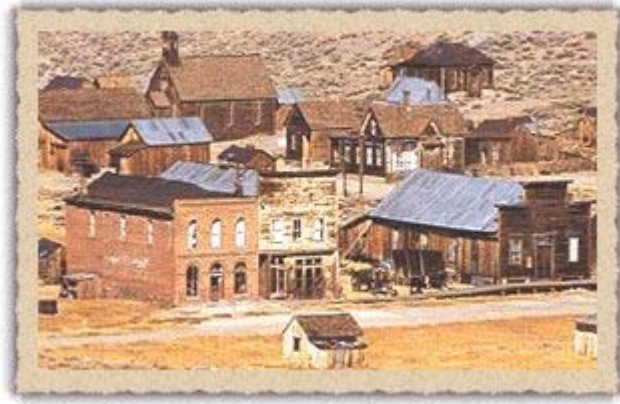


Visions of the Past: First Discoveries



Terri Geissinger
June 9-10, 2007

\$130 per person / \$115 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 15 participants

The Mono Basin is filled with curious monuments to a bustling past. Take a journey back in time and discover the fascinating history behind the Mono Basin and the rich Bodie Hills. Hear stories of the discoverers, the prospectors, and the families who settled here and made the Mono Basin their home. Visit Dogtown, Monoville, Bodie, Mono Mills, stage routes, railroads, gold mines, and Jordan Power Plant disaster site. Before the fishing and tourists there was mining—from gold to water—and this seminar will focus on the people, the sites, and the stories that persisted long after the gold was gone. Terri Geissinger is a Bodie State Historic Park Historian, Interpreter, and Guide. She is active in the Mono Basin Historical Society, and has a talent for making history come alive.

ITINERARY

Saturday, June 9, 8:00 am: We will meet in Lee Vining at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore. Our first destination is located in the hills north of Mono Lake, where the discovery of gold at Monoville in 1859 ignited the gold rush to the Eastern Sierra. We will travel the historic Bodie/Lundy Wagon Road, now known as Cottonwood Canyon, stopping at the Goat Ranch to learn the important role that this place has in history. We will then head up to Bodie, where we will spend most of the day. We will explore the mining district, including Bodie Bluff (an area closed to the public), that made Bodie the second largest town in California in 1880. On the road again, we will set our sights on Dogtown, where nearly one hundred men lived in this primitive place and panned for riches in Virginia Creek. We should return to our departure place by 4:00 pm.

On Sunday, July 10 at 8:00 am, we will meet again at the Mono Lake Committee. Our first destination this day will be Mono Mills on Hwy 120. This historic site was home to over 200 men

working a massive sawmill, supplying Bodie with an astounding amount of wood via the Bodie Railroad. Next, we will travel to beautiful Lundy Canyon where the remains of the historic town still exist. You will be amazed at the brave determination of men who carved out pockets of gold from the steep canyon walls. On our way out of the canyon, we will stop to honor the memory of the men who lost their lives at the Jordan Power Plant site, where the rescue attempt was nothing short of heroic. We will finish our journey and return to our departure place by 3:00 pm.

Altitude and Dehydration Cautions: Bodie's altitude is 8,375 feet above sea level where the weather can change quickly. Please be prepared with a jacket, hat, sunscreen, comfortable shoes and plenty of water. Dehydration is a very common experience among visitors in the Eastern Sierra and it can exacerbate other physical conditions like altitude sickness.

Field Conditions: The first day of this seminar we will be hiking around sites with uneven terrain. Although traversing the Bodie Bluff will be the most strenuous because of the altitude, it is not difficult and we will go slowly. Please be realistic about your physical limitations before embarking on this field seminar. The second day of our historic journey will be at a lower elevation and along more level terrain.

Four-Wheel Drive: Less than half of our travels will be on dirt roads with the Bodie Bluff the most difficult to drive. The road is used by Park Rangers and is clear of debris, but there could be deep ruts created by snowmelt runoff. Four-wheel drive is recommended, but not mandatory; high clearance vehicles are mandatory. Some people may end up carpooling, and this is entirely up to you and other trip participants once the field seminar meets.

MEALS

Pack a lunch and snacks for both days. Don't forget plenty of water. We will plan on eating at Bodie on the first day and at Lundy Canyon on the second.

TO BRING

- day pack including plenty of water, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, etc.
- notebook and pen/pencil
- folding chair/seat cushion (light and portable is ideal)
- appropriate field clothing: hat, sunglasses, warm layers, raingear
- binoculars
- packed lunch for both days

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Whitney, Stephen. *A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to the Sierra Nevada*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1979.

National Geographic Society. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Fourth Edition, 2002.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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