

# Mono Basin Landscapes & Milky Way Photography



**August 2–4, 2019 • Jeff Sullivan**

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

Summer is a great season for afternoon cumulus cloud formations for sunset color, typically then yielding clear skies for Milky Way 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.
- Why post-processing is not a substitute for 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.

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” special prize 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 2 at 1:00pm:** Meet in the Mono Lake Committee gallery (51365 Highway 395 in Lee Vining). We’ll review some concepts related to shooting and exposure in the classroom then break around 4:00pm for people to secure their lodging. At 5:00pm we’ll reconvene for dinner as a group at a local restaurant before heading out to shoot golden hour, sunset, the 6% crescent moon, and then the Milky Way and star trails. The session will conclude around 11:00pm. (*sunset 8:04pm, full darkness 9:47pm*)

**Saturday, August 3:** With our late nights, sunrise will be optional and self-directed (*best light 5:30–6:20am*). In the morning, please back up your photos from the night before from memory cards to your laptop, and review your photos before the afternoon post-processing session.

**11:45am:** Meet for lunch at Epic Café (349 Lee Vining Ave, Lee Vining). Around 1:00pm we’ll reconvene for post-processing discussion and demonstration back at the Mono Lake Committee. We will continue with a mixture of classroom and field work. We’ll break for dinner at 5:00pm, before heading out to shoot golden hour, sunset, the 13% crescent moon, and then the Milky Way and star trails, again ending around 11:00pm. (*sunset 8:03pm, full darkness 9:46pm*)

**Sunday, August 4 at 9:00am:** Meet post-breakfast at the Mono Lake Committee. We will continue with a mixture of field work and classroom session. We’ll wrap up around 3:00pm so you can commute back to civilization, or head to your choice of location for sunset (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.

***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 plenty of water and drink it frequently because your body loses more fluid at high altitudes. Please bring and use sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to protect yourself from the sun’s intensity at high elevations.

## **MEALS**

We will decide together regarding when to break for meals and where to go to eat; participants are encouraged to take meals together and non-photographer partners are welcome to join us. Meals are not included in the tuition. Please be sure to bring plenty of snacks to eat in the field.

## 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 or mirrorless camera capable of shooting up to ISO 6400 (no point-and-shoot digital cameras please)
- \_\_\_ lenses, especially wide angle and ultra-wide, f/2.8 or faster advised. Telephoto 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: Lightroom 6 or CC Classic (desktop) will be used for demonstrations (free trial can be downloaded 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 [info@jeffsullivanphotography.com](mailto:info@jeffsullivanphotography.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

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