

Hello everyone,

I hope you're as excited as I am about our upcoming photo safari! I've got a wonderful weekend planned for us and you'll surely get some one-of-a-kind images. To start, everyone should reserve rooms at the Tall Winds Motel in Moro, OR for the nights of Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Accommodations:**

Recommended:

Tall Winds Motel, in Moro (541) 565 3519

Other hotel options – (should Tall Winds be full):

Biggs Nu-Vu Motel (541) 739 2525

Dinty's Motor Inn (541) 739 2596

Travel Lodge Biggs Junction (541) 739 2501

**Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

The trip will begin Friday evening at 7pm with a group dinner at the WindSeeker Restaurant in The Dalles. To get to the WindSeeker from Portland:

- Take Exit 83 from I-84 East.
- Turn left onto 6th Street, and left onto Webber
- Go under freeway and proceed across railroad track (Approx 100 yards)
- Turn right onto Bargeway Rd. and follow signs to WindSeeker Restaurant at:  
1535 Bargeway Road

Over dinner, we'll have a chance to get to know each other a bit, go over the itinerary in detail, and get all geared up for our two big days of shooting in the field. This will also be a good opportunity for you to pick up any last minute supplies at the local Fred Meyer, or other shops. For those of you checking in early, the only café in Moro has closed, so The Dalles is really the closest place to get dinner. The Dalles is about 40 minutes from Moro, where you'll be staying. After dinner, we'll head over to the Tall Winds Motel to check in and get our beauty rest.

**Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday will begin bright and early at 6:30am with breakfast at a great little café in Grass Valley. Grass Valley is just a ten-minute drive from your motel in Moro – I'll be giving you directions on Friday night. May I suggest a hearty meal because we will be burning a lot of calories on our action-packed day of shooting!

From here, we'll head out to photograph two different abandoned homesteads in Sherman County. The second one has a shot-up Studebaker in the yard – very picturesque. There will be many opportunities for great landscape photography in this area. If we stay together as a group then no one gets lost and everyone will learn more about what we're doing photographically. We'll spend the late afternoon and early evening photographing some lovely white windmills as the sun sets. Mt. Hood will be in the background – a majestic sight.

**Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday morning will begin again at the café in Grass Valley – again, nice and early at 6:30am. From there, we have a full day of shooting ahead. First, we'll head into the little town of Wasco to photograph some rusty old abandoned vehicles – there will be plenty of opportunity for some great macro shots and close-ups. Then, we'll caravan over to an abandoned stationmaster's house. After lunch, we'll explore two abandoned schoolhouses. This is a gorgeous area – you'll be able to see for miles and miles across beautiful prairie land in every direction. In the early evening, we'll break and head back into Portland.

**Equipment to Bring (suggested):**

- Camera and assorted lenses, ranging from wide angle to telephoto.
- Tripod with camera adapter.
- Filters . . . two polarizers yes two polarizers (I'll explain this wonderful and colorful phenomena during the workshop). If you need to buy these filters prior to attending, please buy them for the largest diameter lens you have and purchase "step-up/down rings" so they will work on your other lenses as well.
- Memory cards - lots of these or a data storage device such as the Epson or Wolverine.
- Batteries, batteries, and extra batteries - and a battery charger so you can charge at night. If batteries die so does the photography so bring backups.
- If you work in film, bring a lot - ASA 100 or slower, slide or print doesn't matter, but bring plenty.
- If you bring your camera's manual you'll be prepared for any technical issue that comes up. I can help with camera operations, but as many cameras are different, your manual will come in handy for issues specific to your make and model.

**What to Wear:**

- Comfortable clothing in layers. As you warm up shed a layer, if you get chilly add a layer
- Sunscreen
- Boots, comfortable and ankle supporting
- Hat

**What Else to Bring:**

- Money for hotel reservations, meals, and incidentals. *Make sure to bring cash – some places don't take cards*
- Snacks for the road
- A water bottle and something to drink (no alcohol). A full gas tank - gas at Biggs Junction is usually the cheapest in the Gorge
- Check your spare tire for air, check that you have a jack and lug wrench (I know this sounds lame, but we've had folks without these).

**What to Expect:**

We'll be doing our driving on county and state highways, please keep me in close sight. There will be some back roads that are unpaved so driving will be slow at times. I drive the speed limit so let's stay together.

I make it a point to assist everyone with camera positioning and lens choices, but only as suggestions (we all see things differently). If you have questions I expect to hear them, so please ask away. Bathroom breaks are a must, and sometimes the moment of necessity will be at an inconvenient time – you may need to go “in the bush” if there is no facility nearby – please be prepared for this if using the facilities at mealtimes isn't enough.

Respect. We always unconditionally respect landowners and their property. We never trespass or take anything but photos and never leave behind anything except footprints - no exceptions.

After the trip, you'll have two weeks to edit and prepare your favorite images for our review/sharing session on August 9<sup>th</sup>. It's always wonderful to see what your fellow trip participants captured that you missed, and vice-versa. And, it's an excellent chance for sharing feedback and advice. We'll make it a potluck – it makes for a nice evening.

I look forward to meeting you all!

Best Regards,

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