



NELSON

**DAY-FLYING THE NELSON
GHOST TOWN WAS FUN AND
I GOT A TON OF COOL SHOTS!**

GHOST TOWN

#NELSONGHOSTTOWN - DAY

NELSON GHOST TOWN, WHICH IS LOCATED ABOUT 1 HOUR AWAY FROM LAS VEGAS BY CAR.



COOL OLD, DILAPIDATED CARS, BUILDINGS AND ARTIFACTS THAT ARE WELL WORTH FLYING FOR EITHER VIDEO OR PHOTOS.

Last week, I flew to Las Vegas for the yearly National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) conference (April 2019). During my time in Vegas, I took a couple of my friends, and headed to Nelson Ghost Town, which is located about 1 hour away by car.

This place is super interesting, and has a lot of cool, old, dilapidated cars, buildings and artifacts that are well worth flying for either video or photos. Super cool structures that contrast the object, the sand and the super blue sky.



When we got there, I parked the car and went into their office/store and talked to the owner and agreed that we'd fly for 1-2 hours. I recommend always flying with permission, and as it turns out, the owners are very drone-friendly and only asked me to not fly above people (that's a given!) and not to bother people who live there; Live there? I was surprised! The place didn't look

THE PLACE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE LIVED THERE, BUT SURE ENOUGH, SOME OF THE HOUSES ARE OCCUPIED!

like anyone lived there, but sure enough, some of the houses are occupied!

There was a very modest charge for the flights (they charge by the time flying), and my friends and I returned to the car to retrieve our equipment.

After double and triple checking the airspace, I took off and flew around trying to decide what shot was cooler; which is hard to do as everything is cool! My major obstacles were sand (I didn't bring my launch pad, as it is heavy), people already there (I took great care not to fly above them) and many wires. These power lines presented a very real danger as it was difficult to do low shots without hitting at least one of them. Using a visual observer (my friend Emory, all the way from Atlanta, GA), I successfully got the shots I wanted.

I'd like to elaborate a little bit on how I overcame the obstacles mentioned:





Sand: The only way to avoid getting sand into my motors was to launch and land from a place that did not have sand – hard thing to do in the desert!

So I used things I saw – a cement pad, the back of a trailer, a picnic table, a small metal table, and of course, my hand. While I don't recommend launching or landing using your hands, in some situations this is the only thing you can actually do. From a small boat, for example, if you don't use your hands to launch and land, you are not flying. So, I have had experience doing this, and it is always scary – the propellers go fast and are unforgiving!

I DO NOT RECOMMEND DOING THIS – It is dangerous.

SAND:

THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID GETTING SAND INTO MY MOTORS WAS TO LAUNCH AND LAND FROM A PLACE THAT DID NOT HAVE SAND – HARD THING TO DO IN THE DESERT!



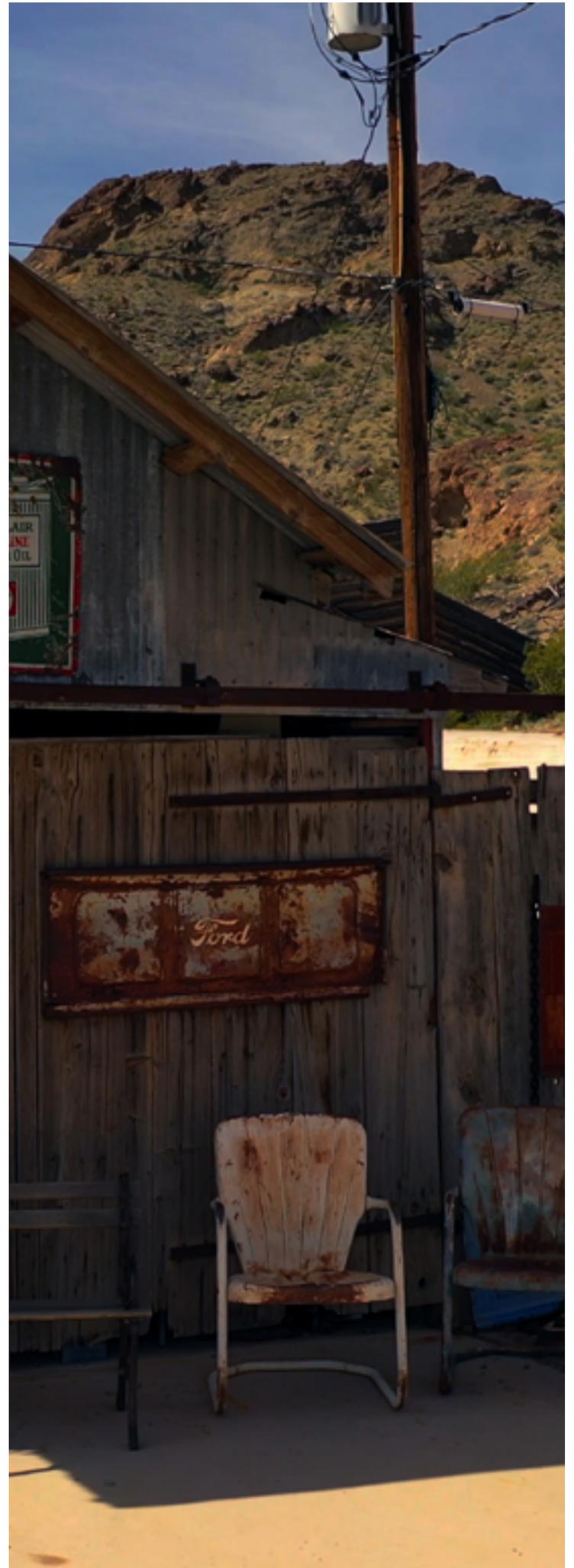
AN IDEA FORMED IN MY MIND; WHAT ABOUT FLYING THIS PLACE AT NIGHT?

People: This was not the big issue I thought it would be. People tend to travel in groups and I only needed to wait until the groups passed, and I always had a good chunk of time to do my shots. What I thought would be a big obstacle turned out to be nothing.

Wires: This obstacle also turned out to be nothing. Once I located the wires, and I instructed my Visual Observer (VO) to what I was doing, the wires turned out to be not an issue, as long as I knew where they were and where my drone was.

Flew for about 2 hours (until my batteries died) and then an idea formed in my mind; What about flying this place at night? Talked to the owner, she consulted with the people living there, and they all agreed – YES, we could fly at night. We made arrangements to come back the very next day and to shoot between 9:00PM and midnight. I pre-paid the fee and agreed to come back with lights!

For that story, please click here:
<http://www.midatlanticdrones.com/flying-nelson-ghost-town-during-the-night/>





THANK

FOR MORE ON OUR

FLIGHTS AND MANY OTHER TOPICS,

PLEASE VISIT WWW.MIDATLANTICDRONES.COM

YOU