



[2023 Year In Review Video](#)

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and has a happy and prosperous New Year! Thanks to all of you 2023 was a great year, and I had record sales at both art shows and online. I'm looking forward to a great 2024 and seeing many of you as I travel to shows around the country.

2023 Year In Review

Besides travelling to shows, I made it to some great locations to shoot in 2023. I tried to do a top 10 photos of 2023, but was unable to narrow it down. I then tried a top 23 in 2023, but I could not do that either. So I made the above [year in review video](#) (and kept it to under 5 minutes!) with some of my top images from 2023.

Winter 2024 Schedule

The first few months of my [2024 art show schedule](#) are set, and a list with with links is below. Upcoming, I will be doing three shows in Florida starting at the end of this month - returning to Images in New Smyrna Beach, ArtFest Fort Myers, and then ArtsFest Stuart. I will then be in Kalamazoo for the Garage Sale Art Fair, and back to Tulsa for the Home & Garden Show in March.



I am also hoping to get more great images in 2024. I'll of course be shooting the total solar eclipse in April, and currently plan to visit Glacier National Park, Florida, Lake Superior (hoping for Auroras!), the Finger Lakes in the Fall, and other places yet to be decided!

My Emails

I hope you enjoy the emails I send out. For my longer-term friends, you noticed in 2023 I began sending more frequent but short emails, sharing a single image from my catalog of photos and offering more website discounts. I set these up to be semi-automated and scheduled in advance, though I personally review each one. I'm doing this so they can go out even when I am out of town doing a show or am in the field shooting. I also personally read everyone's replies, so be assured you are not replying to a bot!! I also mix in other emails such as this one, which are more newsy and contain more content, such as my schedule, trip reports, etc. These will normally have a subject line with the words "News", "Update" or "Blog", if you want to key in on those emails. I will also be archiving these newsy emails on my website under the "News" Menu. Be sure to follow me on [Instagram](#) and/or [Facebook](#) to get early looks at all my latest work and updates from the field.

Death Valley

In December I travelled west to experience the Geminid Meteor Shower in Death Valley. I'm still working on processing the thousands of shots I took, but I do have a few to share here with you. As you may know, Badwater Basin is the lowest part of the Park, at 282 feet below sea level. It is an ancient dried up lake, Lake Manly, and is now covered by deep salt flats, which crystallize into fascinating geometric patterns. However, after the record rains from Hurricane Hillary in August, much of Death Valley flooded, and the Park had to close to repair extensive damage to the infrastructure. Fortunately most of the main roads were repaired and reopened just in time for my trip.

One lingering effect is that "Lake" Manly reformed, which seems to happen every 10-15 years after heavy rains, and still existed when I was there. In a few more months it will finish drying up, and the salt crystalline patterns will reappear. But for now you can enjoy the rare sight of actually seeing "Lake" Manly! It may look small in this image I took (from an elevation of 5,000 feet from Dante's View), but it is well over 5 miles wide and long, though it is only about 10" deep!



[Lake Manly at Badwater Basin, Death Valley](#)

Here is a shot of the Geminid Meteor Shower at Badwater Basin, currently Lake Manly! This is a composite of ten images, stacked and aligned by star position, taken over about 2 hours. Jupiter, Andromeda and the Milky Way can also be seen. I was happy to get several meteor reflections!

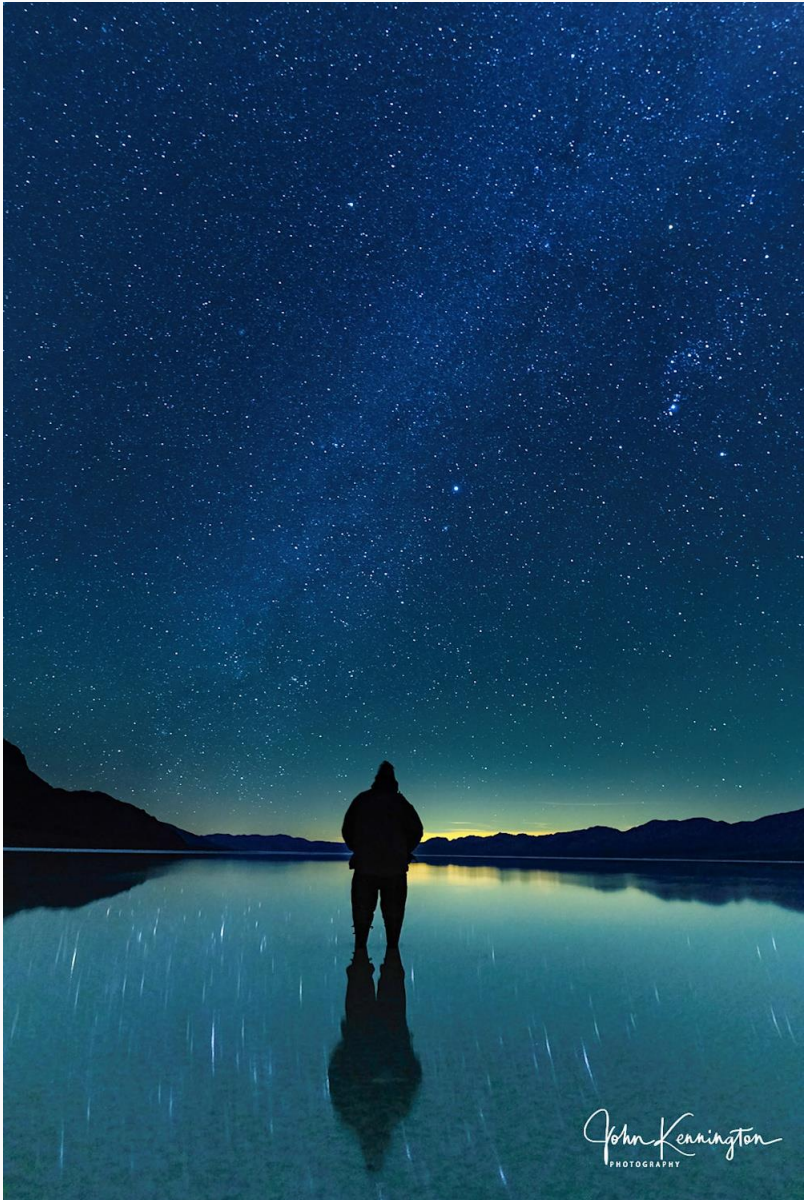


Geminid Meteors Over Badwater Basin

A couple of us waded out to set up our tripods in the water, which was only about 10 inches deep. Here is a composite shot of five meteors while looking south, with the constellation of Orion. I also posed for a selfie while contemplating the stars during one of the exposures.



Geminid Meteors and Orion Over Badwater Basin



Selfie of John in Lake Manly/Badwater Basin

Here is a star trail shot facing due north taken at Mesquite Dunes in Death Valley. It is 110 exposures taken over about one hour. This was the night before the peak of the Geminid Meteor shower, and was taken prior to midnight, so I only captured two meteors, a bright one, perfectly placed just above Polaris, the North Star and a very red one just to the right. You can also see nearer the horizon all the air traffic heading to and from the north out of Las Vegas. This is actually my first ever star trail shot!



[*Star Trails and Meteors Over Mesquite Dunes*](#)

Here is the constellation Orion over the mud cracks at Mesquite Dunes. I did not get any meteors in this shot, but really liked how prehistoric it looks!



[Orion over Mesquite Dunes Mudcracks](#)

2024 Art Show Schedule

I will be adding additional shows as they are scheduled.

[Click here for the latest updates](#)

January 26-28, 2024
[IMAGES: A Festival of the Arts](#)
New Smyrna Beach, Florida

February 2-4, 2024
[ArtFest Fort Myers](#)
For Myers, Florida

February 10-11, 2024
[Stuart ArtsFest](#)
For Myers, Florida

February 24, 2024
[Garage Sale Art Fair](#)
Kalamazoo, Michigan

March 7-10, 2024
[Greater Tulsa Home & Garden Show](#)
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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