

**commentletters**

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**From:** Bryan Woodhall <dakgypsy66@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016 6:19 PM  
**To:** commentletters  
**Subject:** My blog story on the Salton Sea



I am sending my blog link to you folks in hopes you will read and enjoy my feelings on the sea and to also show you how far reaching and special the Salton Sea is even to me, a guy over in South Dakota.

Thanks for your time

Bryan Woodhall (Dakota Gypsy)

[Live Simply-Give More-Need Less : Living & Exploring Life As A Modern Day Gypsy : Camping at "The Salton Sea" : Southern California : One Strange & Interesting Place but Full of Nature](#)



**Live Simply-Give More-Need Less : Living  
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## 1st February Camping at "The Salton Sea" : Southern California : One Strange & Interesting Place but Full of Nature



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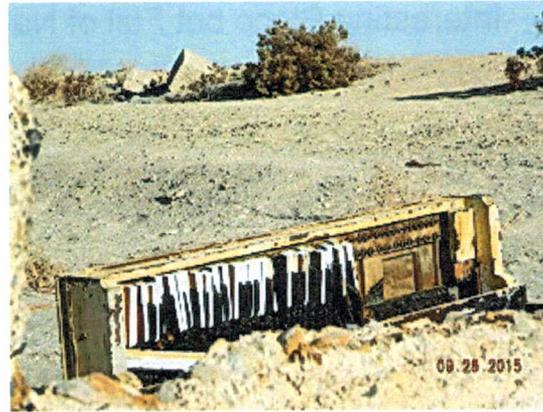
A Perfect Sunset Over The Sea

One of the most peculiar places I have ever camped and explored has got to be The Salton Sea in Southern California. This past October I spent 3 nights dry camping on the shores of the sea .. I wanted to spend enough time there to form my own opinions on this unique, one of a kind place.



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Signs of the Past



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Man & Nature



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Not Always



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A Perfect Mix

At the end of September I passed by the sea on my way to help out my friend in Palm Springs, California. I have actually passed by the sea a number of times over the years. This time I stopped and took the time to walk out onto an abandoned beach next to a "closed down" state area and stared over the sand and waters in horror , amazement and wonder !!

The smell was almost too much to handle and along with the beach covered with dead fish were the remnants of a piano of all things, and a screen door.

I had heard bits and pieces on this "sea" over the years from my time spent in the Coachella Valley. I knew it was there by mistake more or less (caused by man) and that it was evaporating without sufficient water being added to keep the echo system alive and happy. I quickly left with plans on learning as much as I could about this place over the next few weeks while in Palm Springs.



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The Perfect Spot

Between the smell and the dead fish I had no plans on returning any time soon. Over the next month while in the valley, my friend and I discussed the Salton Sea a number of times. She enlightened me to so much concerning the sea and supplied articles and books for me to thumb through and read.

Lynn recalled the days of the sea being a resort ! Yes .. a resort with hotels, restaurants, night life, water skiing, swimming .. the whole 9 yards !

I was amazed. What I saw was a dying water mass with no activity people wise and some birds roaming about. I saw a mess.

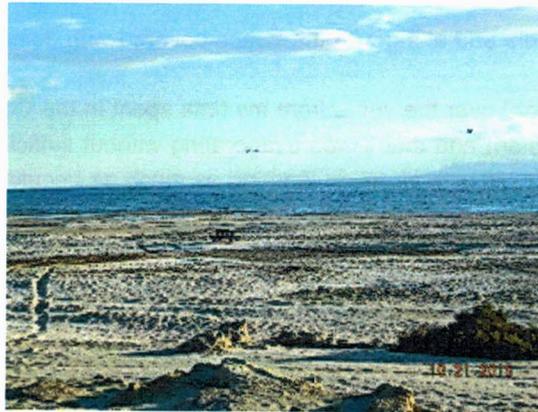


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Just Passing Through

We talked and I learned. I learned that the Salton Sea is a concern to many right now. Some want it saved, others think it is a waste of time and money to save it. The cost would be too high, financially, plus the ideas on what to do and what

needs done are many. I decided I would go back and camp. I needed to spend some "one on one time" with the sea and form my own opinion.



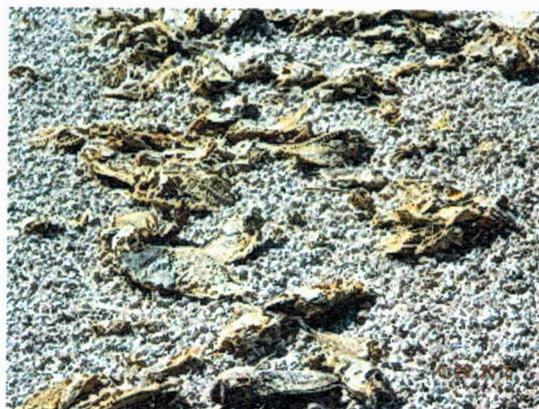
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This Ain't No Picnic



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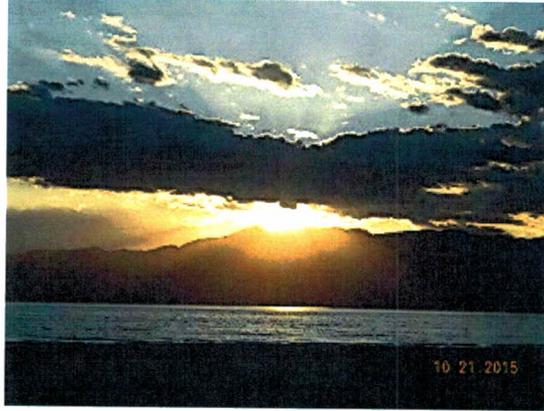
Shells Shells Everywhere



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& Dead Fish Galore

I went back and set up camp along the deserted shore line and quickly found what I had discovered the month before. Dead fish , murky waters and strong aromas. I walked out to the waters edge , this is no easy task my friends, the beach is literally feet upon feet thick of shells from some invasive species. As I walked, I crunched through layers of dry salt and shells littered with dead fish that have died from the high salt content of the water. The more water that evaporates.. the stronger the salt content becomes.



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Nothing



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Calms the Soul



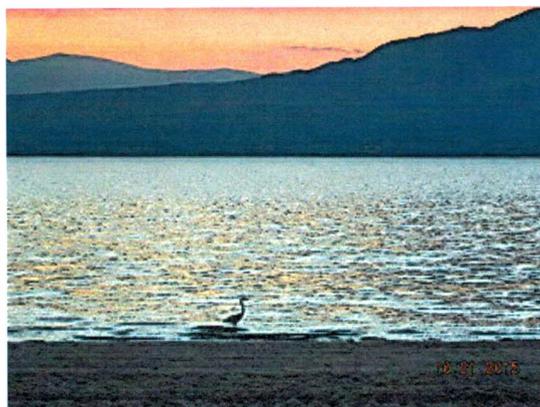
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Like



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a Sunset



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Not So Perfect Tranquility

I crunched my way back to camp and busied myself with rebuilding the fire pit that had once been there. Lit a fire, poured myself a glass of wine and sat facing the sea. From my distance and with the help of the breeze it actually did not smell bad at all.

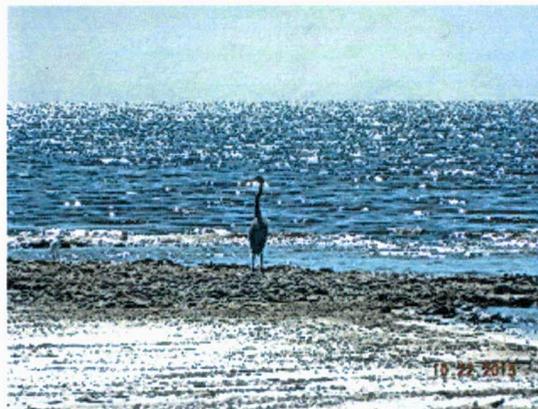
I sat there drinking my wine thinking : this is the strangest place, the mixture of water and desert and isolation are in too great of a contrast here for things to work in a natural way.

The sun started sinking and the colors came to life .. as this was taking place new thoughts were forming in my mind. Birds started to arrive and not just a few. Hundreds .. no thousands of birds in all shapes and sizes started to show up for the evening.



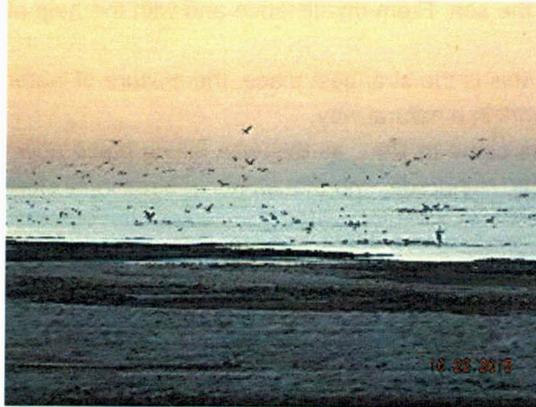
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Hey ! This is My Spot ..



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Waiting For Dinner



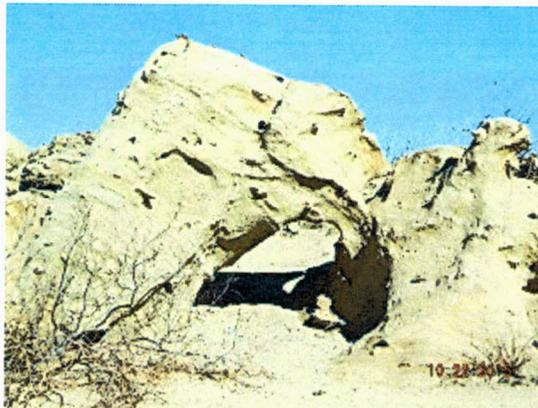
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Kind of Reminds Me of a Movie I Once Saw

I sat there and realized that YES the Salton Sea must be saved, it needs to be saved. Anyone objecting to this need only spend some time at the sea, some time with the sea. Not in an office spewing opinions on the topic. A topic they may know nothing about. They needed to sit alone at the sea while the sun set and observe.

True, the sea may not be a natural body of water.. BUT, the sea is there and it is there because of man and has been for over a hundred years.

We caused it and now millions of living creatures are dependent on the place. I decided that first night there that the sea must be saved if only for natures sake.



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Remnants of an Older Body of Water



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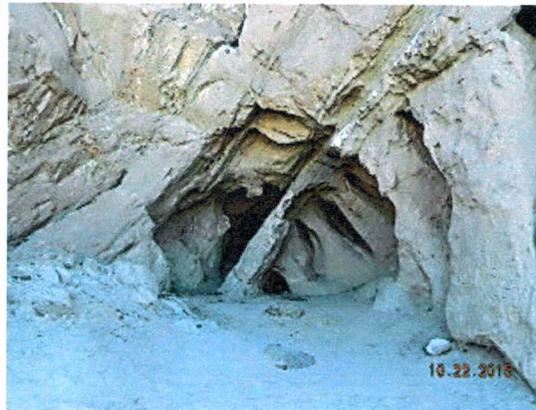
The Bat Cave



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Natures Window

Natures Window



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This is Where I Was Buzzed by a Bat

Like I mentioned earlier, I spent a number of nights here alone.. Just me and nature. One of my days I spent hiking. Nearby there are a number of "Bat Caves" I wanted to explore. I hiked to them and yes they are full of bats ! Man .. how I love bats ! I could hear and smell them !

I ventured inside one of these huge dark openings and was quickly buzzed by a BIG bat so my internal exploring of the caves stopped pronto. What a fun day I had though roaming the desert.



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Coming in For a Landing



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Campfires .. Everyone Needs to Camp More Often

My evenings were spent watching the sunset & birds arrive while I drank wine in front of the fire. My mornings were spent strolling along the shore (from a distance) watching and listening to hundreds of birds. You have to keep your distance because the shells are almost impossible to walk on !

I am no scientist, I am not a rich business man or am I anyone that will have a huge impact on the future of the Salton Sea. I am just me, Dakota Gypsy, a guy that spends a lot of his time one on one with nature. A guy that feels more comfortable alone with the birds and the bees, the trees and the setting sun then I will ever feel around man. Someone that listens to nature and does not base his opinion on finances or political gain.

All I know is that after my few days at the sea that "nature" let me know a few things. Nature let me know that the sea must be saved ... must be saved for natures sake.



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Time to Relax

I need to get going ... it is time to go use the treadmill and stationary bike. I actually just got home last night after a couple days of winter camping in The Badlands .. kinda cold but was a blast ! Maybe I will write a little on that in a few days ...



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Watching Over Things

Until then .. Take care everybody and remember ... Don't Wait For Happy Hour ... Make Every Hour Happy ...  
Dakota Gypsy

Posted 1st February by [Bryan Woodhall](#)

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