed and ready to roll. . .



Gotta feed the cows!



The view along the road. . .



Yep. . . Fog. . . Snow. . . Freezing Fog. . . Just another day in Paradise!!!!



Yep. . . snow-covered rock. . .



The view out our front door in Moab. . . There are the LaSal Mountains. . . but. . . you can hardly stand up in the 40+mph wind gusts. We will enjoy the view from inside today!

PS; FROM THE ROAD 12/24/2016

Here is one more photo from the trip yesterday. . .



FROM THE ROAD 12/27/2016

Hello Fellow Travelers,

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas!

We finally got back into the swing of getting out and exposing some large film on Monday. The wind was suppose to be a non-issue, but what does the NWS know? We did some exploring along the Colorado River and into Arches NP. Did get in a few 8x10's and 4x10's, but the wind was a little much.

Today (Tuesday) we did some more exploring along the Colorado River and ended up at Fisher Towers. What an amazing place. . . we will be back there in the future. Difficult hiking the steep terrain, but well worth the effort. Ended the day back in Arches for sunset on the La Sal Mts.

Here are a few more grab shots from the road. . .

JB & Susan



Rabbit in our back yard. . .



Yes. . . we made it to Arches NP. . . despite the storms!



Susan & 4x10 film. . . Windows Area, Arches NP. . .



JB with 8x10 at sunset, Arches NP. . .



Fisher Towers. . .



A sample of Fisher Towers. . .



11x14 camera along Fisher Towers trail. . .
a steep & taxing trail at that!



Susan along Fisher Towers trail. . .



Sunset today. . . Arches NP. . .

FROM THE ROAD 12/29/2016

Hello Everyone,

Here are a few snapshots from the last two days in Moab. Weather has been a little warm, clear with little wind. We could use some nice clouds, but blue skies will have to do.

Tomorrow is our last day here. . . Early Saturday we head back home. . .

JB & Susan



And, what would you like for breakfast?



Yep. . . we are here. . .



Shafer Trail is closed. . . wimps! Only a little snow! Where are those Jeepsters?



Yes, you have to carry that gear out there!



Green River Overlook, 6,000' Elevation. . .



. . . and 1,200' down to the next level. . .



Green River Overlook. . . frozen potholes. . .



Susan with her 4x10 at the overlook edge. . .



. . . the view!!!



Dinosaurs chasing people. . .



We headed into the La Sal Mountains today. . .
road was a little icy. . .



Yep, we were up there. . . somewhere???



Later in Arches NP. . . You have to get that tripod in the exact place!



Somebody has to make those snapshots!



End of today in Arches NP. . .

FROM THE ROAD 01/02/2017

Hello one more time everyone,

We are back home in HOT Texas. Pulled into the driveway about 4:30 yesterday afternoon. . . it was 70F with a threat of severe weather early Monday morning. NWS was calling for possible large hail, winds to 60mph and a brief tornado sometime around 4:00am. Yep. . . a little wind and thunder. . . right about 4:30am. Not much to it, thankfully!

A pretty much uneventful trip home. We did divert our return to bypass a potential winter storm in western New Mexico, which turned into the above severe weather as it approached hot Texas. Our diversion took us through Denver, then south back home. Saw some new territory and more nice snow-covered mountains and winding mountain roads.

This years info;

Miles Driven: 3,791

Hours Driving: 86 hrs. 11 minutes

States: Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado

Film;

4x10: 102

8x10: 65

8x20: 5

11x14: 17

16x20: 4

Snapshots & Videos: who knows???

Maybe in about 4-5 weeks we will begin to see the film and get an idea of what we did on this trip.

Thanks to everyone for traveling with us. Hope each of you enjoyed our annal trip out west. Be sure to stop by our web site and BLOG to keep up with what we are up to.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JB & Susan

