

Nightscapes

How to take photos in the dark

by Darrell Harrington



Topics covered

- Cityscapes after dark
- Milky way
- Northern Lights
- Light painting / Light streaks

Cityscapes after dark



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Cityscapes

Basic information

Research locations ahead of time

Make sure to research sunrise/sunset and tide times

Buddy up or hire a guide

Basic Shooting Information

- Bracket your shots to create HDR
- Keep an eye on your shutter speed
- Watch out for moving objects that you may not want in your image
- Try different apertures
- Keep ISO low when possible
- Use tripod

Cityscapes

Basic information

- Look for different perspectives
- Get high, get low, look up, look down



Cityscapes

Basic information

- If possible incorporate people in your photos



Cityscapes

Basic information

- Embrace bad weather



Cityscapes

Basic information

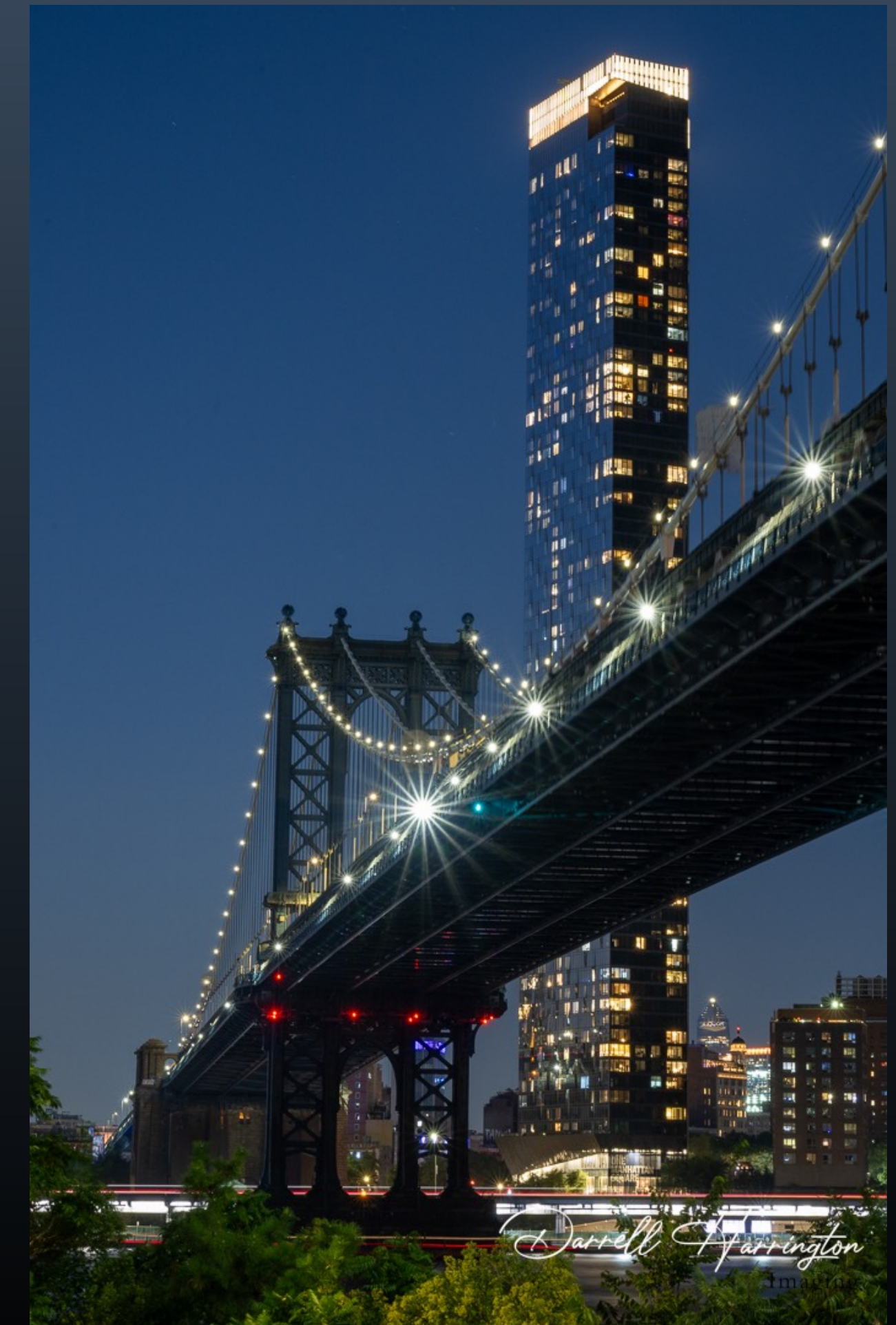
- Light streaking



Cityscapes

Basic information

- Stop down your lens to get star bursts



Cityscapes

Basic information

- Understand distortion



Cityscapes

Basic information

- Shoot blue hour



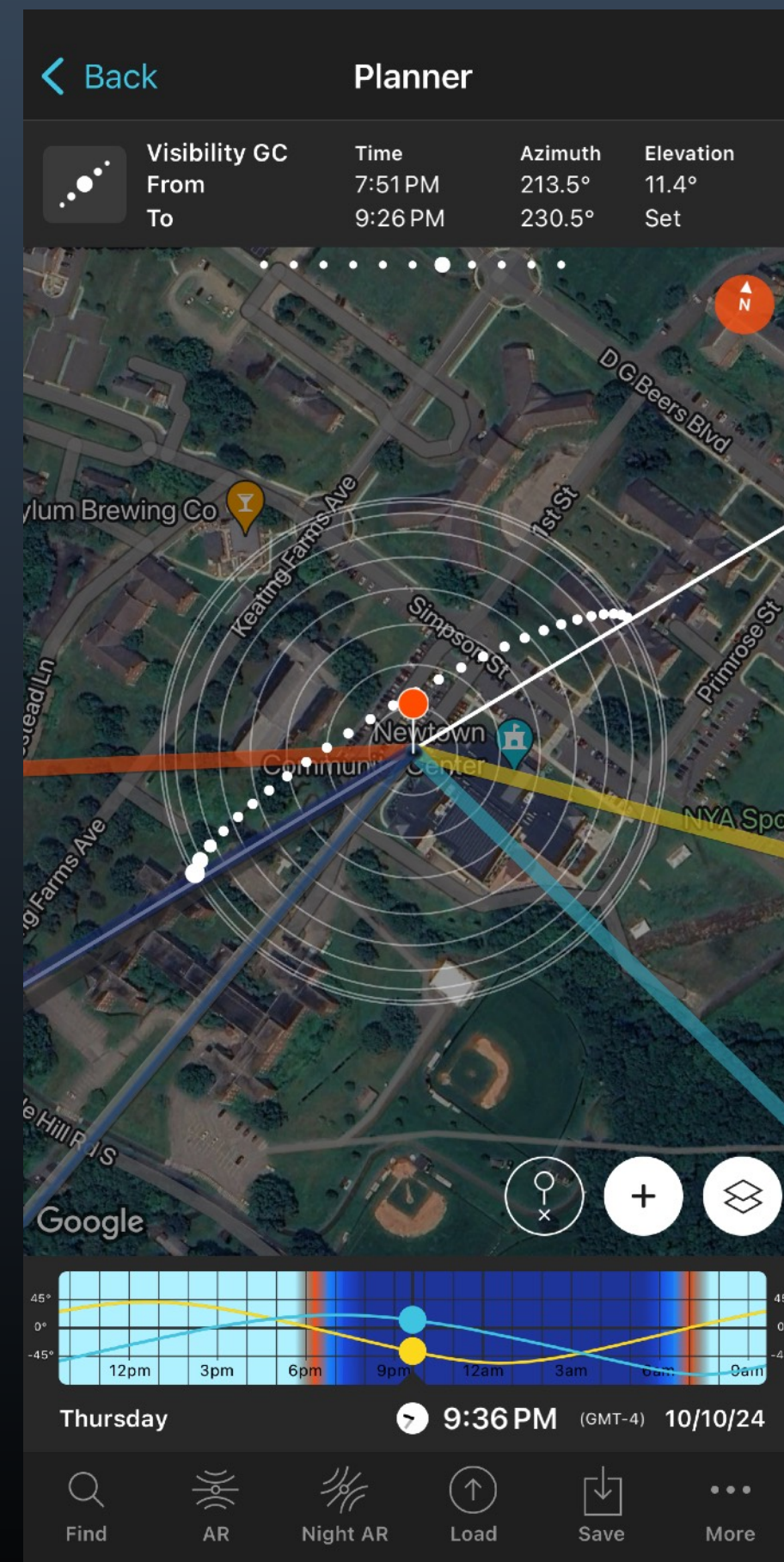
Milky way Photography



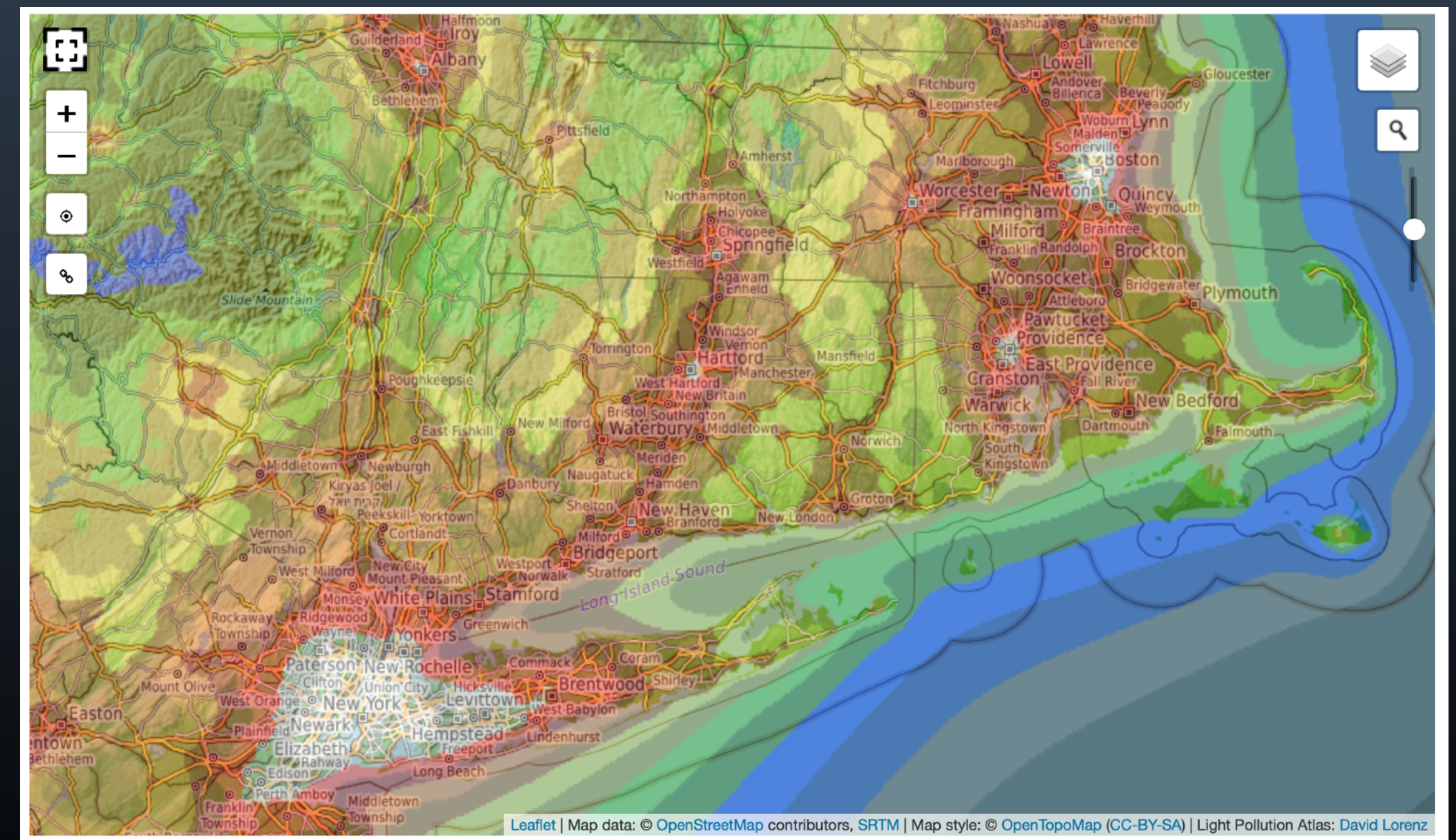
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Milky Way Photography

- Use app like Photo Pills to determine when MW will be visible
- Visit location during the day if possible

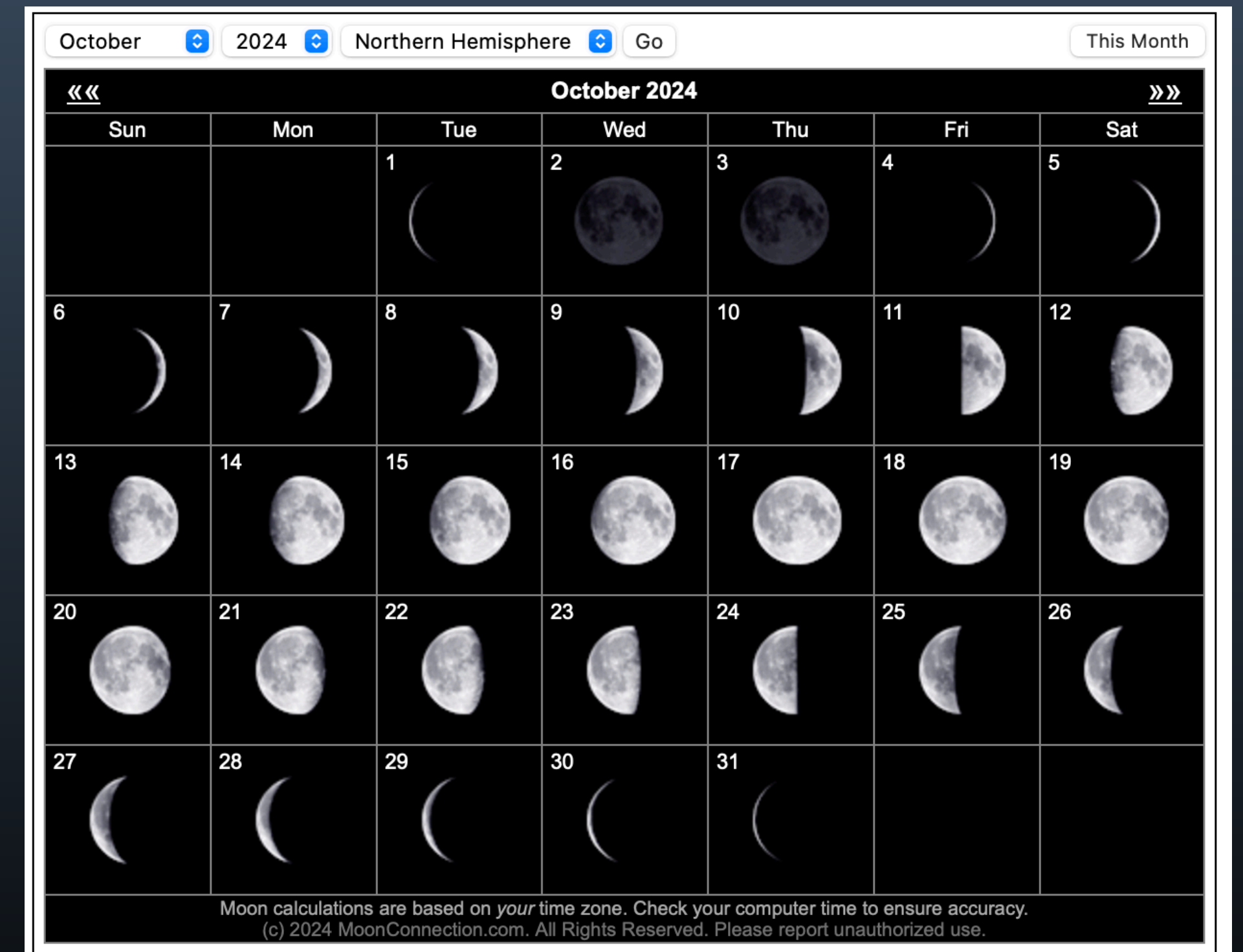


- Find a location with minimal light pollution
 - https://darksitefinder.com/map/?i=#4/39.00/-98.00#google_vignette



Milky Way Photography

- Plan shoot around new moon
 - (https://www.moonconnection.com/moon_phases_calendar.phtml)
- MW visible to the South between March and October
 - Moves across sky from East to West throughout season



Camera Settings

- Shoot on manual
- Use 300 "rule"
 - $300 / \text{focal length}$ to determine shutter speed
 - $300/14 = 21$ seconds vs $300/24 = 13$ seconds
- Open aperture as wide as you can, set shutter speed, then adjust ISO (ISO range between 4000-6400)
- Focus at infinity
 - Tips for setting focus

Milky Way Photography

- Incorporate foreground
- Light painting foreground
- Second long exposure for foreground
- Incorporate light already around you





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Imaging

Northern Lights

- Understand what causes them
- Use app to predict them (Aurora Fcst, SpaceWeatherLive)
- Typically have to be far North or South to see
- Use wide angle, fast lens
- Don't let your shutter speed get too long (vary it to get different looks)



4 seconds

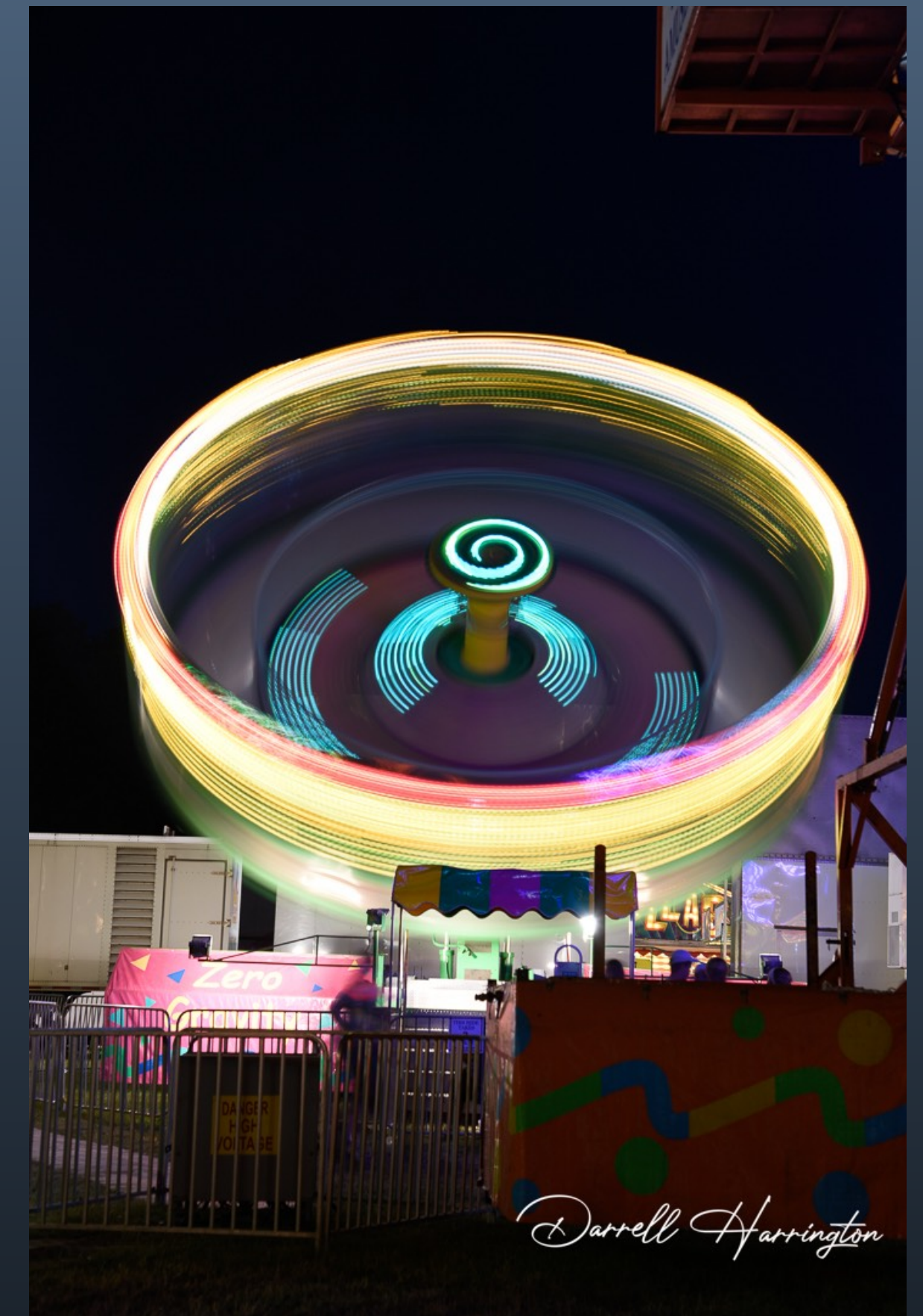
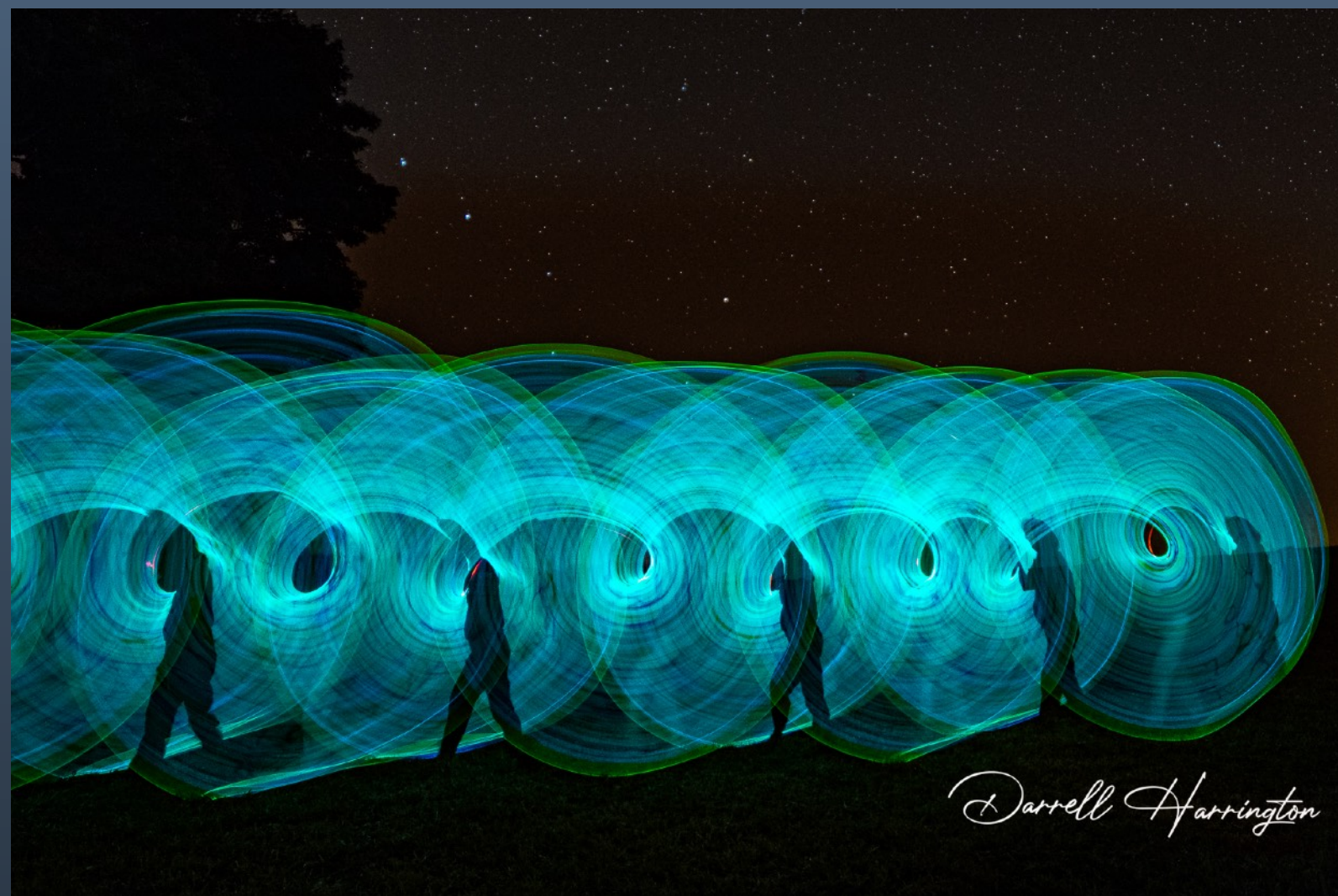
2.5 seconds



Light Painting / Light Streaking

- Use flash light to light up object
- Use different colored lights in addition to white light
- Use light bar to create different shapes
- Vary shutter speed to change effect





Have fun and experiment



Be safe

Dress correctly for temperature/wind

Bring flash light / Head lamp

Know your gear and how to change settings

Understand that not every photo will be
masterpiece

Experiment and have fun

Questions?