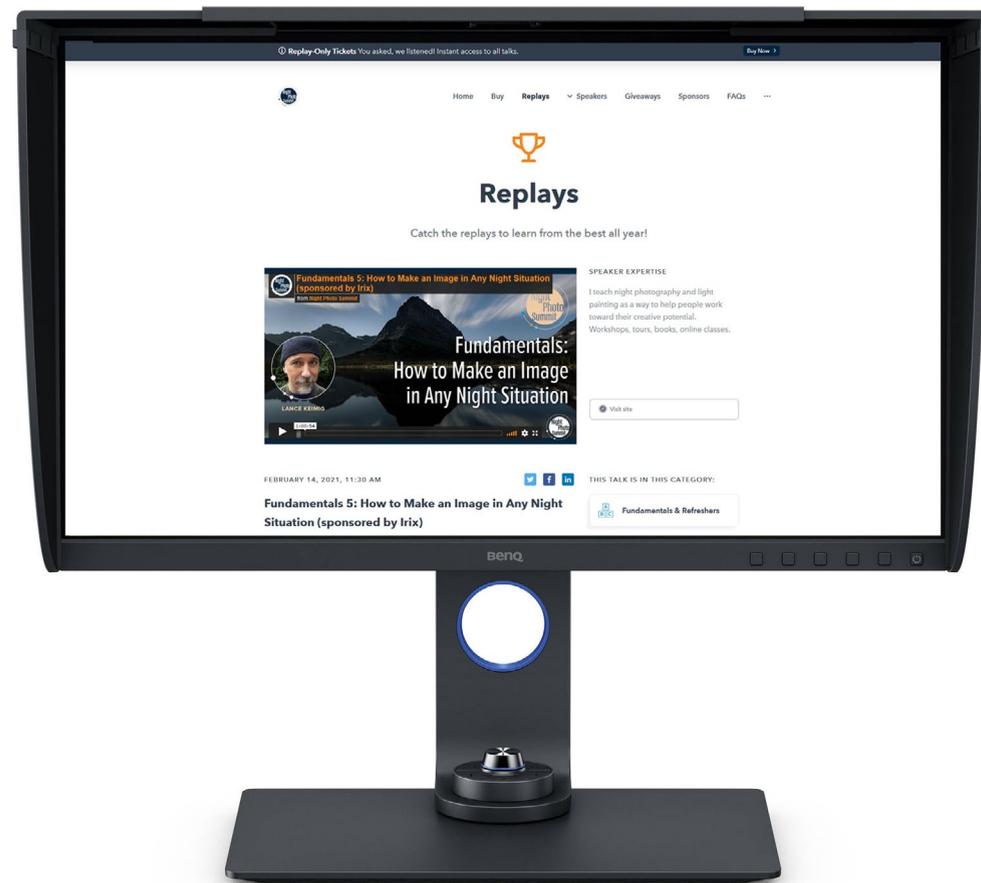




2021 Course Catalog

www.nightphotosummit.com





WELCOME TO THE NIGHT PHOTO SUMMIT

The Night Photo Summit, the very first online night photography conference, took place the weekend of February 12-14, 2021.

Thirty-five speakers presented over 45 hours of livestreamed inspiration and education about night photography, dark skies and national parks. You can see descriptions of all the talks on the following pages.

Moreover, you can watch them! With a Replays ticket, all the sessions are available to stream 24/7 until February 12, 2022.

Buy your ticket today!



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.

Adding Light to the Night: How to Use Tools and Technique to Create Your Look,

sponsored by Coast Portland

Tim Cooper

Mastering light painting is all about understanding light. So in this session, Tim Cooper not only covers the necessary tools to create this light but also teaches about the light itself. He breaks down the primary aspects of lighting—quality, brightness and angle—and shows how to control each to achieve your desired look. While many illumination devices are available, Tim focuses on his two favorites: Coast flashlights and Luxli LED panels. During the talk he breaks down the differences, shows the similarities and highlights the strengths and weaknesses of each. Through real-world examples he shows you how to craft your portable lights to create a look that is uniquely your own.



Creative Growth

Blending Magic: Blue Hour Blends & Composites

Jess Santos

Blue hour blending and composites are astro-landscape photography techniques that require different planning and execution than more traditional single-shot night photography. Jess Santos explains what to look for while in the field, offers composition and settings tips, and elaborates on what it means to “shoot for the edit.” She also walks you through her workflow for combining the final images in Photoshop.

Chasing Moonlight

Susan Magnano

While teaching a photography workshop in Moab, Utah, the pandemic hit. Susan seized an opportunity to stay and live in a friend’s RV. She spent the next nine months further refining her photography skills and exploring under the most amazing night skies in the American Southwest. Not to mention shooting many of the same locations repeatedly, under different phases of the moon. Susan’s images reflect her connection and understanding of the

moon’s phases, its effect on the landscape and how to make the most of the lighting scenario for every phase. So buckle up and hold on tight as Susan shares her discoveries from life on road while chasing moonlight night after night.

Chasing the Aurora Borealis,

sponsored by Bay Photo Lab

Nate Luebbe, Autumn Schrock

The magical phenomenon of auroras is unlike any other night photography subject: There’s no set time or place to see it, like with the Milky Way. In this class, photographers Autumn Schrock and Nate Luebbe teach tips on how to best predict, capture and edit the otherworldly aurora.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.

Creating a Basic Time-Lapse Video Clip Using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop

David Marx

David Marx first explains the fundamentals of time-lapse photography, including how to shoot a sequence of images for time-lapse using any DSLR or advanced mirrorless camera body. Next you learn about the two steps that are required to animate your stack of sequential images using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop. By the end of this lecture you will have the skills needed to get started with this exciting genre of digital photography.

Creative Night Photography with a Mobile Phone, sponsored by Adobe

Russell Preston Brown

Join Russell Brown on this tour of his crazy collection of mobile phones. He discusses how he pushes the boundaries of mobile phone technology to capture long exposure night photography. Russell discusses how he captures the night sky with a phone and then he reveals some of his favorite tips and techniques in Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. "I may not have all the resolution in the world, but I'm having a ton of fun."

Getting Started with Deep Sky Astrophotography

Forest Chaput de Saintonge

Forest Chaput de Saintonge looks at how to move from wide-angle Milky Way and star trail images on to how to start using a telephoto lens or telescope to capture images of individual deep sky objects. As lenses get longer so do the challenges involved with shooting the sky as it moves overhead. We discuss noise, calibration frames, tracking, equipment, exposure, white balance and more to get you started with taking the images you're looking to capture.

Getting Started with Outdoor Tube Light Painting

Eric Paré

From camera setup to composition to the preparation of your model, Eric Paré covers everything you need to get started with tube light painting for your outdoors shot. Whether you're going to work at the blue hour, with the stars or the Milky Way, there are key elements to master and Eric makes it as easy as possible to start understanding this technique.

How to Plan any Sun, Moon and Milky Way Photo You Imagine with PhotoPills

Rafael Pons

Join the Bard of PhotoPills to get on your way toward mastering the most amazing of image-planning apps. Rafael Pons teaches you how to use the PhotoPills Planner to plan your sun, moon and Milky Way photos. He covers the two ways of photography planning: 1) When you know the date and wish to find the shooting spot and shooting time for the best photo possible. And 2) when you know the shooting spot and where you want the sun or moon to be in your frame and wish to find the shooting date and time the photo occurs so that you can go capture it.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.

Ignite Your Nighttime Rocket Photography

Erik Kuna

Now that we're launching over 100 rockets per year worldwide from dozens of spaceports spanning five continents, you might be closer than you think to being able to capture it. Erik Kuna breaks down how to plan, scout, set up and capture a nighttime rocket launch. From the iconic "streak" shots to the newly emerging boost back "nebulas" and SpaceX rocket landings, he covers all aspects of night rocket photography that anyone can capture. Plus, Erik takes it to the next level and talks about how to go past the basics and capture these events up close. Then, he takes it beyond that and gets creative by making pictures we could have captures only with our minds until now. He breaks down how to blend and composite shots for truly one-of-a-kind images that are sure to wow even Elon Musk.

Milky Way Panoramas

Adam Woodworth

One of the more amazing photography opportunities at night is creating an image of the Milky Way arching from one horizon to the next. But creating that image isn't as straight-forward as one might hope. In this presentation, Adam Woodworth shares all on

how to plan, photograph and edit a Milky Way panorama. He discusses: What is a nodal rail and why do you need one? Why rotators with click stops are awesome! Also, gear for multi-row panos, exposure settings, stitching panoramas in software and more.

Night Photography and Light Painting, the Lost America Style

Troy Paiva

Spend a freewheeling hour with Troy Paiva, aka the Lost America guy, as he shares his methodology and experiences from 30 years of surrealist night photography and light painting in abandoned sites and junkyards across the American West. Troy goes deep on his simple, inexpensive to achieve, yet highly effective lighting and exposure techniques by deconstructing how a number of his images were created. The discussion covers his theatrical, cast-light-only painting techniques, with various sources and tools—including gobos and snoots. He mixes in stories about the human engineering required for accessing these often difficult-to-enter locations, his dedication to Golden Mean-based compositional purity and traditional color theory ... along with anecdotes about being chased by packs of feral dogs.

Noise-Reduction Strategies for

Night Photography

Michael Frye

Michael Frye starts this session by delving into the different types of noise, and then the factors that affect noise, including the amount of light reaching the sensor, sensor size, pixel size, electronic noise, exposure time and heat. From there we can develop strategies to mitigate noise in the field, and choose the right strategies for our equipment, our individual shooting styles and the different situations we encounter. These strategies include choosing the optimal camera settings, bracketing, blending, star-stacking, star-tracking, stitching, capturing dark frames and more.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.

Photographing Lighthouses at Night

Chris Nicholson

Lighthouses have long been a nostalgic subject for the photographer, standing sentinel against time and the relentless ocean, as beacons of both danger and hope, firmly planted in the sands of seafaring and Americana. In this presentation, National Parks at Night's Chris Nicholson discusses the basics and the advanced methods of photographing lighthouses in the dark. From tricky exposures, to challenges with perspective, to issues with timing and more. Different types of lighthouses come with different sets of advantages and hurdles, and Chris goes over each. Several techniques can ease or enhance lighthouse photography, and Chris reviews those as well.

Photographing Waterfalls Between Sunset and Sunrise

Kevin Adams

Want to add some fun and excitement to your night photography? Want to make the kinds of images that won't be presented by anyone else at the next camera club meeting? Join Kevin as he teaches a wide range of methods for photographing waterfalls at night. Kevin pioneered many of these techniques, and he won't hold back any secrets. As a bonus, you'll also learn how to use underwater light painting to make those plunge pools glow.

Shooting the Moon and New York City

Jennifer Khordi

During this presentation Jennifer Khordi describes how she imagines, plans and executes her moon shots over New York City. She discusses her motivation and inspiration, how she uses PhotoPills to plan moon photos, shooting tips and examples of her work.

Urban Nightscapes: Creating Magical Long Exposures Under Streetlight

Gabriel Biderman

Whether you're a resident or a visitor, dark skies can be few and far between when you're in a city. However, there are still plenty of long exposure opportunities! Gabe Biderman explores the creative possibilities of urban photography. He covers gear requirements, finding the best vantage points for epic cityscapes, amplifying how the city moves, exposure considerations, urban star trails, adding the human element, working with film and more. Gabe loves the energy and movement of a city once the sun goes down, from the bright lights to the quieter places in parks and backyards in the neighborhood. Night photography should not be explored only under the stars.

Winter Nights: Capturing Night Sky Magic Without Freezing Your Bits

Rachel Jones Ross

Join Sony Alpha Collective member Rachel Jones Ross for a behind-the-scenes look at her approach to photographing the night sky in winter. Rachel discusses how to stay warm, keep your gear running smoothly, and finding magic in the night sky in the absence of the Milky Way.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.



Inspiration

An Abbreviated History of Night Photography

Lance Keimig

Nighttime has been associated with solitude, danger, mystery and the unknown throughout human history, and the night motif was established in Western art long before the advent of photography. It's no surprise that early photographers pushed the limits of their equipment and materials to express these themes and to make images in the dark. In this talk, Lance Keimig presents an overview of the history of night photography from daguerreotype to digital, with an emphasis on lesser-known artists who made significant contributions to the genre. An appreciation of the work of those who came before us can lead to new insights and understanding in our own photography.

Astrophysics for Better Astro-Landscape Photography

Dr. Tyler Nordgren

Interstellar clouds, clusters of stars and dust between the planets are just some of the subjects

you can capture in your night photography if you know when and where to grab your camera and go. In this presentation, astronomer Dr. Tyler Nordgren teaches you to understand the astrophysics of what you are capturing to maximize your results in the field and to capture more than you ever thought possible.

Backpacking: the Key to Amazing Dark Skies and Unique Photo Opportunities

Sherry Beltramini Pincus

Sherry Beltramini Pincus focuses on presenting different approaches to backcountry travel including day hiking from established base camps, hut to hut backpacking, extended backpack and off-trail backpacking. Sherry also discusses backpacking equipment from the perspective of including camera gear with equipment required for safe remote travel. Dealing with choices due to weight restrictions and traveling safely with your camera gear are all covered. This talk serves as an introduction for those unfamiliar with backpacking but also as an opportunity for

experienced backpackers to expand their approach. There is something for everyone who enjoys exploring and is willing to hike, as well as for armchair adventurers.

Don't be Afraid of the Dark: Fostering a Creative Night Photography Habit

Matt Hill

Are you stuck and looking to inspire yourself to make more night photography? Well, Matt Hill was. And he pulled himself up out of the rut that he believed was 2020's fault. (Hint: it wasn't.) Join Matt to help you navigate creative roadblocks with the goal of establishing a habit to make night photography regularly. Explore motivations and perceptions that will help you unlock greater potential as a night photographer. Matt shares stories and examples from his own struggle with creative demons, and how he often found a way to slay them.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.

Film Screening: *Light Side Up*

Nate Luebbe, Autumn Schrock

Pushing the limits of the Sony a7S III and the very boundaries of nature photography itself, a team of three nature photographers set off to Fairbanks, Alaska, to capture cinematic footage of the aurora borealis from the stratosphere. Join filmmakers Nate Luebbe and Autumn Schrock for a screening party of their inspiring visual adventure into the clouds of light, *Light Side Up*.

Is this The End of Night?

Paul Bogard

A starry night is one of nature's most magical wonders. Yet in our artificially lit world, most of us no longer experience true darkness. In this talk based on his critically acclaimed book *The End of Night*, Paul Bogard seeks to restore our awareness of the spectacularly primal, wildly dark night sky and how it has influenced the human experience across everything from science to art. Using a blend of personal narrative, natural history, science and astronomy, Paul shares the importance of darkness—what we've lost, what we still have, and what we might regain—and the simple ways we can reduce the brightness of our nights tonight.

Planning the Perfect National Park Adventure

Sandra Ramos

With the growing popularity of national parks, no longer can you count on just getting in the car and showing up at the gate. Get the most out of your next national park trip with this informative and inspirational session filled with tips and tricks. After 4 years and 127,000 miles of road trips to 195 of 423 national park sites, Sandra Ramos has learned ways to make your trip more productive with just a little leg work before you depart. From the best resources to find park information through how to plan the epic shots and more, Sandra covers easy-to-implement systems to organize the best trip ever.

Songs and Stories of Our National Parks

Gary Bremen, Grant Livingston

"Songs and Stories of our National Parks" is a collaboration between award-winning storyteller Gary Bremen and Florida's historian-in-song Grant Livingston. Together they tell and sing about our national parks—America's best idea! Celebrate a century of history guided by Gary's tales of Yellowstone, Grand Canyon,

Gettysburg, Mammoth Cave, Selma, Stonewall, Biscayne and Yosemite. Grant accompanies Gary's narrative with folk songs of the times and his own original songs.

Skyglow

Harun Mehmedinovic

Multimedia presentation fusing images and videos on a journey through the history of humans and the night sky, origins and the rising threat of light pollution, as well as the dark-sky movement fighting to reverse the spread of artificial light. Skyglow videos and images have been featured by BBC Earth, *National Geographic*, *Astronomy Magazine*, BBC Travel, Discovery Science, *The New York Times*, *Wired*, *Time*, *Forbes*, NPR, CNN, Gizmodo, Slate, *Los Angeles Times*, *LA Weekly*, *Vice* and *The Washington Post*.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.

Night Crew Image Review #1

Gabriel Biderman, Tim Cooper

Night Crew Image Review #2

Chris Nicholson, Tim Cooper

Night Crew Image Review #3

Lance Keimig, Matt Hill

There is always something to learn from someone else's image, as well as from the feedback on how to level up vision and processing skills. The National Parks at Night team offers reviews of attendee-submitted images. Instead of focusing on attendees' best shots, the focus is on images they struggled with and had questions about. A new set of eyes, even on others' photography, often brings a fresh interpretation to your work.

Panel Discussion: How Photographers Can Give Back to the National Parks

Dr. Tyler Nordgren, Gary Bremen, Sandra Ramos, Sherry Beltramini Pincus

As photographers, we use the national parks as sources of inspiration and subject matter.



Conversations

Our charge in return is to help the parks, not because we "owe" it to them, but because we want and need to preserve America's most precious lands for the photographers and the generations that follow. In this panel discussion, a park ranger, a parks activist, an artist, a longtime parks photographer and a Leave No Trace expert explore ways that all of us can contribute to ensuring we're not the last ones who enjoy these special spaces.

Panel Discussion: How Special Projects Can Fuel Our Growth as Night Photographers

Autumn Schrock, Erik Kuna, Kevin Adams, Matt Hill, Troy Paiva

Part of the fun of night photography comes from variety—variety of subjects, variety of locations, variety of conditions. But enormous benefits can come from focusing at least some of our work on a specific project. A special project could be a collection of images created with the same technique, or with a similar look, or in the same location, or within a certain timeframe, etc. Whatever the confines of the concept, developing and honing a special project forces us to stretch our creative

boundaries. With that comes new growth and new vision. Join this panel of established night photographers as they discuss the special projects they've cultivated for years of their careers—projects that range from light painting Americana to photographing rocket launches to chasing waterfalls and beyond. They discuss how pursuing their ideas over time has helped them hone their artistry and create new opportunities. Moreover, they offer advice on how you can do the same.

Panel Discussion: Women in Night Photography—Perspectives from the Field

Jennifer Khordi, Rachel Jones Ross, Sandra Ramos, Susan Magnano

Being a night photographer can provide unique challenges of which plenty of resources abound. When adding in the overlay of being a woman traveling solo, those resources dry up. We chat with women who have blazed their own paths in this creative space, who give us insight from A to Z on how to get started, feeling safe, how to plan and more. Join us for an inspiring perspective into the world of seizing the night.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.



Fundamentals

Fundamentals 1: Where Do I Start?

Matt Hill

If you're just starting out in night photography, or looking to brush up your skills, then this presentation is where to start. Matt Hill walks you through how to get out and get shooting at night with the goal of coming home with images you may not believe are possible. Matt will help you prepare for getting out *before* you leave the house. You'll learn about why composing an image at night is different than composing in daylight. Also: How long should an exposure be? Why should you care? You'll get an overview of the difference between high ISO noise and long exposure noise, and tactics on how to work with (and around) both. Do you have the right lenses? Matt will help you understand what's good, not so good and great.

Fundamentals 2: Capturing and Processing the Milky Way

Tim Cooper

Have you photographed the Milky Way? Once you do, you'll realize why it is so much fun to chase throughout the year. In this class Tim Cooper goes over the fundamentals of finding the Milky Way and best practices for not over-processing the final image. Tim also shares many of the capture considerations, including gear requirements, exposure guidelines, what to look for throughout the Milky Way season and more.

Fundamentals 3: Creating Star Trails, sponsored by Tether Tools

Gabriel Biderman

In this presentation, Gabe teaches everything you need to know about capturing, creating and processing star trail photographs. It begins with an explanation of how to take your initial star point exposures and calculate the longer exposures necessary to create the star trail effect. Next he talks about how different situations require different approaches to the initial capture. Both long and short exposures can be used to make these magical images and by the end of this class you'll have the confidence and knowledge to use them both. The last section of this presentation covers necessary equipment (such as an intervalometer, or an external battery pack) to ensure you have the right gear for the right job. While Photoshop is not entirely necessary to create star trails, it does open up more opportunities to capture them. Gabe finishes this info-packed session with a simple demonstration of how easy it is to use Photoshop to help create star trail imagery from a stack of photos.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.

Fundamentals 4: An Introduction to Light Painting

Chris Nicholson

After learning from Matt, Tim and Gabe how to do everything from getting set up for a night shoot to how to capture star points and trails, you might wonder what to do with the dark foreground. In this presentation, Chris Nicholson reviews the fundamentals of adding light to those shadows to reveal all the potential for that night composition. Chris discusses light painting tools, angle of light, proper technique, determining how much light to add and more. By the end of this talk you'll feel more confident getting into dark environments to start painting, opening up whole new worlds of photographic opportunity.

Fundamentals 5: How to Make an Image in Any Night Situation, sponsored by Irix

Lance Keimig

Night photography is a broad genre that can be broken down into several specialized niches: urban or artificial light night photography, astro-landscape photography, long exposure and star trail photography, and light painting and writing. Each of those specialties requires a different approach to make successful images, and different factors need to be considered in order to make the best decisions about equipment, exposure, weather conditions and more. Lance shares his system of simple, straightforward steps to help you focus on what is important in each scenario. Different conditions require different tactics and require prioritizing different exposure variables to get the best results. A methodical process to the technical aspects of photography can free your mind to concentrate on creativity.



Click the talk title for more information and to watch the replay.



Essential Gear for Night Photography,
sponsored by B&H Photo
Michael Hollender

Michael Hollender from B&H Photo reviews the essentials for night photography, from the right lens and tripod to some crucial accessories that will help ensure you are not fumbling around in the dark.

How the Right Calibrated Display Can Elevate Your Print and Digital Work,
sponsored by BenQ
Art P. Suwansang

A great display can be as crucial as the camera and lens that capture the image, especially for low-light night images. Given that the right display is the answer, you probably have some questions: What should I look for in a photographer's display? What is a hardware-calibrated display? Do I need one or will a software-calibrated display work for my needs? Do I need to have multiple calibration settings (i.e., one for print and one for web) or is there a universal setting that will work for everything? And once I

get the display, what are the best settings to calibrate it for print and web use? Find out the answers to these questions and more!

How to Improve Dark-Sky Image Quality with MSM, sponsored by Move-Shoot-Move
Steven Barnes, Alex McGregor

Alex McGregor and Steven Barnes lead a discussion on creating nightscape images and time-lapse. They talk about how adding a star tracker to your astro-landscape photography kit can greatly improve image and print quality. They discuss the positive and negatives of using a tracker, as well as why they love working with the MSM rotator and how it has improved their shooting experiences and final products.

Low-level Light Painting with LED Panels,
sponsored by Luxli
Joshua Fischer, Casey Krugman

Casey Krugman and Joshua Fischer are two of the biggest names behind developing and bringing to market one of the biggest recent

game-changers in night photography: the Luxli line of LED panels. The pair leads a vibrant discussion about how these lights have changed what night photographers can do in the field, from controlling color and color temperature to dialing in precise levels of illumination and more. Join in to hear about how the technology was developed and how it can help you level up your light painting game.

Natural Night, sponsored by NiSi
Kevin LeGore

Nightsapes and astrophotography have become major interests for photographers around the world. The advancement of cameras has made capturing star-filled images of dark skies much easier than it's ever been before. However, the dark skies to capture such moments are fleeting. In this talk, Kevin LeGore takes a look at methods to improve your nightscape and astrophotography work with the aid of tracking mounts and with filters such as the NiSi Natural Night. Explore how to take your astro efforts to the next level. throughout the Milky Way season and more.

IMPORTANT LINKS

For instant streaming access to the 45 hours of Replays from 35 speakers, simply purchase a ticket at 2021.nightphotosummit.com. (Access ends on February 12, 2022.)

To watch a talk, click title on the previous pages of this catalog. Alternatively, visit the [Replays](#) page of the website, where you can click into any presentation you'd like to watch.

If you'd like to learn more about the Summit presenters, visit the [Speaker Bios](#) page.

Do you know how many photography books the Summit speakers have written? Neither do we, but it's a lot. You can browse many of them at the [Speaker Bookshelf](#).

Need help with anything Summit-related? Check out the [FAQs](#).





Because it matters



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We would very much like to thank the Night Photo Summit sponsors, who helped make the conference everything it could be. And, of course, for all the awesome giveaways.



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If you have any questions, please contact us at any time:

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