

# Mono Basin & Bodie Photography



**August 18–20, 2023 • David J. Gubernick**

\$325 per person/\$310 for Mono Lake Committee members  
enrollment limited to 10 participants

Welcome to our field workshop on nighttime photography in the Mono Basin and at Bodie State Historic Park. This workshop is designed to enhance your picture-taking abilities in a supportive learning environment. Learn to read your histogram, understand different f/stops, shutter speeds, shooting modes, ISO settings, depth-of-field, white balance, nighttime exposures, and more. In addition to mastering the technical aspects of creating images, we will explore the artistry of photography with an emphasis on composition. Classroom sessions will entail reviews of images and post-processing demonstrations with the use of Lightroom Classic. Through field trips in the Mono Basin and special access to Bodie State Historic Park after hours, coaching in the field, and review and post-processing of images, you will learn to create better images with visual impact.

David J. 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 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 was a best-seller, garnering rave reviews.

## **ITINERARY**

**Friday, August 18 at 2:00pm:** Meet at the Lee Vining Community Center (296 Mattly Avenue) in Lee Vining. After introductions we will go over equipment and review participants' prior work; please bring five examples of your work on a flash drive. We will go over camera controls and functions, depth-of-field, histograms and how to get good nighttime exposures, focusing, and noise reduction; please bring your camera and tripod to the classroom. We will adjourn for dinner at a local restaurant by 5:00pm. At 6:00pm, we will leave for South Tufa for sunset and nighttime photography ending around 11:00pm (*sunset 7:45pm*).

**Saturday, August 19 at 1:00pm:** Meet back at the Lee Vining Community Center to review images taken the previous day. Please bring three images from Friday's outdoor session on a flash drive. We will again go over how to get good nighttime exposures, focusing, and noise reduction and address any questions before we break for dinner by 5:00pm. At 6:00pm, we will leave for another field location for sunset and nighttime photography ending around 11:00pm (*sunset 7:44pm*).

**Sunday, August 20 at 1:00pm:** Meet again at the Lee Vining Community Center. Please bring three images from Saturday's field session on a flash drive. We will again go over how to get good nighttime photos and address any questions before break to procure a bag dinner prior to caravanning to Bodie State Historic Park for our after-hours twilight and nighttime field session.

We will leave the Community Center for Bodie at 4:15pm. Please bring a bag dinner, snacks for the evening, and plenty of water. We will arrive in Bodie at about 5:00pm to allow time to eat dinner and set up equipment before we are allowed into the park when it closes at 6:00pm. We can photograph in Bodie until 1:00am, but you may choose to conclude the evening earlier (*sunset 7:43pm*). It can be cold at Bodie in the evening, so please come prepared. The seminar will conclude in Bodie.

*This itinerary is subject to change to take advantage of prevailing local conditions at the time of the workshop.*

## **ACTIVITY LEVEL: STRENUOUS**

This seminar's activity level: *strenuous*. Three consecutive late nights and the focused learning in this seminar will make for a tiring weekend! We will be walking up to two miles a day at a leisurely pace, some of which will be over uneven terrain, off trail, and may include stepping up and over obstacles. Finding stable footing can be difficult at night. We will be standing for several hours at a time while out in the field. Participants will need to carry their camera equipment from the cars to field locations and back.

## **WEATHER & ALTITUDE**

Temperatures in summer will be hot during the day and drop to cool at night, with possible windy conditions and afternoon thunderstorms. Average temperatures in August in Lee Vining are 83°F (max) and 52°F (min). In Bodie, the average temperatures range from 32°F (min) to 77°F (max).

This seminar 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 seminar. Those with a history of heart, ear, or respiratory problems should consult their doctors before attending. Anyone restricted to lower elevations should not enroll.

Remember to bring and drink lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is intense at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

## MEALS

Meals are not covered by tuition. On Friday and Saturday night we will eat dinner together as a group at a local restaurant; non-photographer partners are welcome to join us. Please bring a bag dinner to eat in Bodie on Sunday. Please bring plenty of snacks and water for the field each day.

## FEES

- **South Tufa fee:** the \$3-per-person entrance fee to South Tufa is good for a week; 80% of it stays at Mono Lake for improvements to interpretive/educational activities.
- **Old Marina fee:** the \$3-per-car-per-day fee enables Mono Lake's State Park to stay open.

## TO BRING

- \_\_\_ digital SLR camera (no point-and-shoot digital cameras)
- \_\_\_ 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 camera batteries and extra batteries and battery charger (long exposures drain batteries)
- \_\_\_ owner's manual for your camera
- \_\_\_ flashlights for light painting at Bodie, extra batteries
- \_\_\_ laptop with card reader and image editing software, preferably Lightroom Classic
- \_\_\_ flash drive to transfer images for review
- \_\_\_ warm clothing—dress in layers, be prepared for variable weather. It can be very chilly at night in Bodie. Bring plenty of warm items—hat, scarf/balaclava, gloves, jacket, long underwear, wool socks, windproof outer layers.
- \_\_\_ sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, insect repellent
- \_\_\_ snacks for evenings in the field
- \_\_\_ plenty of water

If you have any questions about the specifics of the workshop, please contact David by email at [davidgub1@earthlink.net](mailto:davidgub1@earthlink.net). For any other questions, please contact the Mono Lake Committee.



## Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • [monolake.org/seminars](http://monolake.org/seminars)