

Mono Basin Landscapes & Moon Photography



November 8–10, 2019 • Jeff Sullivan

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

Late fall is sunset moon rise and reflection season at Mono Lake! The departure of summer heat reduces wind, leaving the dense, salty water of Mono Lake mirror smooth. A passing storm may leave a dusting of snow or bring clouds to decorate our compositions. 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, November 8 at 3:00pm: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee gallery (51365 Highway 395 in Lee Vining). After a brief orientation talk we’ll make our way to South Tufa for sunset. At 6:00pm we’ll move to a restaurant in Lee Vining for dinner, than go back out for some moonlit night photography. The night session will conclude at a reasonable hour so we can catch sunrise the next morning. (*sunset 4:44pm, full darkness 6:21pm*)

Saturday, November 9 at 6:00am: Meet at the information kiosk at the South Tufa parking lot. We’ll hike to shore to enjoy the best sunrise and morning light from 6:30–7:00am. As the light and opportunities dictate, we’ll gradually make our way to breakfast in Lee Vining around 8:00am. After breakfast we’ll meet at the Lee Vining Community Center (296 Mattly Avenue) to review some concepts related to shooting and exposure. We’ll break for lunch around noon and spend time in the field before arriving at a favorite moon rise spot in time for the 3:49pm moon rise. We’ll shoot through sunset and return to Lee Vining for dinner at about 5:30pm. We can head out after dinner for moonlit star trails images, and the night session will conclude at a reasonable hour so we can catch sunrise the next morning. (*sunrise 6:32am, moon rise 3:49pm, sunset 4:48pm, full darkness 6:19pm*)

Sunday, November 10 at 6:00am: We’ll meet at a location agreed upon the night before to pursue sunrise. After the sunrise shoot and breakfast we’ll return to the Lee Vining Community Center for post-processing discussion, demonstration, and assistance as you follow along and work on your images. We’ll break for lunch around noon and ensure that we’re in a good location for the 4:16pm moon rise. We’ll shoot through sunset, break for dinner at a Lee Vining restaurant about 5:30pm, and adjourn afterward. (*sunrise 6:31am, moon rise 4:16pm, sunset 4:49pm*)

***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 breakfasts and dinners together as a group at a local restaurant; meals are not covered by tuition. Non-photographer partners are welcome to join us for meals.

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 (no point-and-shoot digital cameras please)
- ___ lenses: wide, mid-range and telephoto may all be useful. Telephoto zoom lenses such as 70-200mm may be ideal for the moon rise. The moon may be captured briefly at longer telephoto focal lengths of 300-400mm, but with the reflection you'll be more in the 70-200mm range (the sunset shot above was taken at 110mm).
- ___ tripod
- ___ interval timer (intervalometer), built-in or external, for star trails
- ___ memory cards and spares, more than you might expect!
- ___ fully charged batteries, extra batteries, 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
- ___ snacks for field sessions
- ___ 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. For any other questions, please contact Elin Ljung at the Mono Lake Committee (elin@monolake.org).



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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