Mono Basin Moonlight Photography

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June 9–11, 2017 ● David Gubernick

$275 per person/$250 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 10 participants

Welcome to our field workshop on moonlight and nighttime photography. Nighttime photography opens up a new world of photographic possibilities that are both compelling and challenging. Using the moon as your light source, learn to properly expose your digital images and to deal with digital noise. Utilizing long exposures creates images with mystery and mood that are quite different from daytime photography. Bring a sense of adventure and willingness to learn and explore. This seminar is designed to introduce participants to the basics of nighttime photography.

In addition to mastering the technical aspects of creating nighttime images, we will explore the artistry of photography with an emphasis on composition. Through guided practice sessions, field trips in the Mono Basin and upper reaches of the Eastern Sierra, coaching in the field, and review of images, you will learn to create nighttime images with visual impact.

David Gubernick, Ph.D., is an internationally and nationally published and award-winning nature photographer and workshop leader. Some of his exhibition prints can be seen at Gallery Sur in Carmel and the Ventana Inn & Spa in Big Sur. He provides fine art prints and stock images

for the advertising, corporate, editorial, and home décor markets. His first photography book, *Wildflowers of Monterey County*, was published in 2002 and has been a best-seller, garnering rave reviews.

ITINERARY*

Friday, June 9 at 2:30pm: Meet at the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center, which is half a mile north of Lee Vining, east of Highway 395 on Visitor Center Drive. We will meet in the downstairs conference room. After registration and brief introductions, we will go over basic issues in doing nighttime and moonlight photography and review participants' prior work (please bring 5 examples of your work). We will go over relevant camera controls and functions, depth-of-field, and histograms; please bring your camera and equipment to this first meeting. At 5:00pm we will drive to the Whoa Nellie Deli for dinner as a group before heading to Mono Lake's South Tufa for a sunset shoot and nighttime photography. The session will conclude around 11:00pm. (*sunset is 8:17pm; moonrise is 8:27pm*)

Saturday, June 10 at 1:00pm: Meet in the Visitor Center conference room. We will address any questions from Friday night's session and then review images taken the previous evening with an emphasis on composition. We will end around 3:00pm and meet for dinner at 5:00pm. Around 6:00pm we will carpool to a higher-elevation location for sunset and moonlight photography, again ending around 11:00pm. (*sunset is 8:18pm; moonrise is 9:17pm*)

Sunday, June 11 at 1:00pm: Meet in the Visitor Center conference room to review and post-process images from the previous evening; please bring two images to be processed. Post-processing demonstrations will use Adobe Lightroom 6. We will end around 3:30pm and meet for dinner at 5:00pm. Around 5:45pm we will carpool to another location for sunset and moonlight photography, again ending around 11:00pm. This will conclude the workshop. (*sunset is 8:18pm; moonrise is 10:03pm*)

*PLEASE NOTE: Itinerary is subject to change on short notice to take advantage of prevailing local conditions at time of the workshop.

MEALS

We will eat together as a group each night at one of the local restaurants; the cost of dinner is not covered by tuition. Non-photographer partners are welcome to join us for dinner.

Altitude and Dehydration Cautions: This photography workshop will take place at elevations ranging from about 6,000 to 10,000 feet above sea level. It is a good idea to acclimate at the elevation of Lee Vining for at least 24 hours prior to the start of the workshop. Please bring lots of water and drink it often because your body loses more water at high altitudes. Please bring and use sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to protect yourself from the sun's intensity at high elevations.

TO BRING

__ digital SLR camera (no point-and-shoot digital cameras) with "bulb" exposure mode (either on the camera's mode dial or in the camera's menu)
__ lenses, especially wide angles; moderate telephotos zoom may also be helpful

__ tripod (tripods without interconnecting spokes between legs allow the legs to spread out)
__ tripod head (ball head; avoid heads with several handles)
__ cable release, preferably with a built-in timer
__ watch, stopwatch, or timer to time long exposures if no cable release with built-in timer
__ memory cards
__ fully charged batteries and extra batteries and battery charger (long exposures drain
    batteries)
__ owner's manual for your camera
__ laptop with card reader and image editing software
__ headlamp with red light, red light flashlight, or keychain red light to see camera controls and
    navigate terrain in the dark
__ warm clothing—dress in layers, be prepared for variable weather
__ sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, insect repellent
__ snacks for evenings in the field
__ plenty of water

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Although we will be going over some basic features and adjustments of your camera, you should be familiar with the below items which we will review in the first class meeting:

- how to shoot in Manual Mode and independently adjust your aperture (f/stop) and shutter speed
- how to change your ISO settings (you will not be using auto-ISO)
- the relationship between f/stops, shutter-speeds, and ISO settings
- how to get the same exposure with different combinations of f/stops, shutter-speeds, and ISO settings
- how to review and interpret an image's histogram
- how to turn on Long Exposure Noise Reduction (custom function)

RECOMMENDED READING

Davis, Harold. *Creative Night: Digital Photography Tips & Techniques*. Wiley Publ., 2010.
Keimig, Lance. *Night Photography.* Focal Press, 2010.

If you have any questions about the specifics of the workshop, please contact David by email at *david@rainbowspirit.com*. For any other questions, please contact the Mono Lake Committee.