

# Landscape Photography, Milky Way & Perseid Meteor Dark Sky Astrophotography



**August 10–12, 2018 • Jeff Sullivan**

\$275 per person / \$250 for Mono Lake Committee members  
enrollment limited to 12 participants

Summer is Milky Way season for photographers in the Eastern Sierra, with wildflowers blooming, snow lingering on Sierra Nevada peaks catching morning alpenglow, and afternoon cumulus cloud formations for potential sunset color, typically yielding to clear skies for night photography. Accomplished local photographer Jeff Sullivan will teach you some of his favorite techniques and show you some of his favorite spots for landscape and night photography in the Mono Basin.

This seminar will cover:

- How to anticipate and plan for great sunrise and sunset shots.
- How to use composition and light for greater impact.
- How to manage focus, noise, and sky movement in night shots.
- How to align the moon with a landscape landmark.

- How to capture a sunset on a clear, blue-sky day.
- Tools and settings you will need in order to maximize your in-camera results.
- Which practices common in film photography are counterproductive for digital.
- When to use a circular polarizing filter.
- How to eliminate DSLR sensor dust spots with little or no post-processing.
- Best methods for creating star trail images.
- When multiple exposures (exposure bracketing) can be useful.
- Why post-processing is not a substitute for in-camera results.

Jeff Sullivan is a landscape photography and astrophotography workshop instructor, and author of the landscape photography guidebook *Photographing California Vol. 2—South*. His photography is licensed for use in magazines, books, websites, calendars, and his time-lapse videos have been featured in commercials and documentaries. Jeff's astrophotography won the "People and Space" category in the 2011 Astronomy Photographer of the Year contest, conducted by the Royal Observatory, Greenwich in London, home of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and the Prime Meridian (zero degrees longitude).

## ITINERARY\*

**Friday, August 10 at 1:00pm:** Meet at the Lee Vining Community Center (296 Mattly Avenue) in Lee Vining. We'll divide our afternoon between classroom and field work. At 5:00pm we will go out for dinner as a group at a local restaurant before heading out for a sunset shoot, plus Milky Way and star trails night photography. Two nights before the peak of the Perseid Meteor shower, we have good odds of picking up some Perseid meteors. The session will conclude around 11:00pm. (*sunset 7:55pm, full darkness 9:36pm*)

**Saturday, August 11 at 1:00pm:** Meet at the Lee Vining Community Center. We will continue with a mixture of classroom and field work. Once again we'll break for dinner at 5:00pm, followed by a sunset shoot plus Milky Way and star trails night photography, again ending around 11:00pm. This is the second-best night of the Perseid meteor shower, so we should pick up some meteors in our shots. (*sunset 7:54pm, full darkness 9:36pm*)

**Sunday, August 12 at 9:00am:** Meet post-breakfast at the Lee Vining Community Center. We will continue with a mixture of field work and classroom session. We'll wrap up around 4:00pm so you can commute back to civilization, or head to your choice of secluded spot for this peak night of the Perseid meteor shower, free from the headlamps of fellow photographers. (I'll be happy to provide location suggestions.)

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** Successful landscape photography requires anticipation of, and reaction to, changing local weather conditions, so the itinerary is subject to change during the workshop.

## MEALS

We will eat together as a group each night at a local restaurants; 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. 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 or mirrorless camera capable of shooting up to ISO 6400 (no point-and-shoot digital cameras please)
- lenses, especially wide angle, f/2.8 or wider advised. Telephotos zoom may be useful for daylight landscapes
- tripod
- interval timer (intervalometer), built-in or external, for star trail and meteor shower shooting
- memory cards and spares, more than you might expect!
- fully charged batteries, extra batteries and battery charger
- owner's manual for your camera
- laptop with card reader and image editing software (you can download a free trial of Lightroom right before the seminar)
- headlamp to 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: hydration is key to minimizing the effects of altitude

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Although we will be going over some basic features and adjustments of your camera, you should be familiar with the following items, which we will review 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 turn Long Exposure Noise Reduction off and on
- how to turn on automatic exposure bracketing (AEB) off and on
- how to use your interval timer (internal or external)

## RECOMMENDED READING

Keimig, Lance. *Night Photography*. Focal Press, 2010.

Sullivan, Jeffrey. *Photographing California Vol. 2 – South*. Graphie Int'l Inc., 2015.

If you have any questions about the specifics of the workshop, please contact Jeff by email at [myphotoguides@gmail.com](mailto:myphotoguides@gmail.com). For any other questions, please contact Elin Ljung at the Mono Lake Committee ([elin@monolake.org](mailto:elin@monolake.org)).



**Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars**

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