



Greater New Braunfels Photography Club

Newsletter Volume 15, August 2025

A note from the Editor - by Christiane Menelas

Hello my friends,

I hope everyone is managing to stay cool - we have a lot of news to share this time, and that's the way I like it! Please always feel free to reach out to me with things you might want to share in the newsletter, including items for sale, your travel stories, and events around town! I would also love to hear about your "bloopers" we all have had them, let's share a laugh - I'll go first:

I was following this eagle around our neighborhood in Cypress, TX, and one morning after dropping my son off to school, I spotted him along one of the lakes in our neighborhood. I ran back home to grab my camera, my heart pounding with excitement. Sure enough I spot him across the lake in a tree, and as he flies down a little further, I park my car, get out, walk around the lake ever so slowly.... I literally get to be right below the tree where he is sitting, and start firing off shots in rapid succession. He finally has enough of me and takes off. I even get a few shots of him taking off, and I can't wait to get home and check my images. Woohoo - right? Wrong!!! No SD card in the camera, not a single shot.... I was actually in tears. Now I can laugh about it, but it wasn't so funny at the time. But you know what? I always double check my SD card slot now. Hope you got a chuckle out of it, and please send me your bloopers too!



Happy clicking

Christiane





Death Valley National Park

By Horst Schoninger

Death Valley became a National Monument in 1933 and is famed for being the hottest, lowest and driest location in the country. The parched landscape rises into snow-capped mountains and is home to the Timbisha Shoshone people. The park's 3.4 million acres stretch across two states, California and Nevada. In 1994, Death Valley National Monument was expanded by 1.3 million acres and redesignated as a National Park, making it the largest park in the United States. The top of Telescope Peak is 11,049 feet high, and the lowest point is -282 feet at Badwater Basin.

Death Valley is home to 51 mammal species, two amphibian species and five fish species. In a place with little water, smaller species tend to thrive over larger ones.

**(from the Death Valley National Park pamphlet)*

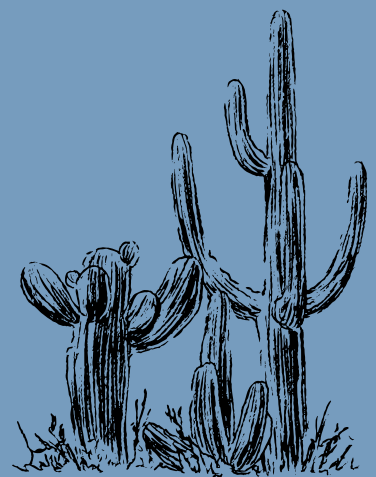
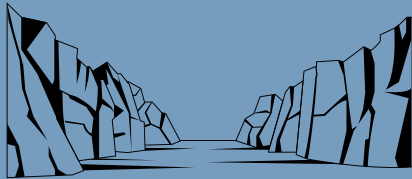
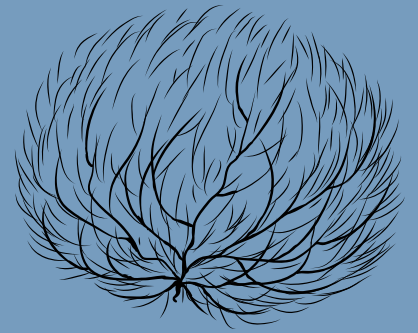
I went to Death Valley three separate times and entered the park from Las Vegas to Beatty. The most important thing before entering is to fill up with gas and stock up with lots of food and water. There are many ways to see Death Valley, and many roads to take. Following is the route I took and is considered the safest way to go if you don't have four wheel drive, or a high clearance vehicle. Off roading is a completely different experience and you may not see another soul for hours or days.



Our first stop was at the Ghost Town of Rhyolite. It is the largest ghost town near Death Valley and once boasted a population of 10,000 people during its peak between 1905-1922. At its height, the town contained two churches, 50 saloons, 18 stores, two undertakers, 19 lodging houses, eight doctors, two dentists, a stock exchange and an opera. Many ruins of the town remain today, including the Bottle House, the train depot, the remains of a three-story bank building and the jail. Rhyolite is a great trip and located just four miles west of Beatty.

From there we went back to 374 and drove for about 20 miles, then turned right onto Scotty's Castle Road and continued for 33 more miles to see Scotty's Castle. Back to the crossing and on to see the Mesquite Flat Dunes, which are spectacular sand dunes. From there we had to track back nine miles to 190 and turn south towards Mustard Canyon and Furnace Creek. Furnace Creek has a visitor center and the Death Valley Museum.





Don't leave Death Valley until you have played on and explored the Mesquite Flat Dunes! Located near Stovepipe Wells Village, these 150-foot dunes are nearly surrounded by mountains on all sides. The primary source of the sands is the Cottonwood Mountains, which lie to the north and northwest. The tiny grains of quartz and feldspar that make up the dune field began as much larger pieces of solid rock, but through erosion, became sand-sized. The dunes can be explored on foot. Like many of Death Valley's geologic highlights, the colors and contours of the Mesquite Flat Dunes are especially spectacular at sunset. The most popular place to access the sand dunes is about two miles east of Stovepipe Wells Village - 23 miles northwest of Furnace Creek - on Highway 190. Mosaic Canyon, which is located just west of Stovepipe Wells, is considered to be a geologic wonder and is a moderate one-to four-mile hike.

**(from the Death Valley National Park pamphlet)*





A few more miles on 190, and you will arrive at Zabriskie Point where you can peer from one of the park's most popular lookouts.

Here you will be able to take in unforgettable views of Death Valley's wildly eroded and vibrantly colored badlands. A short uphill hike from the parking area is all that's required to enjoy a panoramic view of golden-brown mudstone hills riddled with rills and gullies from the occasional, but intense, times when water rushes down these bone-dry slopes. The desolate, unearthly landscape surrounding Zabriskie Point is ideal for viewing sunrises and sunsets, so bring your camera!! Zabriskie Point is located five miles south of Furnace Creek on Highway 190.



With the Black Mountains in the background, visitors can stroll through a shimmering expanse of nearly pure white table salt in Badwater Basin; at 282 feet below sea level, it is the lowest point in North America.

Two to four thousand years ago the basin was the site of a 30-foot-deep lake that evaporated and left a one-to-five-foot layer of salt in its wake. A briny pond, four times saltier than the ocean, still remains in the basin during the winter but during the hot summer months, it shrinks to little more than a puddle.

Badwater basin is located 18 miles south of the Furnace Creek Visitor Center.

Dante's View, a popular unworldly lookout point, offers a striking example of the distinctive basin and range topography that extends from Eastern California to central Utah. The steep, elongated mountain ranges alternate with flat, dry, desert valleys - the results of an intense stretching of the crust that has resulted in a series of north-south faults. These faults separate the basins from the ranges. Dante's View is more than 5,000 feet above the valley floor; at this high altitude in the dry desert air you can see across most of 110 mile long Death Valley. It is certainly one of the most extraordinary sights anywhere.

**(from the Death Valley National Park pamphlet)*











From Badwater road we went south towards Ashford Mill, and then turned left and went 25 miles to Salsberry Pass and Shoshone. From there we headed out of the park and back to Las Vegas.

My advice to anybody that wants to visit Death Valley:

- You need a map!!! It's easy to get lost, or your car may brake down.
- Make sure you have a spare tire with air and tools!
- If you rent a car, make sure it's white or silver. The surface temperature between a dark colored car and a light colored car can be 20 degrees!
- If you get stranded stay in your car - do not walk away from your car to find help! You most likely would die on the way. When your body temperature hits 106-108 you will pass out and get heat stroke!
- Park your car with the radiator facing away from the direct sun, to keep the water cooler.
- Have a first aid kit with you, at least 10 gallons of water, and an ice chest full of ice, so you can cool yourself off.
- Bring a flexible hose with you (1/4"), so you can get some gas out of your tank to start a fire using your spare tire. This will give off a very dark black smoke, and hopefully will be seen by someone who can help you. If you have a blanket you can send out a true SOS signal by interrupting the smoke.
- Bring a good knife (\$30 and up), to cut the side wall from the tire.
- Your phone will not work - make sure you let someone know where you are going, and what time you should be back. If you don't check in with them when you get back, they should send help to find you!
- If you do hike, take cell phone pictures of landmarks along the way, so you can find your way back.

When we went two years ago, we drove for hours without seeing anybody else in the park. I purchased a Garmin 67i GPS system that time. It works with a satellite signal that lets you send messages, and has a SOS function build in. This way you can be found anywhere if you get lost, or have car trouble. The system cost me about \$670,- but it is totally worth it. There are a lot of YouTube videos available to learn more about this device - you won't believe what it can do!

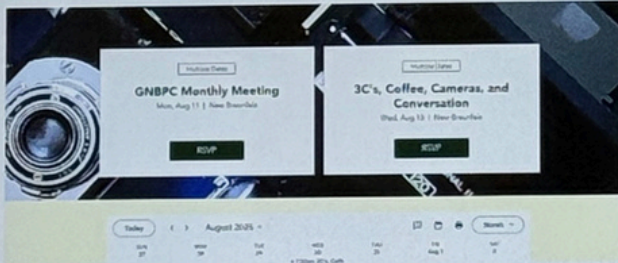
I hope y'all get to go and check out this amazing place called Death Valley, and I hope you have fun!

Horst

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Events

The regularly update our Google Calendar and Facebook Events to help you in the know of our latest social hours, photo walks, work shops, and meetings. Join us now!



Find events on our website or in our monthly newsletter!

Aug 14 - Wine, Cheese, Cameras, Gourmage 4 pm

Aug 16 - Cars and Coffee - Tint World 9 am

Sept 8 - Submission Day for NBAL "Art of Photography" Show

Sept 13 - Gruene 5k/10k

Sept 20 - Meet the Trucks, Landa Park

Sept 24 to 28 - Comal County Fair

Sept 26 - Comal Fair Parade

Oct 9 to 12 - Gruene Music and Wine Festival

Oct 18 - Dia de Los Muertos Festival, New Braunfels

May 2026 - GSCCC Convention in El Paso tinyurl.com/gsc26



WE ARE LOOKING FOR IDEAS FOR FUTURE PHOTO WALKS:

- San Antonio BotAnical Gardens
- San Antonio Central Library
- San Antonio Zoo
- Snake Farm Zoo
- Fredericksburg
- Museums
- Lady Bird Wildflower Center
- Boerne
- State Parks
- Others?

I personally would like to throw my ideas into the hat right now:

first for the “old tunnel state park” to see the bats emerge.

This program is available through October, and tickets need to be purchased in advance. I copied the link below.

<https://share.google/H7x6BTZik5g57Afc2>

Secondly, I think the Wildseed farm in Fredericksburg would be a great photowalk, but also Arnosky’s Family Farm & Market would be a great spot.

Let’s hear your ideas, don’t be shy!

Fotoseptiembre

- New Braunfels Convention Center
- Install on September 3rd
- Meet the Artist September 4th
- Exhibition closes October 6th

Images that are displayed should not be physically bigger than 16 x 24. That includes frame and/or mat.

The frame should be as minimal as possible and preferably with no glass, making it as light as possible.

The images can be matted with no frame or be printed on metal.

Outdoor Photographer Magazine is back!

- Available in print and download
- Free newsletter
- outdoorphotographer.com

The logo for Outdoor Photographer, featuring the words "Outdoor" and "Photographer" in a bold, serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end of "Photographer". The text is white and set against a black rectangular background.

**Outdoor
Photographer®**

ATTENTION: PSA ANNOUNCEMENT!



We're thrilled to announce that the **2026 PSA Photo Festival** will take place in **Las Vegas, Nevada**, from **September 13–19, 2026**.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a week of inspiration, photography, and celebration with photographers from around the world.

FYI Victor has a new email address:

Schertz Photography

Hello,

Thank you for reaching out. Please note that our email address has been updated.

Effective immediately, all messages should be sent to:

 info@schertzphoto.com

This Gmail account (schertzphoto@gmail.com) will no longer be actively monitored after August 1st, 2025. To ensure we receive your message, please resend your email to our new address.

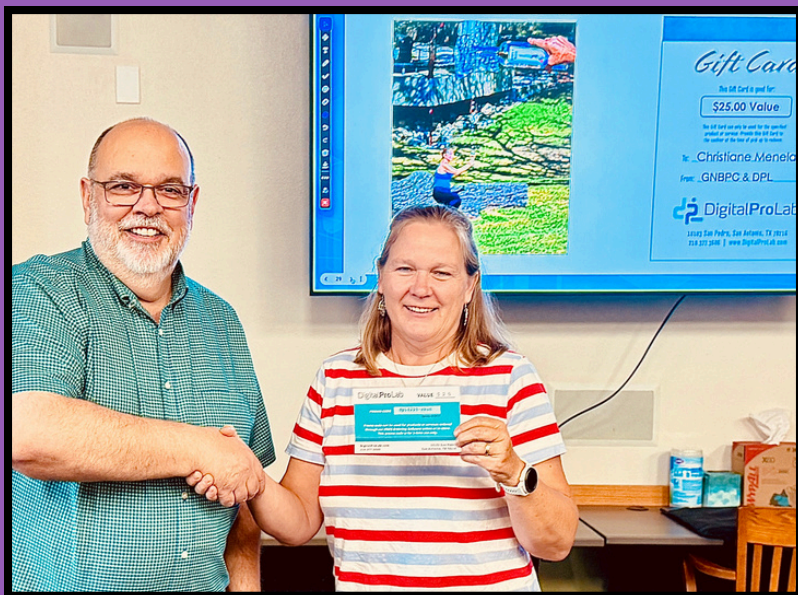
We look forward to staying in touch!

*Warm regards,
Schertz Photography School & Studio*

RECOGNITIONS



The monthly competition winner for “Forced Perception” is no other than yours truly – Christiane Menelas, with the image titled: “Cheers”



Congratulations

Congratulations to Barbara Beversdorf!

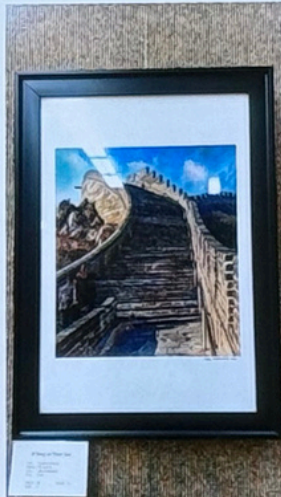
- This photo, titled *Eye See You*, was accepted into the 21st Annual Naturescapes Exhibition in San Marcos!
- Walker's Gallery, August 30 to October 24
- Opening reception is Saturday September 27 from 5:00 to 7:00



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Barbara, James, and Ralph!

- All three have photos hanging at the New Braunfels Art League show, "A Song in Your Art"



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SOCIAL AFTER THE MONTHLY CLUB MEETING.
WE MEET AT LA COSECHA MEXICAN TABLE IN NEW BRAUNFELS.
THE ADDRESS IS: 505 BUSINESS IH 35 N, NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130**

