



NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY - ALABAMA HILLS & DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

APRIL 23-25, 2013

Instructors:
Shawn Peterson
Stu Jenks
Michael Maloney

Learn How to Photograph In the Dark

Join us April 23-25, 2013, in the Alabama Hills (just outside of Lone Pine, CA) and Death Valley National Park for three nights of nocturnal photography. All skill levels are encouraged to attend, particularly beginners and those experienced photographers looking for new, creative, and collaborative ways to create images.

This workshop will cover how to make photographs utilizing low light situations, moonlit scenes, star trails, star points, and how to stack multiple images digitally to achieve ultra-long exposures. Students will learn how to evaluate existing lighting conditions, gain proper exposure for low light situations, and how to properly introduce artificial lighting to a scene.

There will be plenty of field shooting time, classroom instruction, and one on one reviews of student's portfolio. This portfolio review will cover work completed during the workshop. Staff to student ratio will be kept to a minimum to ensure there is plenty of instruction time available to them.

Topics to Be Covered:

1. Light Painting
2. Star Trails
3. Star Points
4. Long Exposure
5. Post Processing
6. Image Stacking
7. Equipment
8. Portfolio Review

The Alabama Hills

Our first night of photography will occur in the Alabama Hills area, just outside of Lone Pine, CA. This area lies east of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range along U.S. Route 395. The class will meet in Lone Pine, CA on April 23, 2013, at 1200 PM, for classroom instruction. Later that evening, students will have the opportunity to photograph the Alabama Hills under the near full moon.

The subjects for photographs in this area are immense. They include: numerous rock arches, interesting rock formations, snow capped peaks, Mt. Whitney, and many other interesting geological features. Students will be encouraged to stay out as late as they desire while photographing the area. Once shooting is complete, hotel arrangements are available in Lone Pine, CA. A group rate has been negotiated and a group code will be provided for a local hotel/motel.



Alabama Hills- Lone Pine, CA
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Death Valley National Park



Mesquite Dunes- Death Valley

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PHOTOGRAPH UNDER THE APRIL 2013 FULL MOON

On April 24, 2013 the class will leave Lone Pine behind and travel to Death Valley National Park. Our home base for classroom instruction on April 24, 2012 will be the Furnace Creek area. Group rates for lodging will be available for Furnace Creek but students can camp, stay in Stovepipe Wells (about 30 miles away), or come up with their own lodging if they wish.

On April 24, 2013 students will have the opportunity to take part in a portfolio review during the early afternoon. This review will be a one on one with a course instructor.

After portfolio reviews, a short classroom meeting will be held and then students will travel to several locations inside Death Valley National Park to photograph at night. Death Valley National Park is huge. It takes several hours to get to certain locations inside the park. Be prepared for lengthy travel times.

On April 25, 2013 students will return to the classroom for another portfolio review, review of polished images from the past review, and for advice on shooting techniques for the last night of shooting. After another short classroom session, students will once again venture out, with instructor staff, to several locations around Death Valley National Park. Once shooting is complete, students may return to their lodging. The morning of April 26, 2013 will be the conclusion of the workshop.

Students will have the opportunity to have their images from the last night of shooting reviewed by an instructor via email if they wish.

Light Painting

We could teach an entire course on light painting alone. However, for the purposes of this workshop we will focus on subtle, dynamic, and even garish introductions of light into an existing composition. There will be plenty of moonlight available to light up your photograph but the introduction of extra lighting and the manner in which you do it will make an average photograph fantastic!

Students will use handheld flashlights, strobes, neon lights, cell phones, etc. to introduce light into a scene. Your imagination is the only limiting factor in what can be used to help your light painting. Instructors will have several of their own lighting implements available for demonstration. However, students need to bring their own lights for their own use.

Collaboration

Photographing at night can be frustrating and time consuming. Often times it can be lonely as well. We will encourage students to work in groups, pairs, or with instructors to light paint scenes, come up with new compositions, and to share insight with one another. Some of the best photographs we have seen, taken at night, have been team efforts between several photographers working together.



Fun w/ Flashlight @ Racetrack Playa- Death Valley
© Shawn Peterson

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Portfolio Review

This workshop will have ample opportunity for portfolio reviews. After the first night of shooting, students will return to class the following day and have a one on one portfolio review with an instructor. This portfolio review will cover only the work a student has completed during the workshop. Suggestions, advice, and tutorials will be provided during this review to offer the student opportunity to go home with several quality images they are pleased with.

The purpose of the one on one portfolio review is to ensure no student goes home without several great images. The private and personal review offers students the opportunity to ask questions they might not feel comfortable asking in a larger group setting. This process also allows the level of instruction to be tailored to the skill level, development, and wishes of the individual student.

Equipment You Will Need

1. **Digital SLR Camera or Film Camera** – Your camera must have the ability to shoot in manual mode/bulb mode with the ability to lock open the camera's shutter so exposures of multiple minutes to hours long can be obtained
2. **Lenses**- It is recommended wider lenses be utilized for this type of photography. Focal lengths in the range of 10-50mm are preferred. Prime lenses are excellent choices but multiple length zoom lenses (in the wider scale) work great too! Most kit lenses with variable zooms from 28-70mm will be adequate as well.
3. **Cable/Shutter Release** – You absolutely have to have one. There really is no way of getting around this one. Many cost effective releases and cable locks are available. You don't have to buy a \$200.00 release to take part in this workshop.
4. **Tripod** – A sturdy tripod will be your best friend. The environment we will be shooting in is rocky, sandy, and rough at times. Make sure you have a quality tripod to place your expensive equipment on.
5. **Extra Batteries** – Colder weather sucks the life out of batteries fast. Long exposures suck the life out of batteries even faster. Make sure you aren't hours away from a battery charger and bring along several extras so you have a great night.
6. **Memory Cards/Film** – Whether you have an SD card, CF Card, or film make sure you have plenty of media storage available to take hundreds, if not thousands of images. If we stack images (as we will teach you how to do so in class) you will eat up a lot of room in storage.
7. **Laptop** – We will be post processing our images. You need one to make sure you can participate
8. **Handheld Flashlights** – We will be light painting. Make sure you bring items to introduce light into your scene with. If you have any questions about which lights are better than others, please contact Shawn Peterson for advice.
9. **Microfiber Cloth**- Blowing sand, dirt, and moisture will build up on your lens in these environments. You'll need a way to clean it off.
10. **Cold Weather Clothing** – The Alabama Hills in late April could be warm or it could be cold at the foot of Mount Whitney. Come prepared with a jacket, clothing, gloves, hat, etc. just in case.
11. **Warm Weather Clothing**– Death Valley National Park can be quite warm in April. Due to the multiple areas in the park we will photograph, be prepared for hot/warm weather and cold weather.
12. **Vehicle** – Some areas might require a long road trip to get to. Make sure your vehicle has good tires, gas, and if you have a 4WD you can go anywhere!

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Instructors

Shawn Peterson – Shawn is a Northern California bay area resident. He has been photographing at night since 2005. His photography focuses on long exposures, image stacking, and subtle light painting. Shawn has contributed to a night photography book, won several awards for his night photographs, and been chosen for several gallery showings in the San Francisco Bay area. Shawn currently shoots with medium format film and digitally.

Stu Jenks - Born in Virginia, Stu Jenks has lived in upstate New York, the Piedmont of North Carolina, and, for the last 20 years, in Southern Arizona. He graduated with a BFA in Studio Art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Stu has been exploring in his photography the symbols of the circle, the hoop, and the spiral; creating them in sand, in flame, in Christmas light, and in time. Stu is a professional photographer and novelist who has taken part in many shows, won many awards, and received numerous accolades.

Michael Maloney - Michael is a veteran bay area photojournalist with nearly 4 decades of shooting experience for bay area publications. He recently retired from the San Francisco Chronicle after a distinguished 30 year career with them. Michael currently works at Camera West in Walnut Creek where he offers private one to one instruction on all aspects of photography, Lightroom and Photoshop and leads monthly photo walks. His latest passion is shooting moving pictures, both video and time-lapse photography.