



Introduction to Night Sky Photography G26120102

with Wayne Brasure & Wayne Hicks
December 6 – 9, 2026

Welcome to Introduction to Night Sky Photography!

We look forward to meeting you at the Ranch in December. In this class, our chief aim is to experience and capture some of the wonder of this incredible Universe against the magnificent backdrop of Ghost Ranch. We intend for this experience to be inspiring and interactive.

Our week together will look something like this:

Mornings will be free time. Afternoons will be devoted to class time and discussions. Evenings will be split between class time indoors followed by time outside with our eyes, cameras & smartphones.

More Specifically:

Sunday, December 6: Evening orientation and introduction followed by night sky observing and photography (end time open-ended).

Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8: Basic observational astronomy, the history of astrophotography, smartphone and digital camera night sky photography and image processing, and display and discussion of class photos. Depending on class interest, optional topics may include: more advanced digital astrophotography, a survey of imaging software, user



equipment options, and a discussion of additional astrophotography resources.

Wednesday, December 9: Morning course wrap-up and checkout.

We'll plan to be out under the stars every clear night, but please keep in mind that ideal weather conditions are never guaranteed, but "hands on" instruction will be given regardless of any adverse weather.

What To Bring:

Please pack some warm clothes (thermals, wool socks, warm hat, jacket, gloves, etc.), as nights out under the stars should be clear, crisp and chilly this time of year. While we may not be out all night, temperatures can drop significantly after sunset, so plan to keep warm. If desired, bring binoculars if you have them, and also any media you might use for taking notes. Don't forget to bring a water bottle, and of course your smartphone and camera gear, as applicable.

Thank you for registering! We look forward to meeting you under the gorgeous skies of Ghost Ranch in December. Please contact me if you have questions about this class. My (Wayne Brasure's) email is: L.W.Brasure@gmail.com.

Workshop Schedule:

Day of Arrival (*Sunday 12/6/26*)

3:00 pm	Check in begins at Ghost Ranch Welcome Center (Headquarters)
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner in the Dining Hall, followed by Ghost Ranch Orientation
7:00 - 10:00 pm	Workshop Introductions & Orientation; night sky observing & photography



Day 1 of workshop (*Monday 12/7/26*)

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - Noon	Morning Free Time
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 - 5:00 pm	Course instruction
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm - ??	Evening Session: Course instruction; night sky observing & photography

Day 2 of workshop (*Tuesday 12/8/26*)

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - Noon	Morning Free Time
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 - 5:00 pm	Course instruction
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm - ??	Evening Session: Course instruction; night sky observing & photography

Day of Departure (*Wednesday 12/9/26*)

7:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 - 9:45am	Closing session and wrap-up
10:00 am	Check out & departure



Meet Your Instructors:



Wayne Brasure's passion for amateur astronomy and astrophotography was inspired by childhood summers spent under the dark skies of northern Michigan. He explored astrophotography as a high school student and purchased his first "serious" telescope after graduating from college. Wayne has undergraduate degrees in physics and astronomy, graduate degrees in nuclear engineering, and taught physics and astronomy at the USAF Academy in the early 1990s using the Academy observatory's 16 and 24 inch telescopes and early digital cameras. He rekindled his interest in astrophotography upon moving back to New Mexico in 2018 and setting up a backyard observatory. Wayne is excited to share his experiences in digital camera night sky photography and telescopic astrophotography.



Wayne Hick's interest in the skies began upon seeing the rings of Saturn as a teenager, and he became an amateur astronomer thereafter. He first experienced the wondrous night skies of Ghost Ranch in 1982, as a participant in the course "Exploring the Cosmos." Following that experience he accepted an invitation to teach astrophotography as part of the workshop throughout the 80's. After dealing with a challenging personal situation, Wayne began contemplating life's meaning. After experiencing many revealing and illuminating insights, he led contemplative retreats supporting those who wished to consider the deeper aspects of life. More recently, Wayne has been teaching digital



astrophotography at the Ranch. He is also currently offering a course titled Contemplate the Cosmos. Wayne is very enthusiastic about supporting you in contemplating our universe, potentially providing inspiration as well as a possible shift in perspective.