



## **WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Alabama Hills, Lone Pine, CA**

**April 26 - May 1, 2011**

**Four full days of field instruction, two classroom sessions**

The Alabama Hills in the Eastern High Sierra Foothills are an amazing place for the landscape photographer. These granite rock formations were made famous by the late landscape photographer, Galen Rowell. The area is also well-known for all the Western movies shot there. The granite shapes are made even more spectacular because we can include the snow-covered Sierra Peaks in the backgrounds of many of our shots. The area experts say there are over four hundred natural rock arches and windows in the Alabama Hills. We can't take you to all of them, but we will guide you to the most photogenic arches and show you how to get the very best composition possible.

Most of the arches we will photograph are a short hike from parking areas. The Whitney Portal Arch is a 1 1/4-mile round-trip cross-country hike and we will do that in the dark to get you up to the arch before the sun comes up for a possible spectacular sunrise.

The granite that makes up the Alabama Hills is actually the same composition and age as makes up the mighty High Sierra range to the west. However, the weathering of the Alabama Hills is quite different. Where the Sierra peaks are sharp and jagged, the granite rocks of the Alabama Hills are rounded and sculpted. With a bit of imagination, one can find all kinds of animal shapes in the rocks.



The Whitney Portal Arch with alpenglow on the High Sierra peaks.

In addition to photographing the natural arches, we will show you how to incorporate the sculpted rock of the Alabama Hills with the snow-covered Sierra peaks in the background. In the Alabama Hills, we will do both sunrise and sunset shoots and we will also spend some time at night in showing you how to light paint the rocks and arches.

Where will we shoot? We could easily spend a week in and around the Alabama Hills, but if the road is open, we will spend a day and evening in the Ancient Bristlecone Pines area. This area has the oldest-known living trees on earth and they can make some truly magnificent photography subjects. We have scheduled this workshop when we will have no moon in the night sky. So we will try our hand at photographing the Milky Way and the stars over the ancient pines.

During the workshop, we will instruct you in the art of advanced landscape composition and will show you how we 'shoot for HDR'.

A typical workshop day will see us get up early and drive into the Alabama Hills for a sunrise. We will shoot the early morning light and then return to Lone Pine for breakfast around 9AM. We will shoot again in the hills for another few hours and then return to town for lunch. After a few hours of downtime, we will get together in the meeting room of the motel for a classroom session where we will demonstrate how we take a RAW image and turn it into a masterpiece using Photoshop CS5 and Photomatix Pro software. Then we will fit in dinner and a sunset shoot in the Hills. Once or twice during the workshop we will go out for night photography and light painting in the Hills.

For one sunrise, we will drive a bit south of Lone Pine and up a winding dirt road to Granite View. This is a spectacular spot for capturing the sunrise alpenglow on the snow-covered Sierra peaks.



Sunrise alpenglow on the Sierra peaks from Granite View.

If the road is open, one early morning we will head north on US-395 and find a sunrise spot to capture the sunrise alpenglow on the Sierra peaks. Then we will drive to the small town of Big Pine where we will eat breakfast. Then we will drive east to the Ancient Bristlecone Pines area where we will spend the day and into the night photographing the amazing old trees there.

## **So who are the instructors for this Mountain High Workshop?**

### [James Neeley](#)

James, call me Pat, is a master of digital photography and post-processing. Many know him as 'Mr. HDR'. Pat is also a recognized Photoshop instructor. A radiologist by profession, Pat has the uncanny ability to use his critical vision whenever he sets up his camera. He is an outstanding teacher with the ability to transfer his knowledge of photography and post-processing to his students. To shoot with Pat is a real learning experience. During our previous workshops, we tend to call him "Pat the Piper", as his magnetic personality and teaching style attracts our students who follow him wherever he leads. Pat is also one of the most popular landscape photographers exhibiting his work on Flickr. We think he has more Explore Front Page images than just about any other landscape photographer.

### [Bill Wight](#)

Bill's love of landscape photography spans five decades. Yes, he's the 'Old Man' of our group. But with age comes wisdom (or so he tells us) and he puts that to good use in his photography and teaching. In his early years, Bill studied under a student of Ansel Adams and that great photographer continues to

influence Bill's work today. Many of Bill's landscape images have been licensed by editors from around the world and one of his images appeared in an issue of Popular Photography Magazine.

**This workshop enrollment is limited to twelve (12) students. Our workshops usually fill up so if you are interested, we urge you to sign up quickly.**

## **Why should you join our workshop group rather than one led by a 'famous' landscape photographer?**

One simple answer. You will learn a lot more with us about landscape photography as our emphasis is on teaching, not polishing our egos. We will teach you the techniques of advanced landscape composition and in our classroom sessions, how we post-process our images. We will not bore you with evening slide shows of our images.

Please visit our web page for more information:

<http://www.mountainhighworkshops.com>

## **Workshop Details:**

**Workshop Tuition:** is \$850. MHW alumni receive a 10% discount on the tuition. Couples receive a \$100 tuition discount per couple.

**Lodging:** We will be based at the Best Western Frontier Motel in the town of Lone Pine, CA. Each workshop participant will make and guarantee their own motel reservations. We have negotiated a group rate of \$90 per night plus 12% lodging tax for a standard single room. You may elect to stay at another property in Lone Pine or camp in one of the local campgrounds. To make your reservations, please call the Best Western Frontier Motel at 760-876-5571. Tell them you are with the Mountain High Workshops group.

**Meals.** We will eat our meals together in local cafés and restaurants and we will each pay for our own meals. If we are able to visit the Bristlecone Pines area, for lunch and dinner, we will have picnic fare provided by MHW. If we are not able to take the trip to the Bristlecone Pines, MHW will pay for our last dinner together on Saturday evening. Each day of the workshop, MHW will provide water, soft drinks and snacks.

**Transportation:** To keep our costs as low as possible during the workshop, MHW will provide two vehicles for transportation that will accommodate eight students. We usually ask one of the students who has a rental car to carry the remaining students and we will pay for your gas. If you have your own or a rental vehicle you are welcome to use it to drive to the shooting locations. If you choose to stay at a lodging location other than the Best Western, it will be your responsibility to meet us in the mornings at a designated site. We cannot pick you up at a motel or campground.

A \$200 deposit will hold your spot in this workshop. Please send a check made out to:

"Mountain High Workshops" and mail it to:

Mountain High Workshops  
5424 Ridgeview Ave.  
Alta Loma, CA 91737-1748

The balance of the tuition is payable 30 days before the workshop begins payable by check.

Before you sign up for our workshop, please see our workshop terms and conditions here:

<http://www.mountainhighworkshops.com/MHWTermsConditions.pdf>

Travel: The closest airport is Los Angeles International (LAX) or Ontario International (ONT). ONT is about a 5 1/5 hour drive to Lone Pine and LAX is about a 6 1/2 hour drive.

## **What do our students say about our workshops?**

*"I returned home today from one of the greatest experiences of my life, the Mountain High Workshop taught by four incredibly talented photographers, Bill Wight, James Neeley, Kevin McNeal and Jeff Sullivan. Their talent, creativity and enthusiasm was inspiring." Rainey S.*

*"Bill, I really enjoyed the workshop so much. It was exhausting, but I didn't feel it until it was over. You did an awesome job, as well as the other instructors. I dream of having just a small bit of the eye and skill you have some day. Thanks for your enthusiasm and excellent schooling at the workshop." Dary S.*

*"I had a great time at the workshop! Learned a ton, met some new friends, and best of all came back with some great images. I love being able to immerse myself in photography where I can get away from work and daily responsibilities. It allows me to focus and give it the attention I want to dedicate to it." Richard L.*

*"I had a great time, met some great people, and was satisfied with the investment in time and money I made for the experience. I would certainly do it again. One of the most interesting aspects was to see 4 different photographers sit down and show their workflow and to see how widely varying they were. Each one of you had significantly different approach with excellent results. Being able to leverage the best of each is what I find valuable as I try to identify a workflow that works for me."*

*"Thank you to all the instructors for all their hard work and attention and care to the students. I learned a whole lot more than I thought I would. My images definitely improved tremendously from this short period of time and I highly recommend this workshop to anyone who is as passionate about landscape photography as these instructors obviously do. Loads of kudos to all of you."*

*"I came to this workshop with pretty low expectations. I was very wrong. It was a great workshop experience and I learned a lot." Nick M.*

*"This was my first photo workshop so cannot compare it to others, but as far as I'm concerned, it was an experience of a lifetime (and I don't lead a boring life). The instructors were top notch, fun, enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. The shooting sessions took us to some wonderful places and the classroom sessions were instructive and engaging. Thanks, Mountain High Workshops, I would do this again in a heartbeat."*

*"I want to thank Bill, Pat [James], Jeff and Kevin for the personal attention they provided to me during the workshop. One of them was always available to help with a camera setting [or to] assist with composition of a picture or anything else I needed. Thank you for a wonderful experience." Gene S.*

*"I have been on a few photography shoots, but I have never learned as much from those other outings as I did on the Mountain High Mammoth Lakes program. Thank you for a great experience!"*

*I attended my first on location photography workshop—Mountain High Workshops, Joshua Tree National Park. The amazing photographic talents of Bill Wight, James Neeley, Steve Sieren, Kevin McNeal and Jeffrey Sullivan inspired me to attend this workshop. And they didn't disappoint.*

*Imparting their knowledge, secret tricks of the trade, and providing encouragement to the workshop participants made, judging by myself and my fellow participants, the Joshua Tree Workshop a unanimous success. Each day I thought that photography "couldn't get any better"... and each day the team of instructors exceeded my expectations! Thanks guys, I was "moved"! Ireena N*

*At a recent Mountain High Workshop, I felt like I was hanging out with Peter Pan and the Lost Boys. Six days of doing what I love all day with a great group of guys. And we didn't even have a Captain Hook to worry about...except for perhaps the weather.*

*Bill Wight is the 'behind the scene's leader of the workshop. He got us to where we needed to go, provided lunch and made the workshop run smoothly. Standing beside Bill, while capturing images, I realized what a wonderful teacher he is, and more importantly a great photographer. I grew as a photographer because of his teaching during the 6 days in Joshua Tree.*

*"Had a great time. I really think you did a great job running this workshop. I enjoyed the friendly nature of all there. It was really obvious that all really had a passion for photography. It certainly rekindled my 'passion' for photography again. The balance of your [instructor's] skills really complement each other."*

You may register for this workshop by sending an email to:

[office@mountainhighworkshops.com](mailto:office@mountainhighworkshops.com)

Have questions?

Email us at [office@mountainhighworkshops.com](mailto:office@mountainhighworkshops.com)

Or call Bill Wight at 909-989-3919 or 951-215-9023



Sunrise alpenglow on Lone Pine Peak from the Alabama Hills.