



# 2021 Instructor Biographies

ChristmasExpo.com

## Jordan Avner, Establish

<https://www.establishtoday.com/>

## Catherine Baer

Catherine has been doing animated shows for 12 years with her display predominately pixels. She has 3D printing for 4 years and has built 3 3D printers.

<https://www.facebook.com/jingleonwoodgateway/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA9t7XBMCQ7Ys-Akay\\_V4uQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA9t7XBMCQ7Ys-Akay_V4uQ)

## Mike Barsky

MonstrousMike is addicted holiday lights! In 2010 he purchased his first four Light-O-Rama controllers, thus taking the Chaos Crypt to a whole new level. Blending 20 years of traditional haunted house decorating with an animated light show, the Chaos Crypt is known as THE Halloween House in MonstrousMike's neighborhood. The center pieces are the singing Monsters on the garage roof, as well as the 12' singing skull (and two small singing Jack-O-Lanterns). Over the past few years MonstrousMike added several DIY animated props to the Chaos Crypt display, courtesy of collaborating with the Greater DC Home Haunters. Oh, and he does a Christmas light show, too.

<http://www.monstrousmike.com>

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## Tom BetGeorge

Tom BetGeorge is a professional lighting designer and owner of Magical Light Shows, LLC. His work is displayed at theme parks, drive-throughs, churches, and over 2000 other locations. His Halloween and Christmas light shows have captivated the world and have gone viral every year since starting in 2014.

<https://magicallightshows.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/tombetgeorge>

## Austin Brown

Thanksgiving Point

Austin Brown is the Director of Signature Experiences at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi, Utah. He has been in the experience and event industry for over 6 years. He and his team plan over 55 events and experiences each year. His events bring over 1 million visitors each year. He enjoys providing a quality experience where families and friends can gather to make lasting memories.

<https://www.thanksgivingpoint.org/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7D\\_YWBex6sl&t=23s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7D_YWBex6sl&t=23s)

## Matt Brown, Light-O-Rama

With degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Matt started animating Halloween many years ago using custom circuits and software. His first animated Christmas



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display debuted in 2007 with one song and 16 channels – using LOR controllers and software. By 2015, the display had grown to over 15,000 channels of lights covering 2 yards. For the past year, Matt has been working on the next generation of the Light-O-Rama Software Suite: S5. [www.LightORama.com](http://www.LightORama.com)

## **Brian Bruderer, SuperStar**

Brian Bruderer is the creator and programmer for the SuperStar Sequencer. He is also the creator of SuperStar Display which has 12 or 16 CCRs with a star at the top; CCP Tree with Globe; 4 circle display; and the 200 CCP Spider Web display for Halloween. Brian also makes giant Halloween spider webs, see [www.spiderwebman.net](http://www.spiderwebman.net). Brian and his wife Vickie reside in Allen, Texas (near Dallas) and are the proud parents of 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

<http://www.superstarlights.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iw8YWRcPeLc>

## **Lorne Counter**

My love for Christmas light began when my father every year would take us to a neighborhood in Seattle's Ravenna Park neighborhood, they called Candy Cane Lane. Since 1949, the 23 houses in this circular neighborhood have been covered in lights for the Christmas season. We wanted to share some of this magic and in 2007 started doing a Static light display then move to a basic animated light show and now we are running a fully controllable RGB smart Pixel display.

<https://counterholidaylights.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRTTrIrbuuQk&t=503s>

## **Patrick Delaney**

Pat Delaney is a co-author, along with Ben Shaver, of some of the many plugins that are available to use with the Falcon Player.

<https://www.facebook.com/lightsoncolony/>

## **Zeb Elliott**

I joined the holiday lighting community in 2016 when my wife asked for a few lights on the house. My show has grown over the last several years and is a large part of many family traditions in our area. I have been working in Information Technology for the last 22 years and have taught IT related classes for the last 20 at various community colleges and universities. I live on a small family farm with my wife Diane and our three wonderful daughters, Savannah, Mckayla and Layla.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRe-TqLMsndzrWwJIhXRS6A>

## **Ralph Garrity**

Ralph Garrity has been in the event production business since 1982, acting as a production manager and in later years as an event promoter. Some of the shows he has worked on are;



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Blue Angels Air Show, Miller Brewing Christmas, China Lights Lantern Show, assorted Harley-Davidson's Shows, Salt Lake and Athens Olympics,, The Orange Bowl Parade, and almost all shows in Milwaukee, WI.

<http://www.winterwonders.org>

## Jeff Haberman

Jeff Haberman is a recently retired controls engineer. During his career he received 26 awards for his work in energy conservation including Energy Manager of Year from the Association of Energy Engineers. He is also a part time musician singing, playing bagpipes and low brass across the country including a stint at Disneyland. Early in Jeff's career he recorded, edited and mixed sound for radio commercials and film. He has always been interested in theatrical lighting and has been creating ever expanding light shows for his home for the past 9 years.

<http://holiday-magic.net>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7gkOn3cvKZ8WAhW\\_JyeLgA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7gkOn3cvKZ8WAhW_JyeLgA)

## Drew Hickman, Holiday Technologies

Drew Hickman was an early pioneer in animation, creating the very first commercially available hardware (ChristmasCave\*) and software (Dasher\*) products for music-synchronized displays. Since those early days in his garage, Drew has gone on to help drive advances in the lighting and animation field and has helped an untold number of lighting enthusiasts create displays. He has also designed impressive home and commercial displays through his business, Holiday Technologies. Holiday Technologies is an official dealer of Light-O-Rama products and the official LOR training partner. Drew has worked on all types of displays, large and small, commercial and residential. He has worked with everything from C9 incandescent lights to the latest pixel trees and is sure to share some of his more interesting experiences of being in this business.

[www.HolidayTechnologies.net](http://www.HolidayTechnologies.net)

## Jeffrey Holmes, IWG Productions

Jeffrey is a multi-disciplined themed entertainment creative director & producer whose productions have entertained millions of guests throughout North America and beyond. His work can be found in every major theme park brand in the USA, a couple parades, and a certain sports team with famous cheerleaders. Combining his backgrounds in show writing, directing, media production, and performance, Jeffrey blends his mixed bag of show design & technical skills to create one-of-a-kind immersive experiences. Jeffrey's favorite production to-date is his own marriage proposal to long-time girlfriend, Morgan, which included a 60-piece gospel choir, dance troupe, and 500 balloon release.

<https://iwgproductions.com>



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## **Ron Howard, xTreme Sequences**

Ron Howard is a professional light show sequencer and owner of xTreme Sequences that is internationally recognized for providing over the top, unique light shows for an ever-growing hobby and commercial applications. His Consultation and support are second to none. Ron and his family were featured on ABC's Great Christmas Light Fight Season 7 to share his craft with the world. As light shows evolve Ron understands the importance of pushing the boundaries with innovative techniques and the use of high-density and 3D props to elevate light shows. Ron Howard has the best job in the world because every day is Christmas!

<http://www.xTremeSequences.com>

## **Darren Huffty**

Darren has been decorating homes for Christmas for over 20 years and has had an animated light display for the past 12 years. Darren was a winner of the Great Christmas Light Fight in season 2 and has since worked on 3 commercial displays as well as his own award winning display.

<http://ChristmasonCrystalSprings.com>

<http://ChristmasOnCrystalSprings.com/videos>

## **Aubrey Kall, Luminous Harmony**

Aubrey has worked with Light O Rama software for her family's display since 2009 (Kall Christmas Lights) and programmed nine season's worth of shows for residential and commercial clients in the USA and overseas through her business, Luminous Harmony (as an official Light-O-Rama partner). Her focus when sequencing is using her 19 years of prior musical training to make intentional choices in color scheme, RGB effects, and LED light fixture sequencing patterns. Aubrey received her M.B.A. in 2017 and works with Luminous Harmony clients as a full-time profession.

<http://luminousharmony.com>

<http://luminousharmony.com/portfolio.html>

## **David Kipp**

I have been doing a computer animated home display for 11 years with both traditional mini lights and pixels. We built a float for the Phoenix APS Electric Light Parade, (100,000 spectators) nonprofit division, featuring our 501(c)3 non-profit that feeds and educates impoverished children, NurtureOurWorld.net. Decided to use 6 singing animatronic dolls like in It's a Small World Converted 1986 Cricket dolls to sing with computerized servo control. I believe this was a unique project that had not been done previously. Used LOR ServoDog board, programming with both LOR and xLights, playback with Falcon Pi Player. I am a Pediatrician, practicing for 38 years. Most of my computer/electronics knowledge is self taught. I have an Extra Class license in amateur radio.

<https://vimeo.com/384264055>



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## **Clyde Lindsey, Pixel Pro Displays**

Clyde Lindsey (Leechburg Lights) began synchronizing his home light show in 2007. In 2013, he converted his display to RGB lighting and began using the xLights (Nutcracker) software to sequence with. He has programmed more than 250 songs, and published hundreds of how-to videos on the hobby as well as the xLights software. In 2017, Clyde co-founded Pixel Pro Displays with his business partner Robert Vanorsdale. They have produced a number of residential, municipal, and commercial projects such as Insomniac's Electric Mile, Rudolph's Light Show Houston, Let it Shine Light Show Chicago, and Kunes Ford / Chevy in Delevan, WI. He continues to support the lighting community with how-to videos and live webinars on their Pixel Pro Displays YouTube Channel website.

<https://www.pixelprodisplays.com>

<https://www.leechburglights.com>

## **Tater Lynd, Froggy's Fog**

Handsome, Cunning, Witty, Genius. Only his mom describes him as this, but, as a haunt industry veteran he will teach you everything you need to know about using special effect machines and fluids and try to charm you with a little bit of humor

<https://froggysfog.com>

## **Greg Macaree, Panels R Us, UK**

Greg's professional career was in the world of computer networks - until he discovered Christmas Lights. Seeing a gap in the market, Greg left the world of IT and is single handedly bringing the world of LED panels to the UK & European holiday lighting market - already becoming the #1 go to man for help & advice on LED Panels in Europe. Greg is married with 2 young children and lives in rural Norfolk, England.

<https://panelrus.co.uk>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGZa4aziJCszlcmDumlbFRw>

## **Russell McFarland**

Russell has been in the IT industry for 20 years and has a vast background in networking and infrastructure, server and network administration, cyber security, digital forensics, and physical security. He holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science as well as a Master's degree in Business Administration. During the day, he is a senior cyber analyst for a major energy provider where he also speaks to outside groups nationwide about the importance of cyber security. At night, he can be found playing with his 4 children or planning the next great thing for his popular pixel show in Columbia, SC.

## **Don McGillivray**

Don has been working on a large scale display since 2012 as the primary prop builder with extensive use of PVC and Coro for Evergreen Church Christmas lights. The display consists of a mix RGB smart pixel animation from Mega trees, a 50 foot animated tunnel, and a full pixel



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matrix across the building, and video projection. This display has become a favorite family tradition for his community. Videos can be seen on Youtube searching for Evergreen Lights and new web site [www.christmasatevergreen.com](http://www.christmasatevergreen.com)

## Carl Mirsky

<http://jinglebumpers.com>

## Jorden Nash

Jorden loves all things tech. He has a holiday light and projection show on his house. He currently works for Wonder entertainment creating drive through Christmas light shows.

<https://christmasincolor.net>

<https://youtu.be/qa7yxqth8qg>

## Jeff Oberst

Jeff 'Obewan' Oberst is an electrical engineer from San Jose, CA. He and his wife began lighting animation in 2006 with 96 channels and continues to expand every year. He loves being part of something that brings joy and happiness to children, young and old, and reminding them what Christmas is all about.

<http://www.obewanproductions.com>

<https://vimeo.com/obewanchristmas/videos>

## Leanne Oberst

Leanne and her husband, Jeff, starting animating lights in 2006 and have never looked back. Leanne's background working in theater has helped her embrace using her front yard as a stage and the lights and props as merely players. Seeing the joy on people's faces and hearing the stories of how the show has become an integral part of people's Christmas traditions makes all the work worth it.

<http://www.obewanproductions.com>

<https://vimeo.com/obewanchristmas/videos>

## David Peace

David and his family were featured on ABC's Great Christmas Light Fight in 2018. They are most well known for having a Pirate Ship on their roof, ground stakes in their yard, and a one-of-a-kind collapsing & rebuilding Christmas Mega Tree. When David isn't messing with Christmas lights, he is working as the Chief Technology Officer for a financial services company, PenChecks, in San Diego, CA. David loves the local craft beer scene, and playing unreasonably complicated board games. He also gets a great deal of satisfaction teaching his sons how to sequence their light show.



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## Pete Peters

Certified OSHA 10 Instructor, Lighting Enthusiast, Instructor for apprentice electricians, Philipps LED Color Kinetics Instructor

## David Preston

I am 75 and a retired school teacher and Certified Financial Planner. I have been putting up synchronized musical light displays on my home since 2012. To see a drone video of my 2020 home light display of over 300,000 lights, go on youtube and search: David Preston Christmas Lights 2020. In fact, in my seminar I will show the participants this video to let them know what they have the potential of creating, as I too was once a beginner and computer illiterate. I attended the 2017 Christmas expo conference and was on The Great Christmas Light Fight panel.

## Doug Reel

Doug has been flying remote controlled gliders for 29 years and has competed in racing them both domestically and internationally. As soon as drones were introduced to the market he began flying them and has followed the rapid evolution of the drone industry. In 2016 once the FAA began certifying remote pilots he obtained his Part 107 remote pilot certificate. When Doug is not busy with drones, remote controlled gliders and of course Christmas lights, he can be found flying 737's for a major U.S. airline.

<https://inspirelightshows.com/>

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiK7tNCbnLdytmJyQ9DoSU8gU706ouD2P>

## Shane Rehm

Former aircraft mechanic, IT field service rep, project manager and engineer. Former network infrastructure technician with combat communications squadron in the USAF. 4th year holiday lightshow enthusiast, and lifelong tinkerer and LED fanatic.

<https://www.facebook.com/WolfCreekIslandTemecula>

## Russell Schrader

Russell Schrader is a data protection & privacy expert, retired Senior Vice President and Chief Privacy Officer of VISA; former Executive Director of the National Cyber Security Alliance, and General Counsel of a data startup. A committed Industry leader, educator, and a champion in data protection/privacy, enterprise risk/compliance, and payments, he is a member of the Department of Homeland Security Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee; member of the Federal Reserve Board Consumer Advisory Council, and Director for the National Council of Better Business Bureaus. Russ's passions include theatrical productions, magic, and advocating for children and families through quality child care and early education.



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## **Eric Schulz**

Eric Schulz is in his 8th year of creating animated lightshows for both Halloween and Christmas. He is in his 5th year of using Xlights software to sequence his lightshow. Eric's current show is running over 36k pixels.

## **Ben Shaver**

Ben Shaver is a co-author, along with Pat Delaney, of some of the many plugins that are available to use with the Falcon Player.

## **Stephan Sherrick**

I have been decorating for about 25 years, each year getting a bit larger and more complex, I have been using LOR for about four years. I have one of the larger displays in Western Kentucky covering about an acre and a half with an emphasis on wireframes, singing characters and three large pixel trees. I am retired now but my past life included a career in the Navy, a few years teaching school and another career in automotive manufacturing. My life now centers around my decorating hobby and classic cars.

## **Michael Simmons, HiTech Lights**

Michael A. Simmons is a computer engineer and entrepreneur with more than 31 years of experience in the IT, Internet, and Telecomm industries. In 1990, he started his first computer company when he was 12 years old. In 1995, he was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year. In 2007, he took his love of computers and Christmas lights and put them together for an extravagant and beautiful home Christmas lights display. In 2010, his Simmons Family Dancing Christmas Lights Show was featured on live national TV and named Best Christmas Lights Display in America by CBS's The Early Show. Later, in 2013, he was featured as a participant on ABC's reality TV series competition, The Great Christmas Light Fight (Season 1- Episode 2). Michael owns and operates HiTech Lights, a boutique holiday and event animated lighting solutions and decorating company to residential, commercial, drive-thru, non-profit, and municipality clients around the world.

## **John Spiker**

Specifically, as it relates to Christmas displays my first animated display was in 2014. Since that time I have continued to build my show to what it is today and during that time have also been very active in supporting the community as a whole.

<http://spikerlights.com/calcpower.aspx>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSK7vV0MEUo>

## **Don Teague, Light-O-Rama**



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## Kevin “wirekat” Thomas

Kevin has been doing large displays for years and began using DMX fixtures back in 2008. His display includes three mega trees, over 80 mini trees, six pixel arches, four RGB singing Christmas trees, one pixel tree and many other animated and static display pieces. Visit his website at [christmasinkent.com](http://christmasinkent.com) for many how-to's and other resources.

<http://www.christmasinkent.com>

## Barry Wiles

Started with LOR and migrated to xLights three years ago. Have put a show together the past ten years. Design and build own props and sequences Engineering and technical background

## Andrew Wilhelm

I am 18 years old and have been doing light shows for 6 years. (xLights 2 years) I have been on ABC's The Great Christmas Light Fight and my episode will air in December 2021.

<https://tangledlightsproductions.com/>

<https://youtu.be/xYeh3L5CS9Y>

## Jeff Wittenaeur

Chef Jeff

## Mark Zembruski

Husband, Step Father, weekend warrior, techie, and gadget geek. Mark works in the Electronic Design Automation industry, basically, software to design electronics. PCB Design is his background. Like everyone, he's loved Christmas since a young age and his mom gave him a love for Christmas Carols. He has been decorating inside since the age of 19 and started decorating outside when he bought his first home in 1989. In 2003, everything he loved to do collided and Woodinville Wonderland started to become a reality. Mark is most un-famous for coining the term "I have the C.L.A.P. do you? Christmas Light Addiction Problem." He wishes he had copyrighted it!

<http://www.woodinvillewonderland.com>