

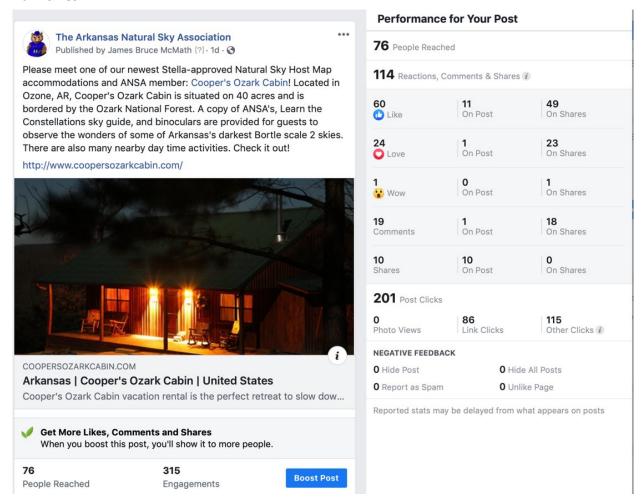
Natural night skies are disappearing. As we often only appreciate something when we have lost it, increasingly the night sky starved outdoor recreational tourist/enthusiast is looking for nature at night as well as in the day. For those who have not experienced a natural night sky, the experience can be as moving as any nature has to offer.

In this document we share ideas about how host businesses can market a dark-sky asset. Starting, of course, with being listed on our <u>Natural Sky Host Map</u>.

Marketing our Host Map

We highlight our Host Map on our <u>Facebook page</u> and reference it in the "about this group" post pinned to the top of our ever growing <u>group page</u>. In addition, we publicize our map by sharing posts about it from time to time on other pages and boosting it on Facebook. Visits to our Natural Sky Host Map have jumped noticeably as a result. As people learn about ANSA and our programs, and the threat of light pollution, the traffic to our maps grows. So our Hosts Map

subscribers help themselves when they help bring public attention to ANSA and our remaining Dark-skies.



New Listing Posts

In addition to being on the map, new host subscribers who ask, and provide a short three or four sentence description of their properties, will be posted to our Facebook page. We then share these, one a week, to our group page. These often generate bookings. We ask that subscribers poll inquiries following these posts for a week so we can monitor the effectiveness of the program.

Cross posting

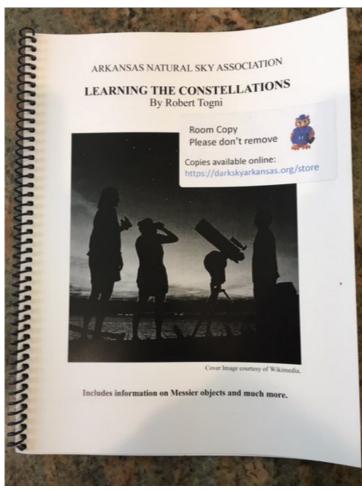
Some subscribers join our group page, where they can post and recommend their facilities and they "follow" our <u>Facebook page</u>, and post a link to the Host map on their own Facebook page. Occasionally sharing posts from the <u>group page</u> to your own Facebook page can call attention to your dark-sky asset and interest. All these actions help bring attention to your facility's

natural-sky asset, your support of dark-skies, and impacts who sees your Facebook page. As they say, if you have it flaunt it.

In-Room Sky Guides

Augment your in-room ANSA literature by providing one or more sky guides. An "Room Copy" version of ANSA's Learn the Constellations booklets, can be purchased online by host facilities for only \$10.

Some of your guest will have booked for reason's other than your skies, but imagine how much you have potentially added to the experience if you inspire them to step outside. Our required in-room material is intended to encourage just that, but having a sky guide on the coffee table or on loan at the campground office, will increase the interest and the experience. There is no better advertising than memories made and getting people outside, enjoying a dark-sky, is calculated to make a memorable experience. Noting the



presence of such material in posts and ads about your property can bring attention to your dark-sky.

Binoculars

Providing binoculars in your cabin(s), or having them available at the office for campgrounds and lodges, further underlines the natural-sky asset and is also a feature to include in posts or other marketing materials. We can update our map listings to note facilities that provide constellation guides and/or binoculars.

With this in mind, we have created Stella's in-room guide to Binoculars for Night Sky Observing to provide novice guests a reference guide. (This is in addition to, not instead of the basic in-room document that we ask all subscribers to keep in their units or posted on campgrounds.)

If you are going to purchase binoculars, you should read the guide, but we offer the following recommendations to simplify your adoption of this program.

				FOV@	Close	Eye		
	8x42 Bino	Coatings	Waterproof	1000 Yds	Focus	Relief	Weight	Price
	Nikon					12		
Good	Acculine	Multicoated	Resistant	420'	16.4'	mm	26.8 oz	\$89.95
	Bushnell					17		
Better	H2O	Multicoated	Waterproof	410'	15'	mm	27.2 oz	\$75.99
	Levenhuk					21		
Best	Plus	Multicoated	Waterproof	426'	9.8'	mm	27.5 oz	\$94.95

We hope you will consider implementing some of these recommendations and would love to hear other ideas for marketing the natural-sky resource that we can share or implement. Thanks for your participation in our Natural Sky Host Map, and your support of our state's remaining natural-skies. Please call or email with questions or comments.

Bruce McMath
Chair Arkansas Natural Sky Association
Bruce.mcmath@darkskyarkansas.org
501-681-5403

Robert Togni Natural Sky Maps Coordinator Robert.togni@darkskyarkansas.org 501-250-4095