

# Borrego Springs: California's First Dark Sky Community

## Borrego's Magic Stars



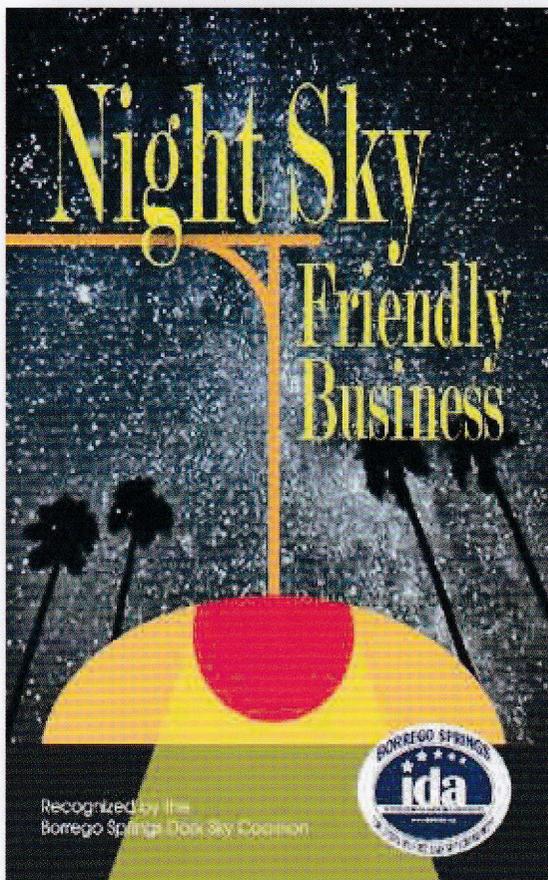
On July 31, 2009, BORREGO SPRINGS, became the second location in the WORLD to be designated an official International Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). This certification recognizes our community's exceptional commitment to preserving the nighttime environment and to ensuring the continuation of this protection through thoughtful nighttime lighting to reduce light pollution.

The Borrego Dark Sky Coalition is a committee of Borrego residents who worked from 2007 to 2009 to obtain the designation. The Coalition—Maris Brancheau, Dorothy Hogan, Betsy Knaak, Dennis Mammana, Grace Rickard, Dr. James Rickard, Sally Theriault, and Sam Webb—continue to meet quarterly to manage an ongoing program to maintain and improve local lighting.

The Coalition offers lighting audits, lighting recommendations, and brochures about outdoor lighting. Information is available at our website [www.borregodarkskies.org](http://www.borregodarkskies.org). Local businesses may apply for recognition as a Dark-Sky Friendly Borrego Business and use the business logo in their advertising. New this season are a limited number of car decals with the Borrego Springs Dark Sky Community blue and white logo. Car decals can be purchased for \$4 at the Borrego Desert Nature Center, 652 Palm Canyon Drive.

Residents, visitors, astronomers, and photographers treasure Borrego's dark sky. But will it always be so? To maintain Borrego's dark sky, good lighting practices are essential by Borrego's businesses, future developments, and homeowners.

To find out what you can do to preserve and protect our spectacular view of the night sky, go to our website at [www.borregodarkskies.org](http://www.borregodarkskies.org), attend a stargazing program, or contact the Coalition at [BorregoDarkSky@aol.com](mailto:BorregoDarkSky@aol.com). Please stop by our monthly table at the Farmer's Market to say hello and pick up a copy of our brochure, "**Fellow Borregans—Help Keep Our Night Sky Dark!**"



## Visit the Milky Way in Borrego Springs