

Picture This:

AN ASTROPHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE ON PROTECTING DARK SKIES

Matt Dieterich

WHY DO YOU LIKE SHOOTING NIGHT SKIES IN THE BRDSC?

Areas that are far away from city lights and that also have interesting landscapes make the Basin and Range Dark Sky Cooperative region exceptional for astrophotography. Shooting in the BRDSC offers an incredible amount of opportunity for nightscape shooting, where we can frame interesting foreground elements with the beautiful dark night sky. Many of these locations are far away from larger cities, so that helps ensure the night sky is dark so much so that the Milky Way can nearly cast shadows on the landscape. Overall, I like the endless feeling of adventure when shooting in the BRDSC region since I know the night skies are protected and close to what our ancestors' experienced.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BASIN & RANGE DARK SKY COOPERATIVE

Death Valley Road by Matt Dieterich

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU GET INTO ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY?

I began astrophotography in 2006 with a film camera and a small telescope from the suburbs of Pittsburgh, PA. While I didn't capture results I had hoped for, such as images I saw in books and magazines, I discovered there was a lot more to learn for capturing objects our human eyes cannot see in the night sky. Upgrading to a digital camera in 2007 allowed me to instantly see results, and most importantly to confirm whether my images were at least in focus! I was instantly hooked on this pursuit of sharing the night sky after seeing the Milky Way for the first time in 2008 from Glenwood Springs, CO.

Over the years, I always found astrophotography to bring me peace and to allow me to share something that is greater than myself. To this day, I have continued sharing my passion for astrophotography by teaching workshops that can be found on my website at mattdieterich.com and offering tutorials [youtube.com/mattdieterich](https://www.youtube.com/mattdieterich). Most recent photos are shared on my Instagram at [instagram.com/mattdieterich](https://www.instagram.com/mattdieterich).

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY IN PROTECTING DARK LANDSCAPES?

In my experience, I have sought out being under the Milky Way as much as I can. The feeling of standing under the night sky gazing up in awe as our ancestors did is an incredibly moving experience. The emotion and immediate connection we have as humans to the night sky is so special. To help raise awareness for such a precious resource, I have found photography as a powerful method for helping inspire others to get outdoors to have that similar experience of their own under the night sky. Astrophotography also helps document the unfortunate growth of light pollution from cities that is rapidly taking dark night skies away from society.



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PICTURE THIS: AN ASTROPHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Arching Milky Way Pano Cactus Garden by Matt Dieterich

MATT DIETERICH