

To IDA - Southern Arizona DarkSkies Advocates

1. Our Monthly SA-IDA Meeting Agenda is below.

Here are a few interesting items to share:

Outdoor Light Impact on Insects

Several news stories have recently appeared about possible effects of outdoor lighting on the breeding and feeding habits of insects. Polarized light reflecting on black objects such as roads, plastic sheets, solar collectors, and other objects can lead to insect confusion with eggs being laid on these surfaces rather than water. This could seriously impact the food chain. See <http://news.msu.edu/story/5779/> for one article on this subject.

Something Everyone Can Do - Leverage Groups to Advocate for IDA'S Mission

Something everyone can do is to keep an eye out for opportunities to share information regarding Light Pollution and have it leveraged by others.

For example; many of us have been to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and watched the amazing Raptor Free-Flight show. I was quite pleased that at the end of this fantastic show they stressed the importance of taking care of our environment and not disrupting the habitat for these magnificent birds. There was no mention of Light Pollution as one of the possible harmful effects. I talked to the director of the program after the show and he agreed to consider adding a statement about keeping outdoor lights off when not needed to minimize the impact on our wildlife.

Another example involves newsletters. Many of us get various newsletters often with environmental concerns or wildlife, plant life, or human health issues in them. Have you ever read an informative story about the effects on our environment, especially wildlife and plant life, not to mention human health, in any of your newsletters? Write the editor of newsletters that you receive and ask if you could submit a story to run in one of their issues. I recently contacted the local Audubon Society and am composing a story regarding the impact on birds for one of their next issues. Many of these newsletters reach thousands of people especially if they are shared with other chapters or national organizations.

We all need to talk with others about some of these interesting findings, about the impacts on the environment every chance we get, astronomy too!. It's all about education and awareness and it virtually costs nothing, often saves money, to make changes.

Thanks, Joe Frannea

SA-IDA Monthly Section Meeting:

(Southern Arizona Section of the IDA or SA-IDA)

When: **This Upcoming WEDNESDAY, January 14, 2009 at 5:30 PM (2nd Wed of the month)**

Where: At the IDA office, 3225 N. First Avenue, just North of Ft. Lowell Road
(our usual meeting place)

Who: All are welcome, you do not need to be an IDA member to participate.

PROPOSED AGENDA:

1. Minutes prior monthly meeting (Nov)
2. Treasurers Report - end of year balances
3. Follow up on Outdoor Lighting Complaints and Improvements
4. Education Outreach - Possible outings/events for Year 2009 - we need to develop a list
- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Summer Saturday Nights - Astronomy Nights (4)

- Earth Days (U of A, Reid Park, Pima Community College, others?)
 - Solar Rock at Himmel Park (solar and environmental booths)
 - Ward VI environmental events.
 - Audubon Mason Center events.
 - HOA and other presentations to groups
 - Schools Math/Science nights
 - Fun Fest at the TCC (6,000 school children visit educational booths-November)
 - Other environmental/scientific fairs/events ???
5. Continue Planning for 2009. Focus on directions for SA-IDA (Education, partners, enforcement)
- Our role/activities for IYA 2009

6. Other business

- Year 2008 SA-IDA Section reports due to IDA (Byron financial, Ed and Joe accomplishments)
- Outdoor Lighting Code enforcement initiative by the Outdoor Lighting Code Committee
- IDA Sections newsletter by Johanna "Nite-Net" December issue is out (see www.sa-ida.org/nite-net/)

also the other previous Nite-net issues are at this same web address

- Other items???

7. Next Meeting - Wed., February 18th

Adjourn promptly at 7:00 PM

Thanks, Joe Frannea 575-7126

SA-IDA Officers

President: Joe Frannea

Vice President: John Polacheck

Secretary: Ed Bartlett

Treasurer: Byron Skinner