

# Alabama Hills Star Circle Academy Workshop

**November 5-7, 2010**

“It often seems to me that the night is much more alive and richly colored than the day.”—Vincent van Gogh

## **Overview:**

Imagine photographing the clear night skies against the background of Mt. Whitney and the High Sierra! Under the auspices of Star Circle Academy, the Alabama Hills Star Circle Workshop will be a chance to hone your night photography skills, learn new skills both behind the camera and in the digital darkroom, and come home with spectacular, unique images based upon the stunning clarity and unusual topography of California's Eastern Sierra and the autumnal night skies.

## **Who Should Attend:**

The Alabama Hills Star Circle Workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about the exciting world of night photography, or who wants to take their night photography to the next level. The workshop is geared to provide specific information about photographing star trails using an intervalometer (a programmable timer) and using stacking software to create a single composite low-noise image of star circles.

## **Prerequisites:**

The Alabama Hills Star Circle Workshop is not for absolute beginners. At a minimum, you should be comfortable with exposure concepts, using the manual exposure controls on your camera, Bulb exposures, and working with a tripod.

If you are in doubt about whether this workshop is suitable for your experience level, please contact Star Circle Academy for clarification ([workshops@StarCircleAcademy.com](mailto:workshops@StarCircleAcademy.com)).

## **Instructors:**

*Steven Christenson* is a geek by day and a photographer, hiker, backpacker and magician by night. He is also a founding organizer of the very successful [Bay Area Night Photography](#) group where like-minded, low-light photographers find interesting subjects and challenges.

Steven's love of astronomy, technology and photography have found an outlet in night photography, especially the night sky. Steven is expert at photographing star trails, and has built custom components to power a camera for all-night unattended shooting. Steven freely shares his knowledge of astronomy and software tools for choosing the best

celestial subjects, weather, dates and vantage points to capture everything from star trails to unusual astronomical events. And Steven is a winner in the international Astronomy Photographer of the Year, 2010 competition.

*Harold Davis* is an award-winning professional photographer who is an expert night photographer. He is the author of more than 30 books, including a number of best-selling photography titles such as *Creative Night: Digital Photography Tips & Techniques* (Wiley) and *The Photoshop Darkroom: Creative Digital Post-Processing* (Focal Press).

Harold writes the popular Photoblog 2.0, [www.photoblog2.com](http://www.photoblog2.com), and is a regular monthly photography and Photoshop columnist for Photo.net, a site with more than one million members.

Harold is much in demand as a presenter on many digital photography topics. He is a gifted and enthusiastic teacher, and his night photography workshops are usually sold out well in advance.

#### **Cost:**

The early registration tuition for the Alabama Hills Star Circle Workshop is \$500.00 per person with a discount for early registration.

This workshop cost includes educational materials and lunch on Saturday. We have a special rate (\$80 per night) and block of rooms reserved at the **Best Western Frontier Motel** located at

1008 South Main Street,  
Lone Pine, CA 93545-3010.  
Phone (760) 876-5571  
FAX: (760) 876-5357

Full payment is required to secure a spot in the workshop.

*Not included:* Other meals, lodging for the optional Sunday night shoot, transportation to Lone Pine, California. We will be car-pooling as necessary local transportation to the Alabama Hills and other shooting locations.

**Enrollment:** Enrollment is limited to twenty participants to allow for individual, personalized instruction. Please make sure to reserve your place early as the workshop is expected to sell out quickly. There will be a waiting list after the workshop is closed in case of cancellations.

A suggested equipment list will be sent to participants following registration.

#### **For Further Information and Registration:**

Website: [www.starcircleacademy.com](http://www.starcircleacademy.com)

Email: [workshops@starcircleacademy.com](mailto:workshops@starcircleacademy.com)

### **What You Can Expect to Learn:**

Photographers who are new to night photography will leave the workshop with a solid grounding in the principles of digital night capture and exposure. They will learn how to process night using Adobe Photoshop with the guidance of a renowned instructor and Photoshop guru. In addition, they will gain extensive information about tools and techniques available to night photographers. This is the best possible introduction to the select fraternity of photographers who are “creatures of the night.”

Those already familiar with night photography can expect to learn advanced shooting techniques as well as sophisticated post-processing methodologies, with an emphasis on long composite exposures via stacking. There will be serious critique of imagery from the viewpoints of creativity, composition and potential marketability.

All workshop participants will enjoy world-class photographic opportunities in the Alabama Hills formation, below Mt. Whitney, the tallest peak in the continental United States. In addition, those taking the workshop will become members of the community of night photographers that Star Circle Academy intends to foster.

### **Detailed Schedule:**

| <b>Friday November 5, 2010</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3PM                            | Orientation: night photography<br><br>Session covers safety, logistics, basic principles of night photography, what to look for at night, basic concepts in star stacking photography.<br><br>Steven Christenson, Harold Davis |
| 4:30PM                         | Colors of the Night<br><br>The relationship of exposure time to color; tweaking the colors in RAW files to reveal the secrets of the night.<br><br>Harold Davis                                                                |
| 6:30PM-Midnight                | Location photography in the Alabama Hills                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Saturday Nov 6, 2010</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9:30AM                         | Review of the previous night's shoot.<br><br>Steven Christenson, Harold Davis                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:30AM                        | Post-processing night photos in Adobe Camera RAW (ACR), Lightroom, and Photoshop.                                                                                                                                              |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           | Harold Davis                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12:00PM – 2:30PM          | Lunch + optional daytime photo excursion                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2:30PM                    | Advantages of composite stacking; star stacking in Adobe Photoshop using Statistics.<br><br>Harold Davis                                                                                                     |
| 4PM                       | Star stacking without Photoshop, a roundup of tools and methods.<br><br>Steven Christenson                                                                                                                   |
| 6:30-Midnight             | Location photography in Alabama Hills, with optional second location for night photography; light painting exercise.                                                                                         |
| <b>Sunday Nov 7, 2010</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10AM                      | Review of the previous night's shoot.<br><br>Steven Christenson, Harold Davis                                                                                                                                |
| 11AM                      | Tools and techniques for navigating, understanding the night sky, and capturing ephemeral phenomena.<br><br>Steven Christenson                                                                               |
| 12:30                     | Power options for extended duration photography.<br><br>Steven Christenson, Harold Davis                                                                                                                     |
| 2:30PM                    | Advanced night processing<br><br>Multi-RAW processing, HDR and Hand HDR using Photomatix and Photoshop as it relates to night photography, advanced exposure issues.<br><br>Steven Christenson, Harold Davis |
| 4PM                       | Official workshop wrap-up.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7PM                       | Optional night shoot with location tbd.                                                                                                                                                                      |

**For complete details and Frequently Asked Questions please see [StarCircleAcademy.com](http://StarCircleAcademy.com)**