



MORONGO BASIN DARK SKY ALLIANCE

ACTIVE 2010 – 2013

OVERVIEW

- **WHO** WAS INVOLVED
- **WHAT** WE DID
- **HOW** WE DID IT
- OUR **“WINS”**



WHO

ALLIANCE MEMBERS - ASTRONOMY & COMMUNITY

ORGANIZATION PARTNER	REPRESENTATIVE/S
<i>LOCAL ASTRONOMY GROUPS</i>	
Andromeda Society	Tom O'Key
Sky's the Limit (STL)	Ray Yeager
Southern California Desert Video Astronomers (SCDVA)	Tom O'Key
<i>LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</i>	
Joshua Tree Community Association (JTCA)	Victoria Fuller Mickey Luckman



ALLIANCE MEMBERS – CONSERVATION GROUPS



ORGANIZATION PARTNER	REPRESENTATIVE/S
<i>LOCAL CONSERVATION NON-PROFITS</i>	
Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA)	Laraine Turk Claudia Sall
Morongo Basin Open Space Group (MBOSG)	Stephanie Weigel
<i>NATIONAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS with LOCAL REP'S</i>	
National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)	Seth Shteir
International Dark Skies Association (IDA)	Teri Jackson Tom O'Key

ALLIANCE MEMBERS – GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

ORGANIZATION PARTNER	REPRESENTATIVE/S
<i>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES</i>	
Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP)	Luke Sabala
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center/Marstel-Day	Marlana Brown Samantha Giordano Kelly O'Sullivan
Neil Derry, Supervisor, 3rd District, County of San Bernardino	Alan Rasmussen



WHAT

FIRST CREATED AN IDENTITY INCLUDING A LOGO ...



... AN EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE ...

Why we need Dark Skies

- **Save energy:** Using less energy is easier than looking for new sources of energy.
- **Security:** Bright lights create deep shadows providing hiding places for criminals. Lower wattage and more diffuse light increases night vision, increasing your safety.
- **Save money:** Lighting up the night when you don't need to wastes money.
- **Tourism:** The brilliant dark skies found in the Morongo Basin attract astronomers and tourists from across the globe.
- **Health:** Recent studies have linked too much night light to health issues.
- **Environment:** A recent report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows excessive night light inhibits the breakdown of smog.
- **Wildlife:** Lighting the night sky can affect the way animals sleep and move around.

"We lose something important when we can't see into the universe. The night sky is our heritage as human beings, it's a source of mythology and wonder, it's a way, scientifically, to understand the universe."

-Mike Cipra, writer - desert resident

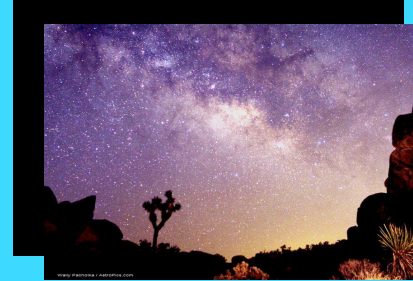


Photo Courtesy of Wally Pacholka/AstroPics.com

This project has been created by your neighbors from across the Morongo Basin, including representatives from:

Andromeda Society
International Dark Skies Association
Joshua Tree Community Association
Joshua Tree National Park
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Morongo Basin Conservation Association
Morongo Basin Open Space Group
National Parks Conservation Association
Neil Derry, Supervisor, 3rd District,
County of San Bernardino
Sky's the Limit
Southern California Desert Video Astronomers.

**For More information on the
Morongo Basin Dark Sky Alliance,**

visit our website:

<http://>

www.mbdarkskiesalliance.org

**Feel free to send any questions to:
info@mbdarkskiesalliance.org**



Turn out a light,
see the night.

You can Help! Here's How:

- Only use lights you really need. Lower wattage provides better security. Too much brightness & glare makes it hard to see what's in the shadows.
 - Shield lights so illumination isn't directed upwards. That's wasted energy and wasted money.
 - Turn off lights when you can. Use timers, dimmers and motion sensors.
 - Use the resources at www.darksky.org for more dark sky solutions.
 - Support the Morongo Basin Dark Skies Alliance.
 - Encourage local businesses to conform to code or even go beyond and enthusiastically reduce their outdoor light footprint.
- Request local hardware stores make dark sky compliant lighting readily available and easily identifiable.
 - Inform others of the effects of stray light on nocturnal animals.
 - Share with others that we have a light ordinance and what it can do for our communities.

Did you know we have a lighting ordinance? This is what it requires:

- All lighting for new construction, unless exempt, to be shielded so that it doesn't stray onto adjacent properties and public areas.
- Existing lighting that strays onto adjacent properties and public areas be shielded, filtered, redirected, replaced with a less intense light source, or removed.
- Half of the lights in a parking lot or other open commercial lot be turned off between 10 p.m. and sunrise.
- Recreation facilities may not be lit for private use between 11 p.m. and dawn, and such facilities may not be lit unless in use.

What we do:

- Share information at community meetings & with community organizations
- Present information at public events
- Change the current SB County Ordinance
- Write articles for newspapers and periodicals on why dark skies are important and what we all can do to make a difference
- Flyers, brochures, bumper stickers that highlight the importance of maintaining Dark Skies
- Work with local schools

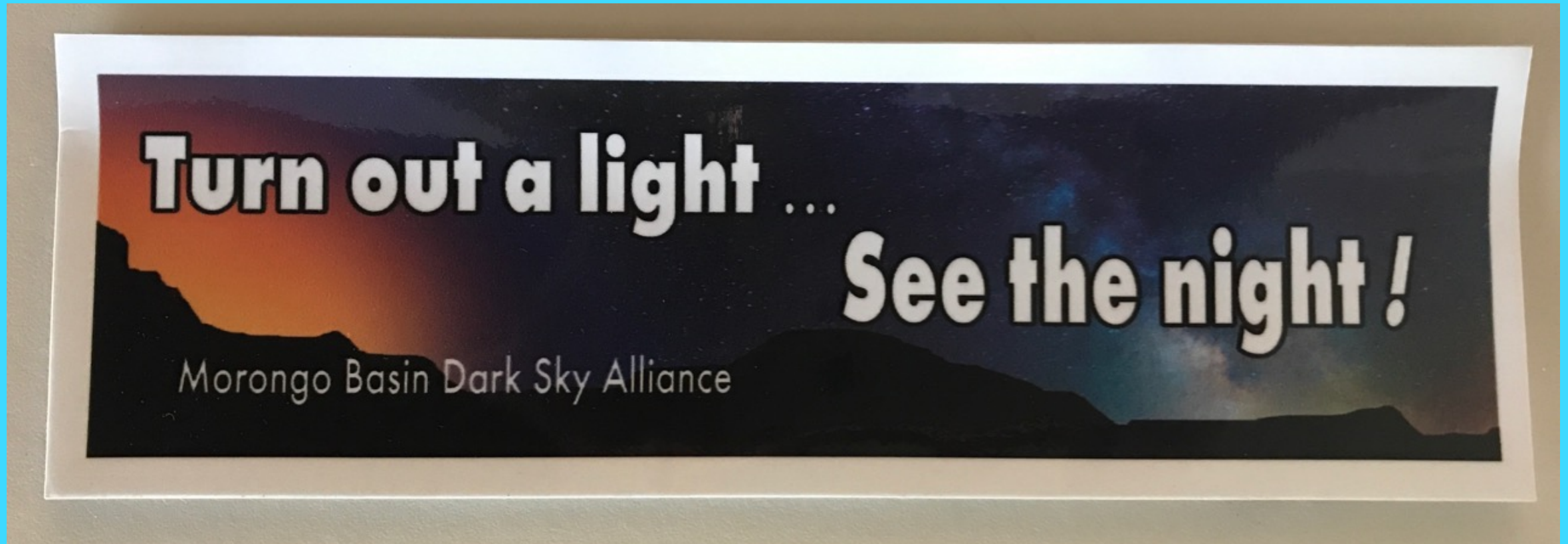


Earth at Night 2001
NASA/courtesy of nasaimages.org

... A WEBPAGE ... DISPLAY MATERIALS ...



AND A BUMPER STICKER!



OUR MESSAGES INCLUDED . . .

- **SAFETY** ISSUES: EXCESSIVELY BRIGHT LIGHTS AREN'T NECESSARILY SAFE LIGHTS
- **HEALTH** EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE LIGHTING ON HUMANS AND ANIMALS
- **SAVING** MONEY BY REDUCING LIGHTING AND SAVING ON ELECTRICITY
- VALUE OF DARK SKIES FOR **TOURISM** AND THE NATIONAL PARK
- ADVERTISING **EARTH HOUR**

HOW

KEEPING OURSELVES ORGANIZED!

EVENT/GOAL	OWNERS	STATUS	COMPLETION DATE	DETAILS
Review County Ordinance	Seth, Claudia, Laraine	ongoing		
Information on Web page	Tom	ongoing		
Basinwide Foundation presentation	Laraine, Samantha, Victoria	completed	March 3rd	PPT & discussion
Prepare press release	Seth	completed		
Sunset Rotary	Stephanie	Completed		Discussion
Flyer	Group	ongoing		Attached
Sky's the Limit presentation	Larain, Teri, Victoria	ongoing	April 7	
MV Spring Fest	Laraine, Tom	ongoing	March 26	Flyers & tickets for drawing
YV Earht DDay	Tom	ongoing	April 16	Flyers & tickets for drawing
Home Depot EarhtDay	Tom, Victoria	ongoing	April 22/23	Flyers & tickets for drawing
Education/Schools			September	Science project; Engage students

OUTREACH

PRESENTATIONS & INFORMATION TABLES

BASINWIDE FOUNDATION

MORONGO VALLEY SPRING FEST

YUCCA VALLEY EARTH DAY

HOME DEPOT EARTH DAY EVENT

ANDROMEDA SOCIETY NIGHT SKY FESTIVAL

MBCA ANNUAL MEETING

YUCCA VALLEY ROTARY CLUBS



DARK SKY ORDINANCE RESEARCH

- REVIEWED ORDINANCES OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, YUCCA VALLEY, TWENTYNINE PALMS
- RESEARCHED OTHER MODEL ORDINANCES, ESPECIALLY FLAGSTAFF ARIZONA
- WROTE A PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INCLUDING BEST PRACTICES FROM OTHER ORDINANCES AND THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ORGANIZATION.

CHAPTER 83.07: GLARE AND OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Section

83.07.010 Purpose.

83.07.020 Applicability.

83.07.030 Glare and Outdoor Lighting - Valley Region.

83.07.040 Glare and Outdoor Lighting - Mountain and Desert Regions.

§ 83.07.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to encourage outdoor lighting practices and systems that will:

- (a) Minimize light pollution, glare, and light trespass;
- (b) Conserve energy and resources while maintaining nighttime safety, visibility, utility, and productivity;
- (c) Curtail the degradation of the nighttime visual environment.

JOSHUA TREE PORCH LIGHT REPLACEMENTS

- \$15,000 FROM COUNTY DISCRETIONARY FUND PROVIDED VIA SUPERVISOR NEIL DERRY
- LOCAL CONTRACTOR HIRED TO INSTALL SHIELDED PORCH LIGHT FIXTURES IN DOWNTOWN JOSHUA TREE AREA
- ADVERTISED THE PROGRAM THROUGH PRINTED FLYERS AT THE SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET AND OTHER VENUES



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES “BY THE NUMBERS”



Organizations Involved	11
Planning Meetings	17
Information Tables at Events	7
Workshops, Presentations	5
Retrofit Project	100 completed
County Ordinance Recommendations	Ready to Present

“WINS” and WHY

DARK SKY ALLIANCE KEYS TO SUCCESS

- BROAD SCOPE OF MEMBERSHIP BY EXPERTISE, SCOPE OF INVOLVEMENT, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- COUNTY SUPERVISOR’S SUPPORT, BOTH STAFF AND FINANCIAL
- TIME COMMITMENT OF MEMBERS
- DEDICATION TO THE WORK REQUIRED
- PASSION FOR THE GOALS OF MBDSA

MBDSA Celebration Party



Luke Sabala, Mickey Luckman, Alan Rasmussen, Claudia Sall, Tom O'Key, Laraine Turk