



In this issue:

Dark Skies on the Fourth

Enjoying a NightCap

Capturing a Night in Flagstaff

Flagstaff Lighting Code

Feature Speaker Presentations

New Committees

FDSC Membership

Memorable Quotes

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JOIN US at the Flagstaff Fourth of July Parade

Once again you can join the FDSC faithful walking along with the Dark Sky Star Car during the annual Flagstaff Fourth of July parade. This vehicle annually reminds all Flagstaffians about the need to address light pollution in our community. This is also an opportunity to remind everyone we have our annual Flagstaff Star Party at Buffalo Park in September and that everyone should join us by becoming a member of the Dark Skies Coalition. An email notice will be sent out to all members when and where to meet on the morning of July 4th, 2022. All parade entries begin staging at 0730 hours and parade starts a 0900 sharp. Meet with other Flagstaff Dark Skies members on Elm between Humphries and Beaver streets. Our parade entry number "67" will be on the front and sides on the Dark Skies Star Car. Please park outside of barricades and walk to our staging area.



Enjoying a NightCap

In celebration of a collaboration between the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition, Creative Flagstaff and Lowell Observatory, members of the Coalition, Coconino Center for the Arts and Lowell Observatory are invited to attend two special members-only events this summer.

On Thursday, July 21, the Coconino Center for the Arts is offering an art social evening “NightCap,” providing an intimate viewing of the exhibition “NightVisions: Cultural Interpretations of the Night Sky” and twilight viewing of the exterior video installation SKYGLOWPROJECT. Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition members will be providing telescopes and interpretive star gazing. All members of the three organizations are eligible to receive a 10% discount on NightVisions artwork. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Also, Lowell Observatory will be offering free admission to these members all day on Sunday, Aug. 21. Participants are asked to show proof of their CCA or FDSC membership at the front desk in Lowell's Visitor Center. "We're excited to welcome you to our Mars Hill campus and share the wonders of the cosmos with you!" said Lowell Marketing Manager Cody Half-Moon.

Capturing a Night in Flagstaff

The Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition along with the City of Flagstaff's Discover Flagstaff tourism branch may well be engaged in the first collaboration of its kind to enter the non-fungible tokens market! So far, three people have purchased the unique NFTs. The campaign features a spectacular view of the sky above the iconic skyline of the sacred San Francisco Peaks, 70 images for \$700 each from 7,000 feet. Already, three have been sold! To find out how you can participate, visit <https://www.flagstaffdarkskies.org/a-night-in-flagstaff/>.

Flagstaff Tunes up Its Lighting Code

The Flagstaff outdoor lighting code, long the gold standard in quality night sky protection, is being revised to improve effectiveness and night sky protection.

Coalition Board President Chris Luginbuhl participated in the revision process led by Flagstaff Community Development staff, along with representatives of the Lowell and Naval observatories. The revisions were guided by recommendations from the Joint Land Use Study funded by the US DOD and managed by Coconino County Community Development . The amendments are largely intended to improve the effectiveness and clarity of standards already in place and adapt to new LED technologies. “The changes are not dramatic,” said Luginbuhl, “tuning up what was already one of the best codes in the world.” One change recommended by JLUS was the removal of Lighting Zone 3, with the loosest standards, and setting standards in the area to align with Lighting Zone 2 (LZ 2), which has covered the majority of Flagstaff since 1989. Flagstaff Community Development staff had gained so much experience with these tighter LZ 2 standards, including the construction of many national franchises, that they were confident in extending the standards through the rest of the city. Besides improving night sky quality in the region, these tighter standards will also save energy.

Another important element of the revision is a firming up of amber LED standards, maintaining the night-friendly characteristics of the yellow spectrum formerly provided by low-pressure sodium (LPS) lighting. These yellow lights predominate on Flagstaff roadways and parking lots, but the LPS technology has become obsolete and replacement bulbs are getting hard to find. The new LED standards will actually lead to an improvement in night skies, taking advantage of the increased light distribution efficiencies available with LEDs compared to LPS. This means that the light produced by the LED fixtures can be more effectively limited to just the areas that need illumination, such as the roadway surface, and reduce the amount of light spreading into the properties next to the roadway.

A public open house on the proposed revisions is scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 5:30 pm. at the Downtown Library – Community Room located, at 300 W Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ.

Feature Speaker Presentations Available on the FDSC YouTube Channel

A regular component of the monthly FDSC Members Meetings has been a Featured Speaker delivering a talk on topics broadly related to dark skies. Recent speakers have addressed topics ranging from Islamic Astronomy to the Flagstaff Solution to Preserving Dark Skies from the Top Down. All of these talks are now available from FDSC at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzrGY6bciNENIRFQv4DxIAQ>

Stop by at your convenience and learn more about any or all of these topics. And a new talk will be added to this list on most months. Check them out.

New Committees

FDSC will accomplish much of its work through the Committees defined in the Bylaws.

While all Committees will become active this year, at the moment there is an urgent need for the Fundraising Committee to become fully operational. Fundraising seeks to address the gap between the income expected from past sources and what is needed for 2022.

Also, the Membership Committee has a 2022 goal of increasing FDSC membership by 100. Please take a moment to consider how you might help and let the relevant Committee Chair (Stevens, Fundraising, Davis, Membership) know your thoughts.

Become a Member of the Coalition

Your membership supports the mission of the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition; To celebrate, promote and protect the glorious dark skies of Flagstaff and northern Arizona. And by example setting the gold standard in night sky protection

Our mission is to celebrate the wonders of the nocturnal ecosystem that all humanity inhabits, to promote awareness and participation, and to protect this natural resource for future generations as our common inheritance. We work to enhance public awareness about the night, and advocate for public policies that reduce wasteful lighting. By celebrating the values found in natural darkness, we work to continue Flagstaff's 60+ years of worldwide leadership in night sky protection. <http://www.flagstaffdarkskies.org/become-a-member-of-the-coalition/>

Memorable Quotes

"We had the sky up there, and we used to lay on our backs and look up at them, and discuss whether they was made or just happened." -- **Mark Twain**

"I maintain that cosmic religiousness is the strongest and most noble driving force of scientific research."
-- **Albert Einstein**

"The sky is the daily bread of the eyes." -- **Ralph Waldo Emerson, Journal, 25 May 1843 entry**