

FROM THE ROAD: 2018 JB & SUSAN UTAH TRIP

Date: Saturday, 22 Dec 2018

Hello Everyone,

We left for Utah on Thursday morning and arrived two days later in Utah. Fortunately, the traffic was lighter than we have seen in previous years. Stopped in Santa Rosa, NM. Friday and arrived in Moab, UT late yesterday. Did a quick unload and crashed. This year we found a place with a large garage that we could keep the truck in so we don't have to unload and load the equipment every day. That sure helps!!!

The Governor of Utah is keeping three National Parks opened with services: Zion NP, Bryce NP and Arches NP.

We spent today in Arches NP. We both got in a couple of photos, but mostly spent the day exploring several areas and planning for the upcoming days. The sky was pure blue, not a cloud in sight. By afternoon the wind became a problem, so we came in early stopping by the store for supplies. The first day is usually spent getting settled into a working routine. Tomorrow is another day.

Here are a few pictures. . . more to come!

JB & Susan



Selfie Alert!!!



Sunrise Santa Rosa, NM



It's winter. . . why so many bugs?



Tumbleweed snowman in Albuquerque again this year!



Sunrise this morning on the La Sal Mtns.



Here again. . .



Yes we are here!



Date: Tuesday, 25 Dec 2018

Merry Christmas Everyone,

Hope everyone has had a great Christmas. . . we did! Spent the last few days in and around Moab. We spent Sunday in Arches NP poking around and made a few negatives. This is the first time in several years that there is not a lot of snow in the area. Also being here near Christmas there weren't many people around.

Then yesterday we spent the day working along the Colorado River. The water level is much lower than it has been in the past. Again we spent some time making a few more photos and sightseeing. This is an amazing area. . . no wonder John Ford loved to film here.

Today was suppose to be rainy with the possibility of snow. To our surprise, it was sunny most of the day with really beautiful clouds, only getting really socked in late in the day. We had sun, wind, somewhat warm temps, suddenly dropping into the 30's, then snow flurries. This is why we love to come here!

Here are a few more snapshots. We depart Moab, heading to Hanksville Thursday, weather permitting.

More to come. . . thanks for traveling with us!

JB & Susan

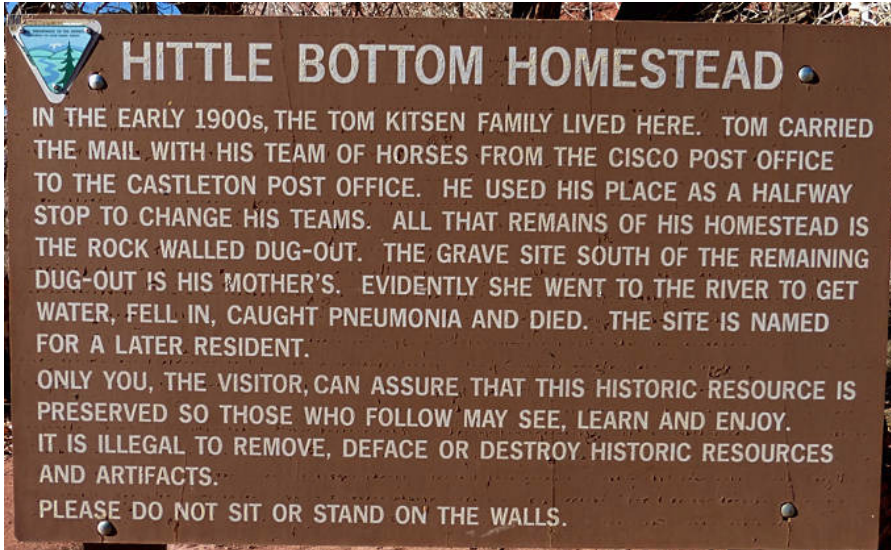


Not a lot of snow in Arches NP at this time. . .



Selfie Alert!!! Here we are at Castle Rock. For those mature followers; anyone remember Joe Isuzu??? How about the commercial he did with the SUV on top of that rock tower? In case you don't remember, here is some trivia;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RfaGRQ-3Pc>



This is an interesting place on the Colorado R.



Not much left of the dug-out. . .



Yes. . . we were there today!



Cameras at Grand View Point Overlook. . .



Gotta have a shade for the shade in this sun!



Started out sunny, windy and really nice clouds. . .



... then the storms started moving in. . . few snow flurries and we called it a day.



Date: Friday, 28 Dec 2018

Hello Fellow Travelers,

We finished up in Moab Wednesday, spending the day in Arches NP. In the morning we had some nice skies but we headed in early to pack. The next day was moving day. . . time to head to Hanksville and take a look at Goblin Valley SP and Capitol Reef NP. We had been in Capitol Reef way back in 2009, but the weather was really rotten and we didn't do much that trip.

With a winter storm moving into the area, we headed out early Thursday. Making it to Hanksville well before the storm. We had time to drive through Capitol Reef NP and scout out several places we were aware of from our previous trip that didn't work out then. We also drove out to Goblin Valley SP, where we first encountered heavy snow. We decided it would be best to head back to town and get settled in at our new base of operation. We have a nice comfy, yet small cabin here in Hanksville for the next few days. By the time we had the truck unloaded the snow was really coming down.

Today we woke up to about 1.5" of really wet snow. Nice thing about the high desert, when they plow the roads they clear quickly. We were slow getting started, just to be sure the roads were in good shape. We headed into Capitol Reef NP and spent the day working in the snow. It was about 27-30F all day. The only annoyance was that 5-10 knot North wind, but this is our environment.

The snow doesn't last long around here, so tomorrow we may head to Goblin Valley SP or somewhere else. . . we never know. . . sometimes we head one way, only to turn around and go another. Not good to have too many plans.

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

JB & Susan



The last day in Arches NP



Yard Art along the way to Hanksville



Cold in Capitol Reef NP



Amazing trees in Capitol Reef NP



Strange formations



Goblin Valley SP in the snow



The Goblins in the snow



Another Goblin suited up for action



Need a little de-snowing this morning



Susan working 4x10 in Capitol Reef NP



I believe the Marmots are hibernating now



Never too cold for a chocolate milkshake!!!!



Capitol Reef today. . .

Date: Monday, 31 Dec 2018

Hello Everyone,

We made an early escape from Hanksville, leaving one day early to get ahead of the incoming winter storm. We spent a few more hours working some film in Capitol Reef NP before heading back to pack and get ready for the move to Ruby's Inn and Bryce Canyon NP.

Had a beautiful drive yesterday along Scenic Utah Highway 12, through the mountains. Below are a few snapshots of what we saw. This is one of the most beautiful highways in Utah. Problem is, in winter it can become a little hazardous, so for the past few years we have not been able to make the drive. This year we made it again and it was not disappointing!

We got checked in here at Ruby's Inn, and have setup our next base of operation. Had a nice dinner and some time to catch up on some chores. This morning we awoke with temps about 14F and 1/2" of snow. We had a good leisurely breakfast, cleared the snow from the truck and the sun was out by mid-morning, but the NWS said more snow by noon. . . guess what? They were right! About 11:30 the clouds were back and it was snowing like crazy again. The main event was suppose to be over night, but by 1:00 it was a blizzard. . . by 4:00 the sun is out. Had to dig the truck out for the second time today. The temps have been falling all day to a forecast 8F by sunset, with a windchill around -10F. We don't mind the cold, but tonight they say -8F and the wind is suppose to make windchill somewhere near -30F. We opted to stay in and watch the snow today. SyFy channel has Twilight Zone all day! Tomorrow is another day.

We just received word that both Arches and Canyonlands NP are closed due to heavy snow and no funding to maintain the roads due to the shutdown. Glad we made those when we did!

Hope everyone has a great NewYears Eve!

JB & Susan



Susan working some 8x20 in Capitol Reef



A wider view



JB at the Fruita School House, Capitol Reef NP



One very old Cottonwood Tree



The Fluted Wall, Capitol Reef NP



Loading the gear



Scenic HW 12



One summit



Aspen grove



Down you go



Down and down and back and forth



Bryce Canyon City



Santa is still in the lobby



First snow this morning

Date: Thursday, 3 Jan 2019

Hello from now mostly thawed Bryce Canyon NP,

Been a little chilly here for the last few days. Yesterday and today we finally ventured out to explore and expose some film. Yesterday it warmed to almost freezing. It was sunny but we were plagued by a nasty 10 knot North wind all day. We did find a nice area in Red Canyon that provided some relief from the wind, but it was still not a great day to be out.

Today was much better. Bright blue sky with plenty of sunshine and the temps were in the upper 30's. The wind has finally dropped to light and variable and it was a very pleasant day out working in the snow. We really wanted to work some of the canyon rim but the park is closed beyond the Sunset Point area and there are way too many people. The trails have not been cleared so they are nothing but packed ice from all of the foot traffic. We opted not to try to brave the trails because of the ice and people slipping and sliding around us. Found a nice pullout, far from the crowds and spent the day photographing. Nice to be geared up and back working again.

Tomorrow is moving day. We head to Springdale and the Zion NP area. We are hoping the holiday crowds are all gone and maybe we can have some quiet time in and around the park. We'll see what we find when we get there.

JB & Susan



This is one of the drives not to miss. Capitol Reef to Bryce Canyon



Still a little cold yesterday morning



Nice Christmas fire in the lodge



Yesterday we ventured into the park . . .



... at least what was open



The road beyond Sunset Point is closed



Headed to Red Canyon and found some relief from the wind. . . only about 19-24F all day



Beautiful area, but the wind was not friendly



We spent the afternoon making the best of it. . . lots of layers to keep warm that day



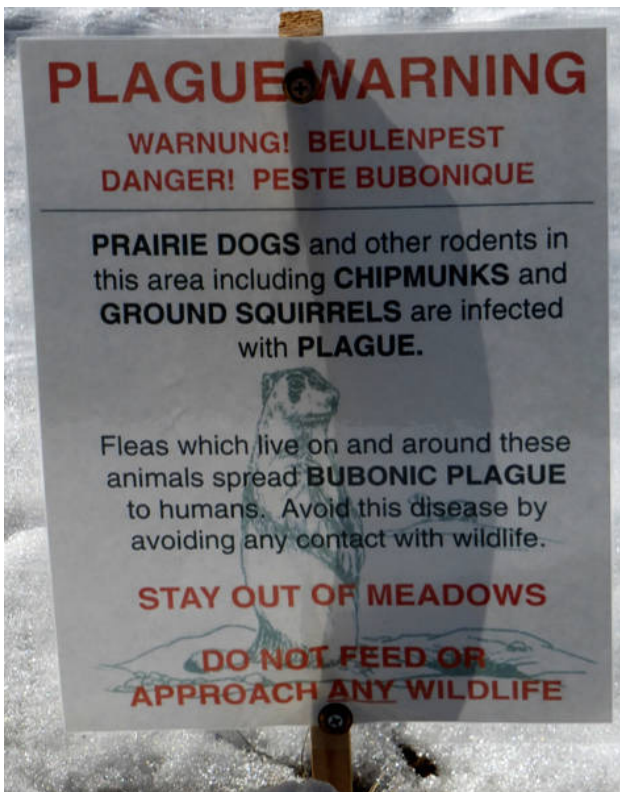
Time to head back and warm up



Today was much better temperature wise, but the trails were brutal to navigate



Nice view



This is why we prefer to visit in winter

Date: Sunday, 6 Jan 2019

Hello Everyone,

Arrived in Springdale, UT day before yesterday and setup our next base of operation. Yesterday we went to the store for supplies and spent some time exploring Zion NP. The park is partially closed/open and surprising full of people. Guess the free admission has attracted a lot of visitors???

Today has been a complete washout. . . that is so far as getting out. Been raining all day, so we opted to stay in. There is a light dusting of snow on the mountains, but just rain where we are. Here is the view from our patio this morning.



The weather is suppose to clear tomorrow, so we will be back at it again.

Take care everyone,

JB & Susan

Date: Thursday, 10 Jan 2019

Hello Everyone,

The last few days in Springdale have been busy for us. We have spent a lot of time in Zion NP. Had some windy days, but we know of areas where we can get protection and not have to deal with the wind. It has warmed up every day and today we saw it near 50F. . . little warm when you are in the sun.

It is amazing how the crowds have disappeared. It reminds us of our first trips here over ten years ago. We have not seen the park overrun with parked cars in some time now. It is refreshing to be able to easily find a parking place and not to have to deal with people parking in the road and making the main drive a one way street.

Here are a few more photos of what we are seeing.

Enjoy!

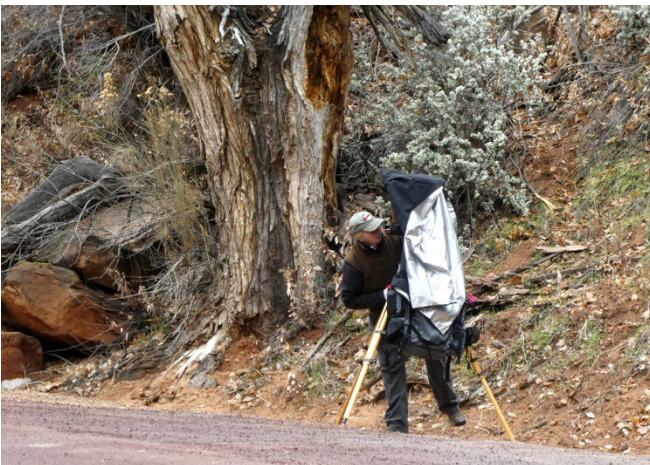
JB & Susan



Susan working the view from The Bridge. . . We had really nice clouds for a change that day



JB hiding from the wind



Susan working along the road



Riverside Walk



Zion Canyon dry waterfall



Haven't seen the parking lot at the lodge this empty in years!



Along the road to the East Entrance



The Temple of Sinawava



You can't park where I am making a photograph!



Naught from Naught equals Naught. . . carry the Naught. . .



Susan today with her 8x20 near the park entrance



Just inside the West entrance



Big Bend parking lot view

Date: Tuesday, 15 Jan 2019

Hello Everyone,

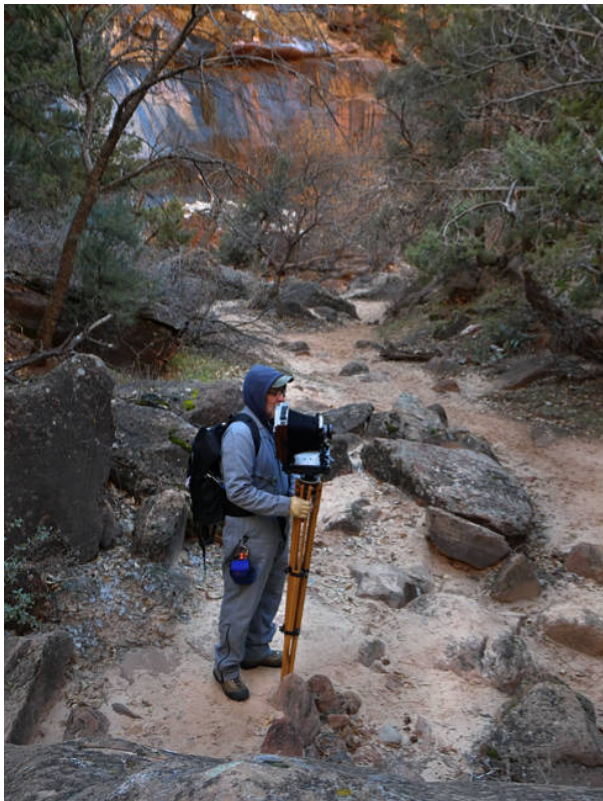
We have been busy the last few days. Made two all day hikes, explored several new areas and went through some big film. We were anticipating rain which has now materialized. Today is a rain out for sure.

Here are some snapshots from the last five days.

JB & Susan



One of our favorite places



This is a day hike into a narrowing canyon



The details you find when you look



The temperature at the trail-head was 40F... but... the muddy ground was frozen solid and there was hoar frost everywhere



The canyon walls are carved with many shapes



Box Elder seed pods



We found the long lost petrified remains of the Yellow Submarine!!!



Susan working with her 8x20 below Angel's Landing



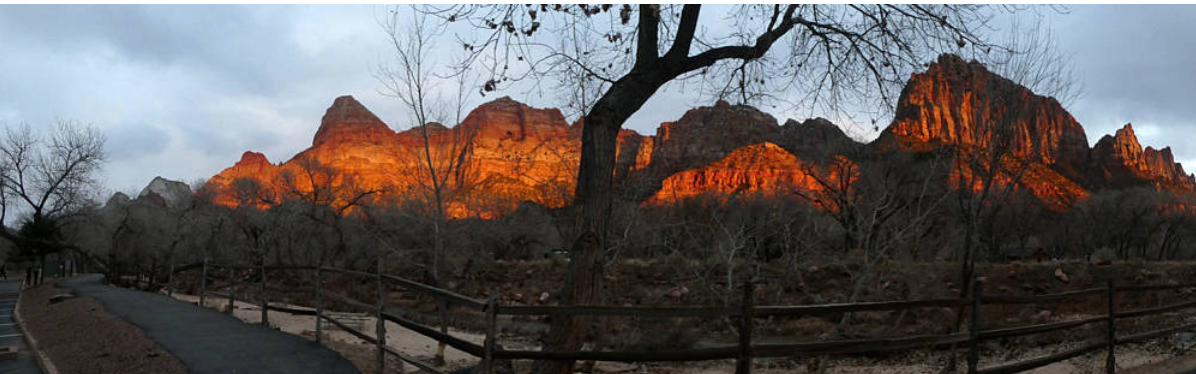
Yesterday we hiked into a narrow slot canyon where we spent most of the day



JB near the end of the slot



Susan taking a break



Sunset yesterday...



Date: Tuesday, 22 Jan 2019

Hello, one more time,

We did make it back to civilization late yesterday evening. It was a long driving day across New Mexico and into Texas. The wind was a factor, seeing gusts over 30 mph all afternoon but we are finally home.

The last few days in Springdale were mostly stormy and for the most part windy and a rain out. We did get in some film between storms, but when the rain stopped the wind was a problem.

At this point we have no idea how much film we exposed, nor the number of miles traveled this trip. All of our gear is stacked in the living room and we have a large mound of clothes to sort, wash and put away. It will take several days to get sorted and organized again. We did visit several new areas, explored and exposed film. That is what these trips are for.

We would like to thank everyone for traveling along with us. Below are a few more snapshots from the last few days we were out.

Take care everyone!

JB & Susan



We had a few days of rain, drizzle and fog



Susan working again from the bridge, dodging in and out from under the umbrella



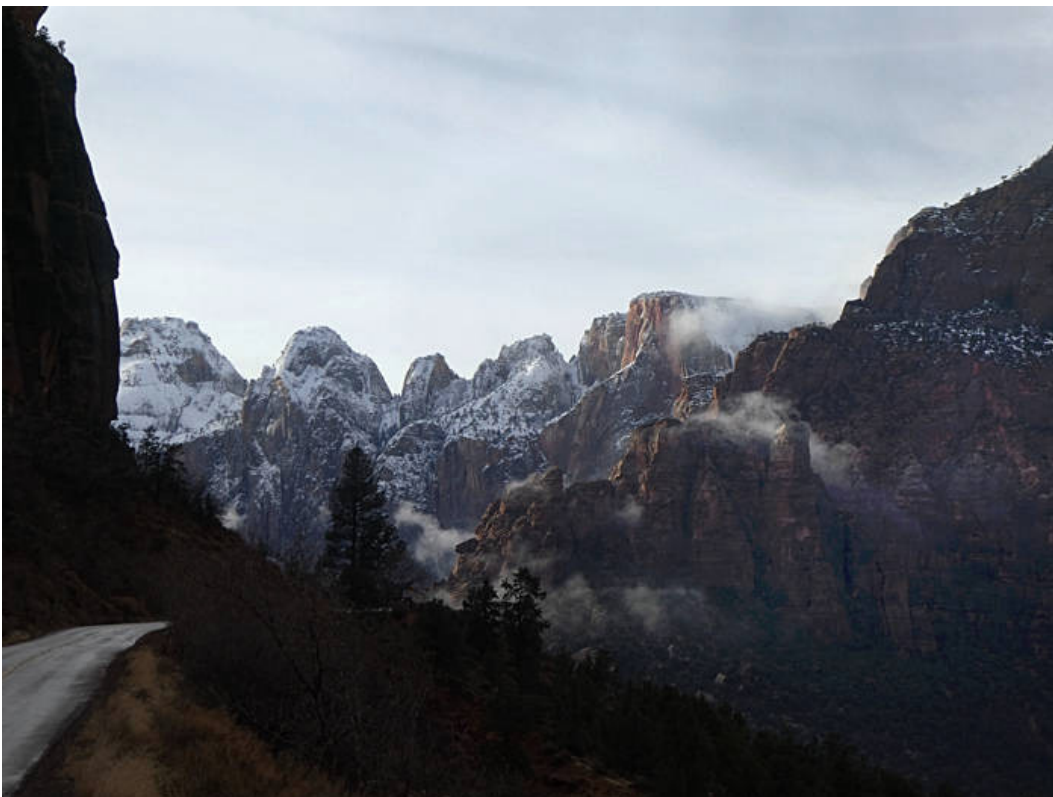
The second day of rain and water was everywhere



When it gets wet it is a flood



It is hard to imagine how big this place is until you see how little the truck looks



Fog, low clouds and a dusting of snow on the peaks



Nice clouds as the storms begin to break up



When the rain stops, water is everywhere



The sun came out the last day but the wind became a problem



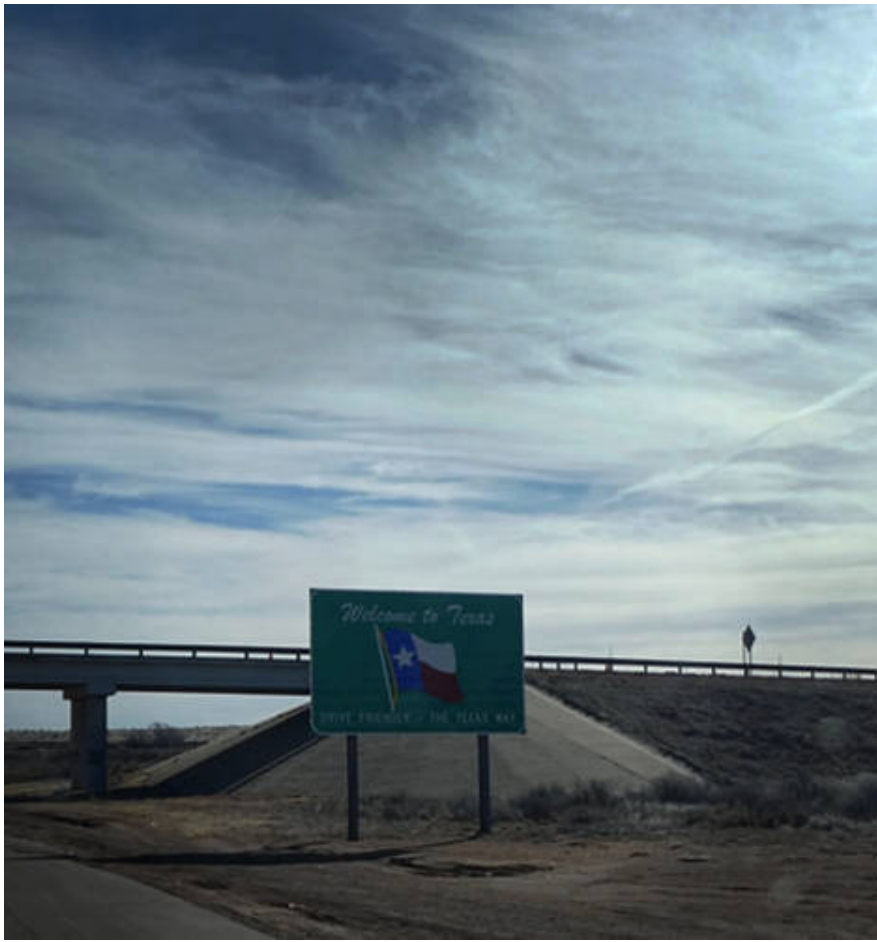
JB and the stump he photographed several years back. . . still there!



An avid fisherman for sure. . . we followed this guy across Arizona at 80+ mph for several hours



The moon over Springdale getting ready for the eclipse



Yes, back in Texas