



Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperatives *Quarterly* CONNECTIONS – 3Dec2025
“Professional Support for Dark Sky Communities Part 2: Who can benefit and how?”
Invited Speaker: Dr. John Barentine

- [Watch the recorded meeting on 12/3/25](#)

CHAT from 12/3/25:

2025-12-03 12:01:19 From Patrick Muga to Everyone:
Good Afternoon from Vero Beach Florida.

2025-12-03 12:01:20 From Jeffrey Decristofaro to Everyone:
Jeffrey DeCristofaro from Blue Ridge Audubon, Asheville, North Carolina

2025-12-03 12:01:25 From Kyle Sullivan to Everyone:
Kyle Sullivan with Bureau of Land Management in Oregon

2025-12-03 12:01:25 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:
Chris Hill - Board member DarkSky Oregon

2025-12-03 12:01:29 From shaun kelly to Everyone:
Shaun Kelly here from Brian Head, Utah

2025-12-03 12:01:30 From Mike Weasner to Everyone:
Watching from Oracle Arizona.

2025-12-03 12:01:31 From Sam Axford to Everyone:
Sam Axford - Park Manager at Slide Rock State Park (Arizona State Parks and Trails)

2025-12-03 12:01:32 From Hillary Cantrell to Everyone:
Hi, this is Hillary, Park ranger at Jerome State Historical Park in Jerome, AZ

2025-12-03 12:01:37 From John Duwe to Everyone:
John Duwe - Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (BLM)

2025-12-03 12:01:42 From Amanda Lee to Everyone:
Amanda Lee From Zion National Park-POWDR

2025-12-03 12:01:45 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Hi from Pagosa Springs, Colorado! It's snowing!

2025-12-03 12:01:47 From Jane Whitmire to Everyone:
Jane Whitmire, Camp Verde, AZ

2025-12-03 12:01:52 From Emma Holdaway to Everyone:
Emma Holdaway, Nevada Northern Railway - Ely, NV

2025-12-03 12:02:00 From Kalen Jones to Everyone:
Hi from Moab, UT

2025-12-03 12:02:03 From barb rumer to Everyone:
hi barb rumer, part of bend night sky alliance from bend oregon

2025-12-03 12:02:10 From Danielle Adams | Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition to Everyone:
Hi everyone, Danielle from Flagstaff, Arizona—we're celebrating 25 years as the world's first Int'l Dark Sky City in 2026!

2025-12-03 12:02:14 From Cheyenne Winchester to Everyone:
Cheyenne Winchester from Snow Canyon State Park in southern Utah!

2025-12-03 12:02:15 From Cat (Catherine) Dutton to Everyone:
Cat Dutton Mancos, CO

2025-12-03 12:02:31 From Albert Shultz to Everyone:
Albert Shultz, in Glorieta NM

2025-12-03 12:02:35 From Bryan Cashion to Everyone:
Bryan Cashion - Montrose, CO

2025-12-03 12:02:41 From Raj Basi to Everyone:
Raj Basi from POWDR (Park City, UT), parent company of Destination Death Valley and Destination Zion Lodge.

2025-12-03 12:03:08 From Natalie Brannon to Everyone:
Natalie Brannon from Stellar Vista Observatory in Kanab, UT

2025-12-03 12:03:17 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Replying to "Cat Dutton Mancos, CO":
Not too far from me over in Pagosa! Hi!

2025-12-03 12:03:33 From Tina Grange to Everyone:
Tina Grange, Carbon County Tourism in Price Ut

2025-12-03 12:03:36 From Ren Griffeth to Everyone:
Ren Griffeth with the Jordan River Commission in Salt Lake City, UT

2025-12-03 12:03:37 From Aaron Watson to Everyone:
Aaron Watson from Paonia, Colorado

2025-12-03 12:03:40 From Megan Curtis to Everyone:
Hello from the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce in Cave Junction, OR (not Illinois! 😄)

2025-12-03 12:03:40 From Jim Stanger to Everyone:
Hi gang, from the North Olympic Peninsula in Washington!

2025-12-03 12:03:43 From Dawn Nilson to Everyone:
Dawn Nilson, Portland

2025-12-03 12:03:45 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Replying to "Cat Dutton Mancos, CO":
Are you on Slack? Aaron Watson created a DarkSkyColorado channel, but you have to ask to be added.

2025-12-03 12:03:46 From Anna Josenhans (DarkSky LA County) to Everyone:
Hi all! Anna from Los Angeles (Tongva lands).

2025-12-03 12:03:47 From Sara Schacht to Everyone:
Sara Schacht - Big Bear Lake, CA

2025-12-03 12:03:51 From Pete Poorman to Everyone:
Hello! I'm the President of Dark Sky Salida in Salida, Colorado USA

2025-12-03 12:04:11 From Paul Margolies to Everyone:
Paul Margolies, Meadview, AZ Hello to All!

2025-12-03 12:04:15 From Margaret Durner to Everyone:
Hello from Halfway Oregon. Margaret Durner

2025-12-03 12:04:26 From Kyle Sullivan to Everyone:
Replying to "Hello from the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce...":
Hi from Medford!

2025-12-03 12:04:38 From Troy Allan to Everyone:
It is great to have everyone here! Thanks for joining us!

2025-12-03 12:04:46 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Replying to "Bryan Cashion - Montrose, CO":
Are you on Slack? Aaron Watson created a DarkSkyColorado channel, but you have to ask to be added.

2025-12-03 12:04:50 From Gery Gudgell to Everyone:
Gery Gudgell Board member DarkSky Olympic Peninsula WA

2025-12-03 12:04:58 From Bill Kowalik to Everyone:
Cheers from Bend, Oregon, USA

2025-12-03 12:05:03 From Scott Heesacker to Everyone:
Scott Heesacker, Jet Boat tour operator on the Willamette River in beautiful Oregon :}

2025-12-03 12:13:34 From Jim Stanger - DS Olympic Peninsula to Everyone:
Replying to "Gery Gudgell Board member DarkSky Olympic Peninsul...":


2025-12-03 12:13:58 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:
What do you feel is the role of astronomy clubs in support of astrotourism?

2025-12-03 12:14:53 From Patrick Mugan to Everyone:
Perhaps "noctourism".

2025-12-03 12:14:55 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Other activities: full moon hikes, Milky Way photography how-to

2025-12-03 12:16:47 From Bill Kowalik, DarkSky Oregon to Everyone:
Dark Sky Tourism

2025-12-03 12:18:03 From Sara Schacht to Everyone:
Replying to "Perhaps "noctourism".":
I'm officially adopting this term

2025-12-03 12:18:38 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:
Nocturnal fauna too.

2025-12-03 12:20:28 From Dawn Nilson to Everyone:
Replying to "Perhaps "noctourism".":
Nat Geo coined it on the cover of their April issue.

2025-12-03 12:20:29 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:
Challenges are safety and red light etiquette.

2025-12-03 12:20:53 From Tina Grange to Everyone:
Challenge for our dark sky observers to participate and assist is the cold.

2025-12-03 12:21:44 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Replying to "Challenges are safety and red light etiquette.":
There are red light key chain lights on Amazon that you could sell or give away.

2025-12-03 12:21:46 From Danielle Adams | Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition to Everyone:
A 2017 Northern Arizona University study found Flagstaff's overnight visitors to have \$299 per person per trip economic impact.

2025-12-03 12:22:11 From Natalie Brannon to Everyone:

Consider daytime activities such as eclipse viewing or solar telescope use as astrotourism as well.

2025-12-03 12:22:12 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Replying to "Challenges are safety and red light etiquette."
Or get some red taillight tape to put over white flashlights.

2025-12-03 12:24:03 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:
Must have insurance as there is liability with running these types of events.

2025-12-03 12:24:11 From Troy Allan to Everyone:
Here is a fascinating website that illustrates what can happen when we open the night to tourists. I was here last summer. Amazing!! <https://darkskyalqueva.com/en/>

2025-12-03 12:32:57 From Bryan Cashion to Everyone:
Replying to "Bryan Cashion - Montrose, CO":
I have known Aaron for years. We are members of the same club whose primary mission is sky (day and night) outreach.

2025-12-03 12:33:18 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
Replying to "Bryan Cashion - Montrose, CO":
ok

2025-12-03 12:36:18 From Bryan Cashion to Everyone:
I would suggest that a TEAM needs these qualifications, but not necessarily just one person.

2025-12-03 12:37:44 From Carey Beam to Everyone:
Here in Navajoland (Cuba, New Mexico), eclipses are taboo. Culturally-sensitive programming is important in Indigenous communities.

2025-12-03 12:38:23 From Troy Allan to Everyone:
Excellent point, Carey. Thank you.

2025-12-03 12:39:19 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:
I suggest reading mythology from a book. Works well and you can spread the "love" to other team members.

2025-12-03 12:41:30 From Jim Stanger - DS Olympic Peninsula to Everyone:
Soak-n-Stars

2025-12-03 12:41:45 From Hilary Sager to Everyone:
We have it in Oregon!

2025-12-03 12:42:08 From Bill Kowalik, DarkSky Oregon to Everyone:
<https://www.summerlakehotsprings.com/>

2025-12-03 12:44:35 From Dawn Nilson to Everyone:

Multiple dark hot springs and Bortle 1 skies are in the Oregon Outback. I've been to hot springs in Ouray, CO at night. They would do best by controlling light near those commercial springs.

2025-12-03 12:47:04 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:

Important to get exit criteria from your sessions. Identify what they want more of, less of, start doing and stop doing...

2025-12-03 12:49:55 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:

Sometimes, the planets shine through the clouds! You can still point them out.

2025-12-03 12:50:57 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:

one of my friends, does talks at retirement homes and conducts quarterly star and solar viewing parties at a local park.

2025-12-03 12:52:06 From Kaitlin McBride to Everyone:

If it's very overcast but not raining/snowing, it seems like an opportunity to have a 'backup' program about how our eyes adapt and work in very dark environments so folks can still have a unique learning experience.

2025-12-03 12:52:39 From Troy Allan to Everyone:

Thank you, Kaitlin. Excellent idea.

2025-12-03 12:54:18 From Dena Laterza to Everyone:

Another idea is to calculate how much more light a pair of binoculars gather compared to our eyes. Or, to teach the parts of a telescope and talk about the different types of telescopes.

2025-12-03 12:56:01 From Bryan Cashion to Everyone:

Sometimes people who live in dark skies get jaded and forgot that even not so dark skies can be great!!

2025-12-03 12:56:14 From Christopher Hill to Everyone:

I have a slide deck of my Astro images that I use as an intro to my DarkSky presentations. Let them see what they can't see even when looking through a telescope.

2025-12-03 12:56:23 From Jim Stanger - DS Olympic Peninsula to Everyone:

Truth! From a person that did night sky programs in the outskirts of Las Vegas.

2025-12-03 12:58:07 From Sara Schacht to Everyone:

can we see John's contact info again? Or drop it here?

2025-12-03 12:58:06 From Carey Beam to Everyone:

Love the star train idea! How lucky to have the RR connection.

2025-12-03 12:58:49 From Troy Allan to Everyone:

We will ask John to post his info. Thanks!

2025-12-03 12:59:41 From John Barentine to Everyone:

Replying to "can we see John's contact info again? Or drop it h...":

Absolutely, Sara:

John@darkskyconsulting.com

512-983-1075

2025-12-03 12:59:42 From Bryan Cashion to Everyone:

Alamosa to La Veta, CO train

2025-12-03 13:00:43 From Sara Schacht to Everyone:

Replying to "can we see John's contact info again? Or drop it h...":

Thank you! Much appreciated.

2025-12-03 13:00:49 From Megan Curtis to Everyone:

I LOVE Chaco!!

2025-12-03 13:00:48 From Troy Allan to Everyone:

Here is John's info:

John@darkskyconsulting.com

512-983-1075

2025-12-03 13:02:45 From Carey Beam to Everyone:

Here in Northern New Mexico, we have STEMarts Lab nonprofit offering AstroTours [AR] to give stargazers an interactive experience using augmented reality artworks created by students incorporating hard space science and cultural storytelling. <https://stemarts.com/sciart-productions/astrotours/>

2025-12-03 13:10:25 From Bryan Cashion to Everyone:

Colorado Stargazing | Colorado.com

2025-12-03 13:13:28 From Lisa Stoner, Coordinator for the Dark Sky Cooperatives to Everyone:

sounds amazing Scott!

2025-12-03 13:15:46 From Carey Beam to Everyone:

Everything is better with s'mores! :)

2025-12-03 13:17:17 From Danielle Adams | Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition to Everyone:

Most people have never seen the Belt of Venus or have seen it but not realized what it was. That's a great talk to have about the changing colors in the sky in the first 20 minutes after sunset.

2025-12-03 13:22:04 From Sara Schacht to Everyone:

can we get this graph for download? and any corresponding report?

2025-12-03 13:22:25 From Lisa Stoner, Coordinator for the Dark Sky Cooperatives to Everyone:

John Barentine

john@darkskyconsulting.com

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

2025-12-03 13:23:21 From Mike Weasner to Everyone:

The Oracle State Park data is not available online. Email me at mweasner@mac.com and I'll send it out.

2025-12-03 13:23:27 From Troy Allan to Everyone:

Let's see if we can get Mike to share that with us and drop it here.

2025-12-03 13:23:40 From Sara Schacht to Everyone:

Replying to "The Oracle State Park data is not available online...":
Thank you!

2025-12-03 13:24:48 From Lisa Stoner, Coordinator for the Dark Sky Cooperatives to Everyone:

LINK to the Dark Sky Cooperative Newsletter SPOTLIGHT article, SEP 2025 issue:
"Insights on achieving International Dark Sky Community Certification - An overview of survey results"
<https://mailchi.mp/29bb2e0ebc4d/2025-09-16>

LINK to the Full Report:

https://extension.usu.edu/iort/cp-darkskies/files/IDSC_Insights_Survey_Results_Overview_Report_Sep2025.pdf

2025-12-03 13:25:14 From Troy Allan to Everyone:

Email Mike to get the data: mweasner@mac.com

2025-12-03 13:25:30 From Troy Allan to Everyone:

Thanks, Mike!!

2025-12-03 13:25:45 From Lisa Stoner, Coordinator for the Dark Sky Cooperatives to Everyone:

FOLLOW the Dark Sky Cooperatives Research FaceBook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/CPDarkSkyCoop/>

2025-12-03 13:26:06 From Scott Heesacker to Everyone:

nwjetboatcharter.com

2025-12-03 13:26:12 From Lisa Stoner, Coordinator for the Dark Sky Cooperatives to Everyone:

SIGN UP: for the Dark Sky Cooperative Newsletter (email list):
<https://usu.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=50d85706eafe518359c37f4ab&id=3dca48f8ef>

2025-12-03 13:26:23 From Lisa Stoner, Coordinator for the Dark Sky Cooperatives to Everyone:

FOLLOW: the Dark Sky Cooperative's YouTube Channel:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkws75y4U78NoHRwOdXD3eBJMMCsCPHLf&si=JuUfWr3_3MjghNuE

2025-12-03 13:26:44 From Steven Moore to Everyone:

I like the Belt of Venus remark. In my talks, I point that out to the early arrivals, and run it as a quiz, asking people what they think that is. It makes a good icebreaker.

2025-12-03 13:26:59 From Troy Allan to Everyone:

Here is our website as well. We have updated a few things. We now have a calendar for events you would like to list email me. <https://extension.usu.edu/iort/cp-darkskies/>

2025-12-03 13:27:06 From Lisa Stoner, Coordinator for the Dark Sky Cooperatives to Everyone:
Quarterly CONNECTIONS Feedback Survey (3-5 minutes):
https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PwH7cYPpwAlJyu

2025-12-03 13:27:11 From Hillary Cantrell to Everyone:
This has been very inspiring and informative, thank you!!

2025-12-03 13:27:24 From Patrick Mungan to Everyone:
Great presentation today. Thank you very much.

2025-12-03 13:27:37 From Ren Griffeth to Everyone:
Wonderful info, thank you so much!!

2025-12-03 13:27:40 From Megan Curtis to Everyone:
I agree Hillary, this has been incredibly inspiring. Thank you all so much!

2025-12-03 13:28:00 From John Barentine to Everyone:
Thank you, Lisa!!

2025-12-03 13:28:01 From Bryan Cashion to Everyone:
Thanks to John, Lisa, and Troy!

2025-12-03 13:28:06 From Steven Moore to Everyone:
Great presentation and discussion.

2025-12-03 13:28:11 From Sara Schacht to Everyone:
Thank you!

2025-12-03 13:28:15 From Lecia Ellis (Jonestown Night Sky Advocacy) to Everyone:
Thank you