

**BIG PARK/VILLAGE OF OAK CREEK**

**2018**

*Annual International  
Dark-Sky Community Report*

**Report submitted by Joanne Kendrick, Chair  
Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee  
Big Park Regional Coordinating Council, Inc.**



The Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee is pleased to report its dark sky activities after being designated the 14th International Dark-Sky Community in the world in February 2016. Offering incomparable beauty and included in the Greater Sedona Area, the Big Park/Village of Oak Creek is an attractive place to visit or settle for many reasons. One of those reasons is the magnificent dark night skies that swath its skies. The community values this natural resource and wants to preserve it for us and for future generations. When public star parties are hosted, many visitors to our community exclaimed that they cannot see the Milky Way from where they live and they are awed at the beauty of our dark night sky.

## EDUCATION EVENTS:



### Total Lunar Eclipse at Cultural Park Pl at Upper Red Rock Loop Road, January 31, 2018

The Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee participated in the viewing of the Total Lunar Eclipse which was sponsored by the Sirius Lookers Astro Club, Sedona Public Library, and Keep Sedona Beautiful. Telescopes and binoculars were available to enhance viewing. The celestial event was highlighted by being next to bright BeeHive star cluster. Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter were in the opposite part of the sky during the event.



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### Earth Day Celebration at Red Rock State Park, April 21, 2018

The Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee joined Red Rock State Park to celebrate Earth Day. Dark-sky information was available, plus examples of dark-sky compliant outdoor lighting fixtures.

### Moon Light Hike at Red Rock State Park, April 29, 2018

J. D. Maddy, President of Astronomers of Verde Valley, and Karen Maddy hosted a moon light hike at Red Rock State Park. The group of attendees enjoyed hiking under the light of the moon. After, the hikers looked through the telescopes set up for a view of the Moon, clusters, double stars and other celestial objects.

### Moon Light Madness at the Collective in Big Park/Village of Oak Creek, April 29, 2018

“Moonlight Madness” was an Open-Air Picnic Concert with great music under a Full Moon. Moon-gazing was viewed through the telescopes of the Astronomers of Verde Valley, and other astronomers. The event was sold out; more than 200 people attended.

### Star Party at Red Rock State Park, June 2, 2018

Red Rock State Park hosted a star party. The Astronomers of Verde Valley (AVV) had their telescopes ready for attendees to view the heavens. J.D. Maddy of AVV gave an interesting astronomy presentation, followed by telescope viewing of galaxies and the galaxy-rich constellations of Leo and Virgo. Under the dark skies of the Park, the summer Milky Way was starting to make its way across the night sky. Jupiter was high in the sky as it goes through the constellation of Libra. Venus was glimpsed low on the western horizon as it hovered in the constellation of Gemini.

The Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee participated in this event with an exhibit of dark-sky literature. Light refreshments were provided.

### Dark-Sky Lecture at Red Rock State Park - Why Do Dark Skies Matter? July 8, 2018

Red Rock State Park hosted Dr. Matt Goodwin for his lecture, “Why Do Dark Skies Matter?” Dr. Goodwin is senior lecturer at Northern Arizona University’s Department of Philosophy, an Arizona Humanities Road Scholar, and co-founder of Sedona Philosophy.





### Sedona Star Party at Posse Ground Ball Park, August 4, 2018

The Sedona Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sedona Parks and Recreation Department, the Astronomers of Verde Valley (AVV), and Keep Sedona Beautiful (KSB) together hosted an evening Star Party at the Posse Ground Park. Over 400 people attended the event.

J.D. Maddy of AVV gave an interesting astronomy presentation. As the last of the Winter constellations dip into the western horizon, the rich stream of stars in the Summer Milky Way rose high in the sky. Constellations were visible in the many telescopes that were set up for everyone to view as well as Jupiter, Saturn and Mars.

The Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee participated in this event and talked with the visitors about light pollution, dark-sky compliant fixtures, and the importance of keeping our night sky dark. Dark-sky brochures were also distributed.

### Red Rock State Park Star Party, September 8, 2018

Red Rock State Park hosted a star party. The Astronomers of Verde Valley (AVV) had their telescopes ready for visitors to view the heavens.

The planets of Mars and Saturn sailed high in the sky in the stream of stars in the Milky Way. The dark skies of Red Rock State Park allowed visitors to easily see this stream of stars and dark dust lanes with the unaided eye. Through the astronomers' telescopes, the Milky Way came alive with nebulae, open star clusters, and much more.

The Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee participated in this event and distributed dark-sky brochures, and talked with the visitors about light pollution, dark-sky compliant fixtures, and the importance of keeping our night sky dark.



**With our beautiful preserved dark skies, multiple companies offer private and group star parties to visitors worldwide.**



**In Big Park/Village of Oak Creek**

- Tenant improvements for Verde Valley Medical Center, 61 Bell Rock Plaza – Certificate date 9/11/2018
- Tenant improvements for Tuesday Morning, 6623 State Route 179, Suite B2 – Certificate date – 11/2/2017
- Tenant improvements Dinner Theatre for Majestic Theatre and Speakeasy Sedona. 7723 State Route 179 – Certificate date 11/9/2017

The County’s final inspection process inspects only the lighting fixtures for compliance with Section 603, Light Pollution Control in Yavapai County’s Planning & Zoning Ordinance. Nighttime inspections are not performed as part of the final inspection process.

**SKY QUALITY MEASUREMENTS:**



The Big Park/Village of Oak Creek Dark-Sky Committee takes Sky Quality Measurements to ensure that the Big Park/Village of Oak Creek continues to protect its dark night skies and to reduce light pollution. The measurements were taken in three locations on May 15, 2018 and June 13, 2018. The readings were taken at the same locations as in previous years. Below are the measurements:

**SKY QUALITY READING IN VILLAGE OF OAK CREEK**  
 Performed on May 15, 2018, New Moon

Time	Location	Percent of Cloud Cover	1st Sky Quality Reading	2nd Sky Quality Reading	3rd Sky Quality Reading	4th Sky Quality Reading	5th Sky Quality Reading	6th Sky Quality Reading	Average Sky Quality Reading
21:58	Jacks Canyon Road/ SunCliff Dr.	0%	21.60	21.51	21.51	21.54	21.52	21.50	21.53
22:08	888 Saddlehorn Rd	0%	21.59	21.58	21.57	21.58	21.57	21.57	21.58
21:50	Bell Rock/Red Butte - North of Golf Club	0%	21.39	21.34	21.36	21.36	21.37	21.36	21.36

**SKY QUALITY READING IN VILLAGE OF OAK CREEK**  
 Performed on June 13, 2018, New Moon

Time	Location	Percent of Cloud Cover	1st Sky Quality Reading	2nd Sky Quality Reading	3rd Sky Quality Reading	4th Sky Quality Reading	5th Sky Quality Reading	6th Sky Quality Reading	Average Sky Quality Reading
21:42	Jacks Canyon Road/ SunCliff Dr.	0%	21.28	21.26	21.23	21.24	21.23	21.23	21.25
21:52	888 Saddlehorn Rd	0%	21.28	21.20	21.17	21.14	21.12	21.10	21.17
21:34	Bell Rock/Red Butte - North of Golf Club	0%	21.30	21.26	21.24	21.19	21.20	21.18	21.23

**Report submitted by Joanne Kendrick, Chair**  
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