

**Tucson, Arizona, July 31, 2009 –**

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) designates the California, USA village of



Borrego Springs as the second International Dark Sky Community (IDSC).

IDSC certification

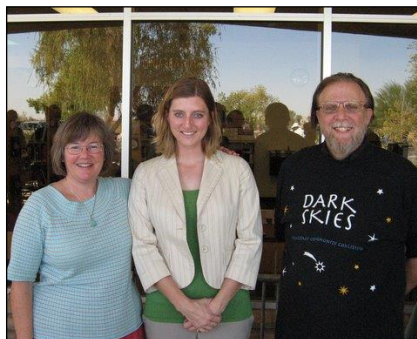
recognizes Borrego Springs' exceptional commitment to dark sky protection and restoration throughout the community. The IDSC program was established in 2001 by the IDA, a Tucson-based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the nighttime environment. Designees must adhere to stringent standards that protect the natural night sky through outdoor lighting plans and ensure the continuation of this protection through planning and zoning directives.

**Borrego Springs has long been a haven** for stargazers, both professional and amateur. Rated by *USA Today* as one of the top ten stargazing locations in the nation, the community prides itself on its dedication to the whole desert experience.

**Oct 2009 Official International Dark Sky Community Ceremony in Borrego Springs –** Presentation included a proclamation by the County of San Diego to the community; formal presentations from State of California senators and representatives; and attendance by representatives from Flagstaff, AZ, the first IDA Dark Sky Community. Kim Patten attends to present the IDSC designation from IDA.

*Celebrating Dark Skies Over Borrego Springs, California's First*

*International Dark Sky Community*  
**Photo: Oct. 24, 2009, Borrego Springs, International Dark Sky Community Ceremony.**



*Betsy Knaak, Chair, Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition; Kim Patten, Program Director, IDA; Lance Diskan, representing Flagstaff, AZ, the first International Dark Sky Community, beginning a tradition of sending a representative from each IDSC to the designation ceremony of the next.*

### **COMMUNITY RECOGNITION**

November 2009, the Riverside Astronomy Club, at their annual NIGHTFALL event, presents a deep-sky photo in recognition of Borrego Springs' status as the second official International Dark Sky Community.

### **Official IDSC documents, awards &**

certificates are on public display at the Borrego Springs public library. Informational handouts about dark skies and outdoor lighting are also available.



### **BORREGO DARK SKIES WEB SITE**

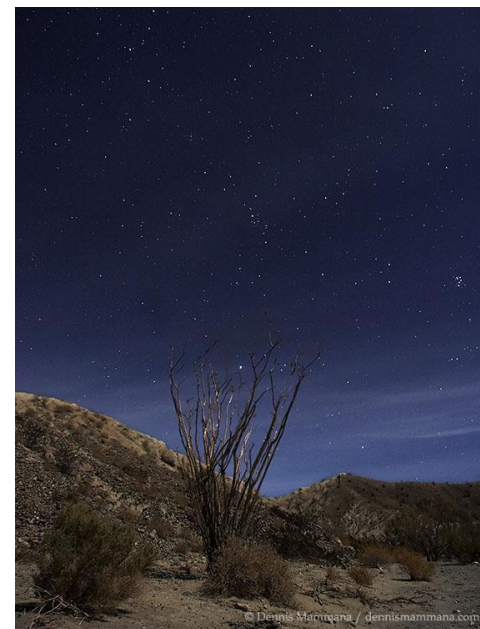
Developing a Borrego Dark Skies Web Site to consolidate and publicize night sky educational programs, information and events for residents & tourists.

### **COMMUNITY PLAN**

Language added to the draft Community Plan for Borrego Springs pertaining to the IDA Dark Sky Community Designation, outdoor lighting, and protection of the dark night sky.

Sections of the plan that address the dark sky include:

- Land Uses
- Parks & Recreation
- Community Character
- Lights & Lighting
- Signs & Signage
- Resource Conservation
- Park Visitation & Tourism.



*Typical Borrego Desert landscape—  
Ocotillo, mountains, and open sky*

***Borrego Springs: We're Part of the  
Solution to Light Pollution***

## DARK SKY PROTECTION

### **Conducted lighting audit at manager's request:**

- Borrego Springs Country Club

### **Recommended lighting changes:**

- Entrance sign at Tilting T Road and Borrego Valley Road

### **Fielded complaints regarding lighting:**

- Created written correspondence

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE OWNER AND/OR SELLER OF THIS PROPERTY**

*(Street Address, Borrego Springs, CA 92004)*

The previous occupants of this house changed the outdoor garage lights to fixtures that are not in compliance with the San Diego County outdoor lighting code.

The outdoor garage lights should be replaced with shielded fixtures, which have less lumen output.

An additional negative feature of these outdoor lights is that they automatically turn on at night. This wastes electrical energy, while polluting the night sky and the view of the dark sky for the neighbors.

Borrego Springs is an official International Dark Sky Community and for this reason, it is important that all residents do their part to keep our dark sky dark . . . and we thank you for that.

Please let me know if you would like further information about dark-sky friendly lighting or fixtures.

This notice is provided by the:  
Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition

## ASTRONOMY STAR PARTIES IN LITTLE BLAIR VALLEY PRESEVED

Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition acts to protect an amateur astronomy stargazing location in Little Blair Valley, within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The results are documented below.

A Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition member became aware of a proposed road closure in Little Blair Valley, as part of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's management plan to establish a Cultural Preserve in area. Associate State Park Archaeologist Joan Schneider was notified that this road had been used by amateur astronomers for years because of its good viewing conditions for stargazing parties.

Contact was established between the astronomy club and the park. On April 21, 2010, Dark Sky Coalition member Sam Webb and CDAS member Astrid Webb and Joan Schneider met with John Downs of the Willard-Downing Observatory, representing the Astronomy Club. They surveyed the area and determined that there were no archaeological features in the area and no impacts from use by the amateur astronomers during their stargazing parties.

As result of this action and the many letters from amateur astronomers requesting that the road not be closed, the park withdrew its proposed closure of this road, and the road remains open for continued use by the astronomy club.



## DARK SKIES.....FOREVER!

As future development in Borrego Springs proceeds, dark-sky friendly lighting is being incorporated into design and building plans.

\* Preliminary plans for a new community park identify outdoor lighting in keeping with community's Dark-Sky designation as a key design element, May-June 2010.

\* Private developer and designer of a new retail shopping building request information about dark-sky friendly lighting. May-June 2010.

### SPREADING THE WORD

\* Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition member Dr. James Rickard presents Borrego's IDSC application process at the 9<sup>th</sup> European Dark Sky Symposium, Ireland, Sept 09.

\* Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition members meet with writer Melinda Burns researching a feature article on Borrego Springs and dark skies for publication in the Santa Barbara and Central Coast area, Dec 09. <http://miller-mccune.com/>.

\* Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition member Dennis Mammana gives a live interview on KPBS radio about our International Dark Sky Community designation. You can listen at <http://www.kpbs.org/radio/listen/>.

\* The *Riverside Press-Enterprise* runs a feature on light pollution and sites Borrego Springs as an example of a community acting to protect neighboring parkland from light pollution. Coalition member Dennis Mammana is quoted. [http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_nightsky11.238a408.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_nightsky11.238a408.html)

06/14/2010