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## Press Release

# Preserving Our Nighttime Skies

On a frigid March evening in Bryce Canyon National Park Dan Duriscoe and Chad Moore are busy measuring and monitoring the night skies. They are part of the National Park Service's Night Sky Team, a countrywide effort to track the "health" of the nighttime sky. Light pollution is increasing everywhere, even in our national parks. Palm Springs, for instance, spreads light to Joshua Tree National Park; Denver's lights bathe Rocky Mountain National Park; campers in Arches National Park see lights from Grand Junction, Colorado. There is a growing awareness, however, that the beauty and mystery of the nighttime sky is a threatened national resource, but a resource that many dedicated organizations and individuals, such as Duriscoe and Moore, believe must be actively protected.

As part of the effort to protect and restore dark skies Western National Parks Association has produced a colorful new publication, ***Parks After Dark: A Beginner's Guide to Stargazing in the National Parks***. Written by author/astronomer Rick Shaffer, ***Parks After Dark*** is intended to get people interested in astronomy and by extension deepen their awareness of and concern for preserving dark skies.

***Parks After Dark*** begins with the basics: what is out there to see, what tools are needed for an enjoyable stargazing experience, how to get started, and where to find additional help. This is followed by simple-to-understand star charts accompanied by text that highlights the most interesting celestial objects. The book ends with a look at light pollution and what we all can do to preserve one of our true national treasures: our dark and infinitely fascinating nighttime skies.

## Parks After Dark: A Beginner's Guide to Stargazing in the National Parks

by Rick Shaffer

ISBN 1-58369-062-X / 40 pages / 11 x 8 1/2 / \$7.95

Available from your bookseller or from Western National Parks Association at 888-569-7762 or from our web store at [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

An electronic copy of this press release is available as a PDF on the web at [www.wnpa.org/pressroom.asp](http://www.wnpa.org/pressroom.asp)

For more information on the National Park Service Night Sky Team go to [www.nps.gov/cany/nature/nightskyteam](http://www.nps.gov/cany/nature/nightskyteam)