

FROM THE ROAD; 2017 JB & SUSAN UTAH TRIP

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/04/2017

Well hello and welcome to another one of our adventures out west. This year we are heading back to some of our usual haunts. Mostly spending time in southern Utah. We left good ol' HOT Texas Saturday and now we are parked in Flagstaff, AZ. Tomorrow we head to Bryce for a couple of days trying to get back in the swing of getting out with big cameras. You can call it a warming up for the days to come.

Below you will find a few snapshots from the last couple of days. We made a detour this year to Santa Fe to visit with our dear friends Alan & Julie Ross. We had an amazing visit, getting to see Alan's studio and darkroom. . . you know we are partial to that film stuff! Alan was preparing to print a run of the Ansel Adams special edition prints that are sold in the AA Gallery in Yosemite. He showed us the negative and how he was preparing the printing session. It was an amazing visit we will not soon forget.

We also got to catch up with another person that has only been an Internet friend, Jan Pietrzak. He was busy yesterday getting ready for an upcoming exhibition of his photography, but we did arrange to meet up with him this morning for coffee. Jan is another amazing photographer and we were so excited to get to meet him in person. We could have talked all day. . . but. . . we had to make tracks to Flagstaff and this is where we are now. . tomorrow we move on.

JB & Susan



Yes. . . this is a selfie!.....



Yep. . . the typical rest stop near Amarillo



Every day load. . .



. . . and unload!



Alan in his workroom. . . thanks Alan & Julie for a wonderful visit!!!



Super Moon in Santa Fe. . .

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/05/2017

Today was another road day. . . but. . . we are in Utah. . . Bryce Canyon NP to be more specific. That blue norther blew through Flagstaff and it was 25 this morning. Not that the temp is that bad, but that 15-18mph wind made it a little hard to take!

It was the usual trip to the park. Looks like Lake Powell has not gained any water. As you enter into Utah the scenery becomes something to enjoy. The weather may be a problem here in Bryce the next few days. . . not that the temps running near 0 to the low 40's is that bad. The wind is suppose to continue 10-15 with wind chills nearing 10. Big cameras and wind will not work. We'll see. . . maybe we can find some areas out of the wind tomorrow.

Meanwhile we are here and that is all that matters. Just being here has its own merits. . . making a few negatives is only icing on the cake!!!

JB & Susan



Might not be able to move mountains. . . but they can certainly cut a chunk out of one!



Yes. . . the state line. . .



NOTE-- That is Nad-A-Bus. . . Must be a big go cart???



WARNING! Selfie!!!! Red Canyon, Utah



Heads Down!!! Tunnel. . .



We are here. . .



Always an amazing place! Even if it is 24 and the wind is blowing. . .

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/08/2017

Well the weather in Bryce didn't prove to be very friendly. . . at least for big cameras. It was cold and that is fine, but that wind that never was below 10mph and gusting at times enough to cause you to lose your balance if you were not paying attention, was just too much. We spent most of each day exploring, making a few snapshots and heading back to the truck to warm up. That kind of wind is not friendly!

This morning we packed up and headed to Springdale. Since the weather has been warm and there is little to no snow we were able to take Hwy 14 and explore the area around Duck Creek ski area. This mountain road took us over the mountains to 10,000ft. Amazing lava flows and unending stands of aspens. A really nice drive.

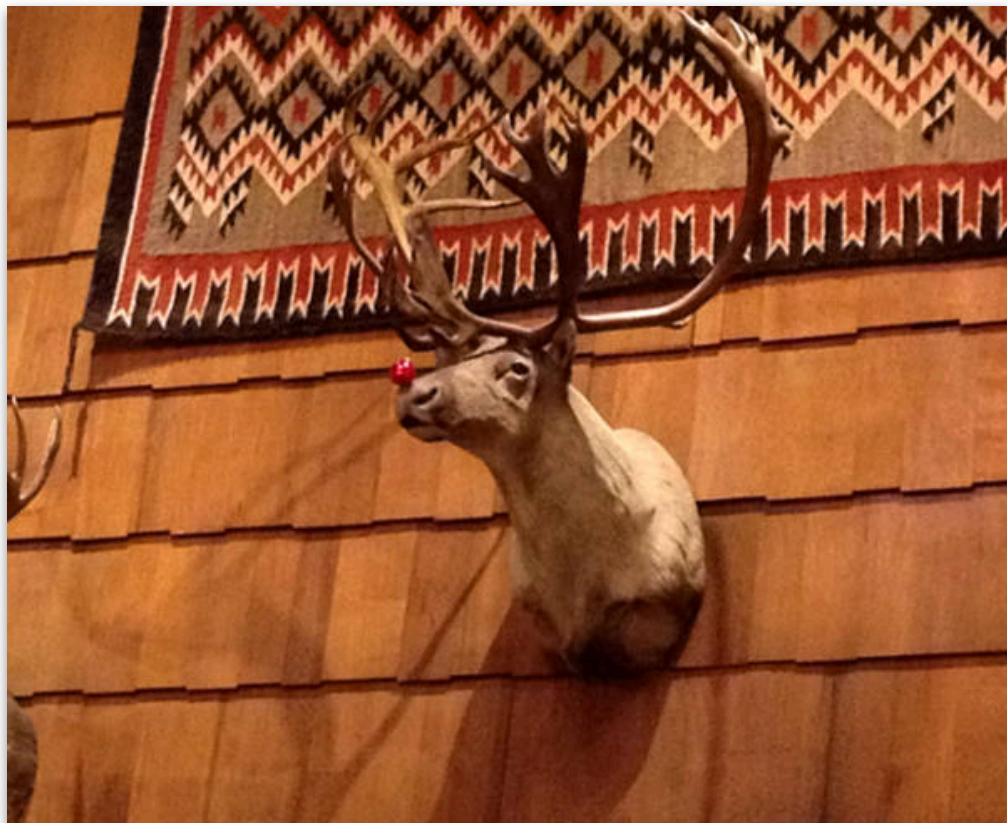
We are now in Springdale. . . but. . . the main drag through town is undergoing a major road upgrade. Construction forever. . . one area over 2 miles is one lane. They say, expect delays from five minutes to thirty, just to get through town. Temperatures are in the 50's to 60's but at least here there is no wind. We'll deal with it.

We spent most of the afternoon driving around Zion scouting out some areas. Tomorrow we will get the cameras out.

JB & Susan



The Bryce Canyon Lodge lobby was all decked out. It was so nice to hear Christmas music!



Rudolph looks a little stuffed though. . .



We did meet Smokey The Bear. . .



WARNING! A selfie in a selfie. . .



Our shadow as we headed out this morning. . .



We are here. . .

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/11/2017

We have now been in Zion for three days. We have done a lot of scouting out new areas and making some new negatives. Amazing how crowded the park was over the weekend. We have places we go to stay away from the crowds. Today there were far fewer people around and we ventured into some of the more traveled areas to scout some things we want to point a camera toward tomorrow.

It is also way too warm here. Running just below freezing in the morning and warming up into the mid 50's. There is no snow anywhere and even the locals are not happy about that! We'll make do with what we have. There are times it is good just to be here.

Below are a few more snapshots of our last few days. Enjoy, and as always, thanks for traveling along with us!

JB & Susan



There is no shortage of deer in and around the park.



Heading across the road. . .



Yep. . . load up and head out. . .



. . . across the road. . .



Had to visit the broken stump again this year. Here is the video of the photo JB made of this back in 2013. . .

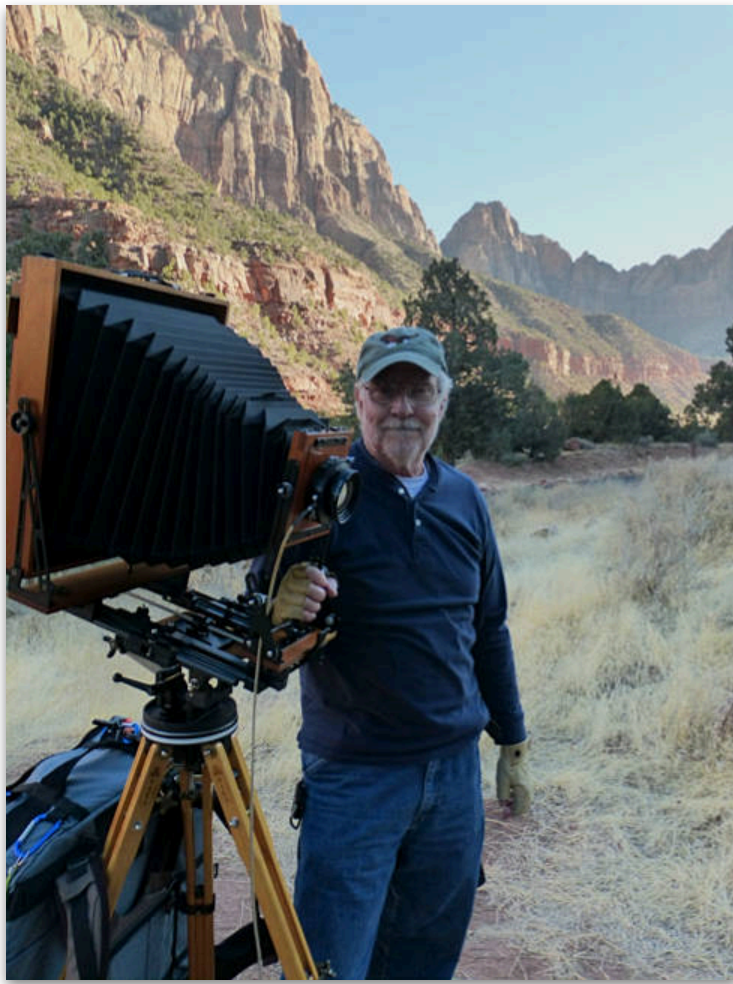
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSwFcqLwrbk>



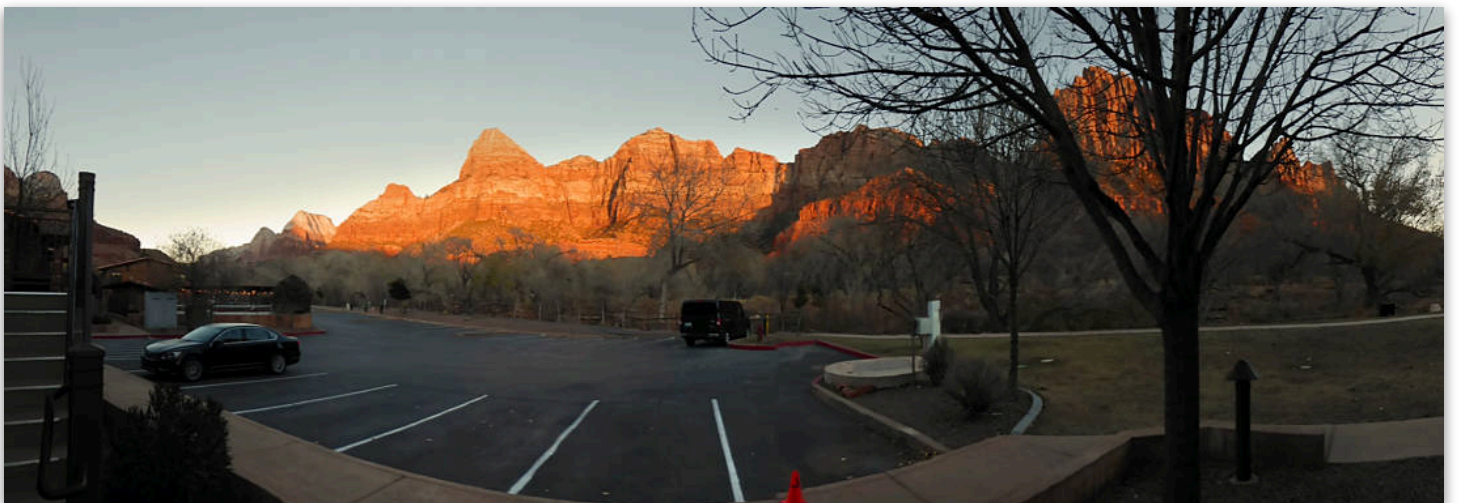
The bark on the trees tends to glow in this light.



The trees glow also. . .



Yep. . . that is 11x14. . .



The view out our back door today at sunset. . .

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/14/2017

We have been at it for the past few days. Not a lot to report. . . we have been scouting some new areas and some of our usual places. We tend to spend most of our time in the areas that are away from the usual tourist crowds. We visited a couple of our favorite trails and there is always something new. We'll let the photos tell most of the story.

We did find that a tree that JB finally got the photo he wanted two years ago is now gone. . . see the photos below.

Tomorrow is another day. . . thanks for traveling along with us!

JB & Susan



Susan is still making images of her tree. . .



This was the tree JB finally got what he wanted 2 years ago. . . and. . .



. . . today, the tree is no longer there. All the more reason, "if you see it photograph it!"



I survived Thanksgiving!!!



What can you say???



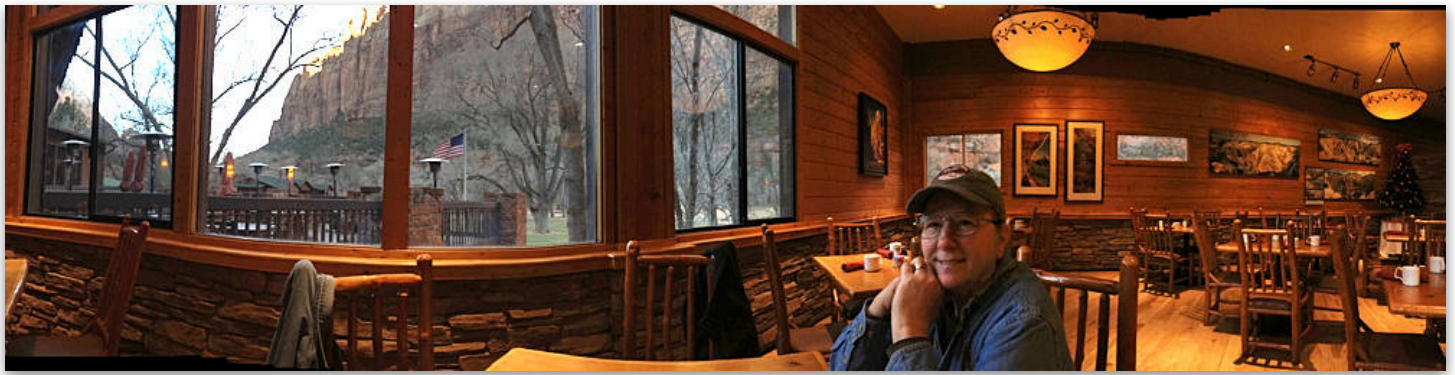
Exploring rock formations. . .



The things you find when you explore. . .



Always look down. . .



Breakfast at the lodge. . . nice view!



Bet that rock went BOOM when it came down. . . just pave the road around it!



Selfie. . . Again!!!

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/18/2017

We have been busy the last few days. Pretty much getting in some new images each day. The temps are running from mid 20's to low 50's each day. They have had little precipitation since last year and everything is dry and dusty. In years past we had to deal with cleaning mud off our tripods. . .this year, it is just dry and dusty everywhere.

We hiked into one of our favorite canyons yesterday. This is an all day trip. There are three very distinctly different areas along this trail that follows a small stream. Going in we stop often to work new and interesting things we find and it seems to be really easy. By the end of the day we are over a mile into the canyon and we come to a waterfall. You need wet suits and rope to continue so it is time to head out. The trip out is always a lot tougher. . . that 50lbs of gear gets heavier by the end of your day. Is it worth it? It always has been in the past and we usually bring back several keepers from this one area.

Today we took it easy and only did some more scouting. . . tomorrow we hike into another extremely beautiful area.

JB & Susan



Right there beside the road. . .



You never know what you will see. . . pull off the main road. . . on a curve. . . park illegally. . . get in the middle of the road and get down on the pavement with your phone. . . Take a photo. . . or. . . Can You Hear Me Now?



JB made this photo in 2010. . .



. . . here it is today. The river channel has changed but the rock he took the above photo from is still there.



You don't always need a tripod!



Susan and her 8x20. . . you just shoot over the road and the traffic!



The canyon walls from yesterday's hike. . .



They grow out of the stone walls. . .



Patterns and shapes everywhere you look. . .



Rocks and sand everywhere. . .



This canyon is magic!



This is where we head tomorrow!!!

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/23/2017

Been a busy few days for us here in Zion. We explored some new areas and had a snow tease. One of those desert snow storms that was just enough to barely cover the ground and was mostly gone by the end of the day. We made the best of it though!

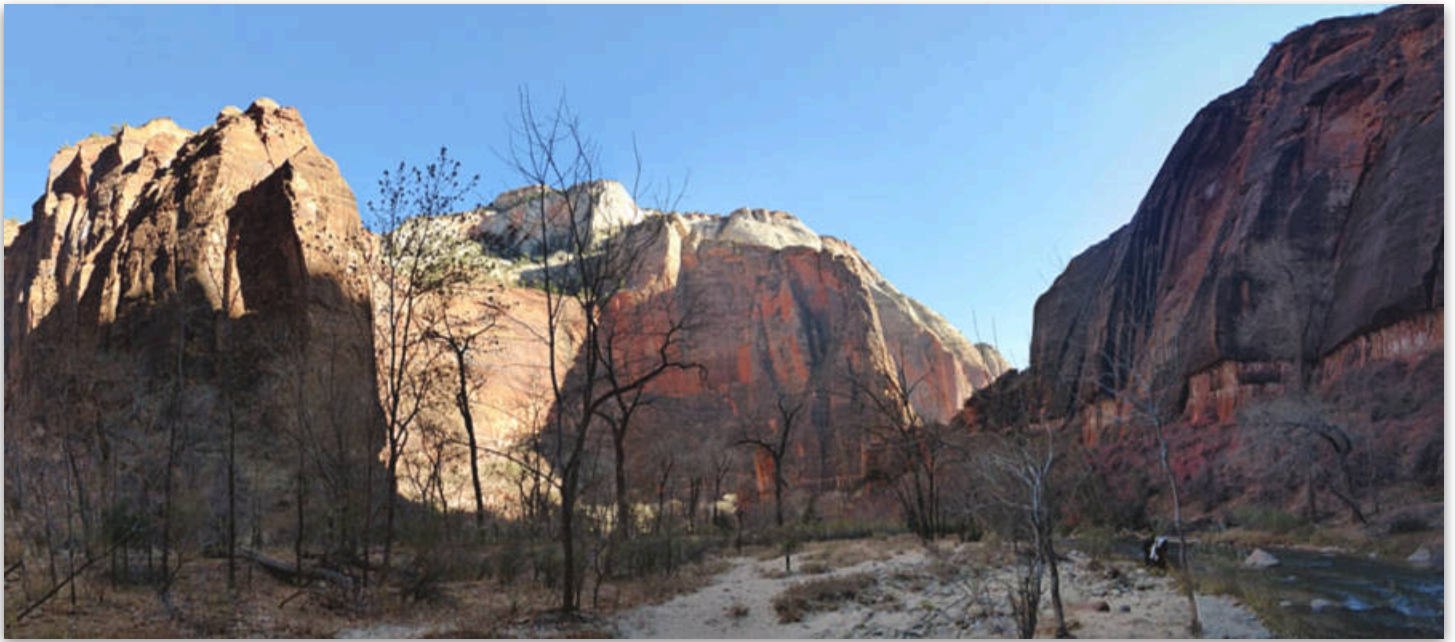
Today was our last day here in Springdale. We did a little sightseeing but the crowds have arrived for Christmas in the park. Time for us to pack up. Tomorrow we get up early and head to Moab. We heard that Arches NP had over a foot of snow. . . we'll see???

MERRY CHRISTMAS everyone!!!

JB & Susan



There is something about running water. . .



We spent a whole day in this area. . .



This was another new area we explored. . . not far from the parking area, but quite a climb up a steep hillside about 200' above the pullout.



We did have some snow. . .



Have to work fast. . . snow melts when it is this warm!



Susan capturing snow and melting snow. . .



Calculate the exposure and get it done!



Back into the new area. . . 50lbs of gear up that hillside took a little time, but hopefully worth the effort???



Yep. . . we both got up there!



Just might have to come back here again. . .



Melting snow. . . equals. . . mud. Have to clean the tripods.

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/26/2017

Hope everyone had a great Christmas. We left Springdale the 24th and headed to Moab. This is always a beautiful drive across southern Utah. We had heard there was some snow in and around Moab and those rumors were correct. Not a lot of snow until we got into the Moab area. There was from 6 to over 12 inches. We have spent the last two days in Arches NP. . . absolutely buried in snow. We have seen snow here before but not like this. Here are a few more snapshots.

JB & Susan



We had to leave the tumbleweed snowman in Springdale. . .



We'll miss breakfast at Oscar's Cafe. . .



Southern Utah. . .



Just a nice drive. . .



This is Arches NP. . .



The park is buried in 8-12 inches of snow. . .







The jumble of camera gear in the truck. . .

JB & Susan FROM THE ROAD 12/31/2017

Hello everyone! We made a quick executive decision and the vote was unanimous. . . since there was and is, a major winter storm headed to the panhandle of Texas, we opted to head home two days early. The temperatures in southern Utah were ridiculously warm for winter. Not bad in the morning into the upper 20's but warming into the 50's and near 60 is not for us! The last few days in Moab was amazing, even though it was reaching near hot during midday. It is hard to dress and work when you cannot stay comfortable. You are continually shedding or putting on layers of clothes. Not what we are used to. The area in and around Moab, including Arches NP had from 8 to over 12 inches of snow. We have never seen that much snow in Arches, but with the warm daytime temps, it was going away fast. We made a day trip to Canyonlands NP and there was little to no snow to be found. It was a strange snow storm, in that it was mostly centered around the town of Moab. . . must be Weather!

The kicker for us was making a run for home early was that forecast of freezing fog, freezing rain and possible snow across the Texas panhandle. Not something we wanted to deal with. Being trapped in a motel along the interstate is not a fun thing. . . been there. . . done that!!! Friday was a warm drive to Santa Rosa, NM. Yesterday by the time we reached Amarillo, the temp was 23 dropping to 21. Visibility at times 1/4 mile in freezing fog. And did I mention that north wind? We made it through the fog and freezing rain and didn't see the temp above freezing until we were about 50 miles from Ft. Worth. So. . . we are home. . . it is 23 out there now with wind 15-20 from the north, heavily overcast and locals are reporting the bridges are slick with ice. Not suppose to get above freezing in the D/FW area till Wednesday. Finally. . . a real winter!

We did have an amazing trip. . . it is always good to just get out of town! I would venture to say we shot about the usual amount of film and traveled the usual amount of miles. . . it will take a few days to tally up what we did. Right now we are home and the living room is piled high with all our gear. It will take a few more days to sort it all out.

We would like to thank everyone for traveling along with us. . . we had a great time and hope you did also. Here are a few more snapshots from the last few days in Utah.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

JB & Susan



Not a lot of snow in Canyonlands this year. . .



The view is amazing! Yes, it is 1,200 feet straight down at that rock edge. . .



Not that much snow. . .



Leave Fido in the car!



Plenty of snow along the Colorado River just outside Moab. . .



Back in Arches NP. . . note a t-shirt and jeans. . . way too warm!



The last day in Arches and still snow on the ground, but way too warm!



Sunrise over the LaSal Mts. as we were leaving. . .



Last year this ski area near Durango was covered with snow and people. . .
This year it is covered in dirt. . .



The Cadillac Ranch in Freezing Fog. . .



Yes, we came home in the freezing rain. . .



Thanks for traveling along with us!!!

JB & Susan

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