



**BORREGO SPRINGS DARK SKY COALITION
ANNUAL REPORT
to the International Dark Sky Association
2013**

During 2013 the Coalition has accomplished two major objectives: the mailing out of an educational flyer to all postal customers in Borrego Springs, and the launch of a Dark Sky Friendly Business recognition program.

DARK SKY EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE - An informational pamphlet (8.5”x14”) explaining the basics of appropriate lighting was mailed to all 2,300 postal customers in March 2013. An additional 2,500 brochures were printed for supplying 25 locations around town where they can be picked up by valley residents and visitors. Funding for printing and mailing was donated by NRG Solar and the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (ABDNHA).

DARK SKY FRIENDLY BUSINESS RECOGNITION PROGRAM - Based on a model developed in Blanco, Texas, this program was launched in November, 2013, the beginning of the busy winter season. The program recognizes local businesses which have appropriate lighting. The first award went to the local clinic which changed their parking lot lights to an appropriate type and level. A series of short power point presentations was begun in December to publicize the program at clubs and other meeting groups.

PUBLICITY FOR BORREGO SPRINGS – In September, coalition members James and Grace Rickard, attended the European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky, which was held in Pamplona, Spain, and presented a paper on our new Dark Sky Friendly Business Recognition Program, titled “Protecting Dark Skies – An Ongoing Program of Diligence and Education in Borrego Springs, California.”

In addition to Coalition mailing three press releases, the Dark Sky designation was mentioned in half a dozen magazine and newspaper articles in 2013.

Borrego Springs has been featured as one of the seven best places in Southern California to see the stars. The IDA Dark Sky Community certification is always mentioned.

WEBSITE - While the coalition has had a website since 2010, it has not been dynamic. During December it is being updated and expanded. It will include the materials which the coalition has developed, information on local star gazing activities, and links to dark-sky related websites and publicity received for the Dark Sky designation.

ASSISTANCE - The Coalition received four requests for help with bothersome neighborhood and parking lot lighting issues. Advice was given but no direct intervention was made.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENTS - There were no residential real estate developments in Borrego Springs during the year.

NRG Borrego Solar One, and 26 megawatt power plant was installed. It is the largest commercial solar plant in San Diego County. The plans were tracked by the coalition. The NRG Borrego Solar plant has no nighttime lighting. The company is supportive of the community and our dark sky designation, with no nighttime lighting and contributing to the cost of printing the educational brochure mailed to all residents.

One new downtown business, the Borrego Art Institute, remodeled an existing mid-century building and installed totally appropriate lighting.

THE COALITION - The Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition continues to be active in the community during 2013. The group currently has ten members, three of which hold degrees in astronomy and each regularly holds star gazing sessions. We meet at least six times a year, more often if needed. Skype is used by some members who live in other areas during the summers. The work has been facilitated by volunteers with professional skills in the graphic arts and layout. The coalition has no regular funding source, although has received for projects as needed. Some members of the Coalition attend the San Diego chapter of the IDA by phone or in person.



*Submitted by Betsy Knaak, Chair, on behalf of the
Borrego Dark Sky Coalition*

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