

# Daily Borregan

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## Rickard to tell dark skies tale

Dr. Jim Rickard, a part-year Borrego Springs resident, is helping spread the light about the benefits of dark skies. Rickard, a member of the Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition, will address the “13th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky” on Sept. 14 in Pamplona, Spain.

He’ll outline steps taken in Borrego Springs to preserve the night skies, and to become designated as an official Dark Sky Community by the International Dark Sky Association, in a speech titled “Protecting Dark Skies – An Ongoing Program of Diligence and Education in Borrego Springs, California”.

“Because we were the first dark sky community in California, and the second in the United States, Borrego Springs is becoming a template for other communities,” Rickard said. Dark skies are a resource that’s increasingly in demand, as the health, economic and agricultural benefits of darkness become more well-known. But they’re in short supply in much of heavily populated Europe. “It’s a pretty limited resource over here,” Rickard said in a telephone interview from Ireland, where he lives in the summer with his wife, Grace.

Pamplona is famous for its annual bull run down city streets, but Rickard said he’ll stick to the sidewalks. “I won’t be running with the bulls,” Rickard laughed.