



# THE 2024 OZSKY STAR SAFARI

COONABARABRAN, NSW, AUSTRALIA

MARCH 8 – 15, 2024

[WWW.OZSKY.ORG](http://WWW.OZSKY.ORG)

## 6. INTRODUCING YOUR OZSKY VOLUNTEER HOSTS

In addition to the amazing range of large telescopes which we provide for your use at these events, the OzSky Star Safari is further enhanced by a core team of dedicated and experienced volunteers who will be generously donating their own time during the OzSky week to help make the OzSky Star Safari a very special and unique event for you. Following is a brief biography on each of the Volunteers who will be assisting at the 2024 OzSky Star Safari.

Like many star parties around the world, the OzSky Star Safari is a highly social event where lifelong friendships are forged. Closer to the event, we will circulate a similar document to this, containing summarized profiles of everyone attending the 2024 OzSky Star Safari to help you get to know everyone better before your big trip to Oz.



### **LACHLAN MACDONALD**

**Location:** Strathfield, NSW – Australia

**Email:** [Lachlan@OzSky.org](mailto:Lachlan@OzSky.org)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Co-Founder of 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safari; Volunteer and Board Member of Three Rivers Foundation (3RF) in Texas

Volunteer coordinator of the OzSky Star Safaris since 1993

**Professional Background:** Working for the NSW Government in Data Engineering, Analytics and Visualization during the day, Lachlan spends most of his spare time planning and co-ordinating the OzSky Star Safaris and managing the volunteer operations of 3RF Australia.

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Visual astronomy using large-aperture telescopes, with a passion for outreach & sharing astronomy with the public and showing off all the “WOW” objects (aka “Eye Candy”) in the Southern night sky, as well as dabbling in wide-field astrophotography and “NightScapes”. Also enjoy building home-made telescopes. Proud recipient of the Astronomical Society of NSW's most prestigious award, “The McNiven Medal” and has been volunteering with the OzSky Star Safari trips since co-founding it in 1993 when it was known as “Operation Pacific Storm”.

**OzSky Wish List:** I'm hoping that you'll all have the most awesome time of your life here at OzSky and that the Southern Skies (and OzSky itself) will exceed your wildest expectations!

**Observing Instruments:** Custodian of 3RF's 25" *f*/5 Obsession, 18" *f*/4.2 UC Obsession and Coronado PST plus my own 11" SCT and a 10" *f*/5.6 Home-made solid-tube Dobsonian which I built at age 16

### **TONY BUCKLEY**

**Location:** Denistone, NSW – Australia

**Email:** [TBuckley@ihug.com.au](mailto:TBuckley@ihug.com.au)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Co-Founder of 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safari; Volunteer at Three Rivers Foundation (3RF) in Texas

Volunteer coordinator of the OzSky Star Safaris since 1993

**Professional Background:** Retired Commissioner, Industrial Relations; President of the Astronomical Society of NSW for 10 consecutive years

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Visual observing using big dobsonian telescopes. Tony has been volunteering with the OzSky Star Safari trips since co-founding it in 1993 when it was known as “Operation Pacific Storm”.

**Observing Instruments:** 20" *f*/5 Obsession, 14½" *f*/7 dob, several smaller instruments





## **ANNE ADKINS**

**Location:** Limpia Crossing, Fort Davis, TX – USA

**Email:** [Anne@LimpiaGirl.com](mailto:Anne@LimpiaGirl.com)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Volunteer and Board Member of Three Rivers Foundation (3RF) in Texas, Austin Astronomical Society, Texas Star Party, Eldorado Star Party, formerly McDonald Observatory Board of Visitors; Volunteer with 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safaris since 2002, enthusiastically coordinating and attending the Deepest South Texas Star Safaris (*as we called OzSky back then*) between 2004-2009, and the OzSky "Classic" Star Safaris in 2010, 2018 and 2019. Also observed the April 2023 Total Solar Eclipse in Exmouth, Western Australia.

**Professional Background:** Freelance Volunteer. Anne is very active in numerous non-profits in Texas USA and is also heavily involved in the famous Texas Star Party. Anne has been volunteering with these trips since 2002, and coordinated the Deepest South Texas Star Safaris from 2004-2009, during which time she used her expertise to transform these OzSky events from an unstructured gathering of like-minded individuals into a highly popular "must-do" bucket-list event for amateurs around the world, applying significant improvements and successfully marketing these unique events to the wider astronomical community across Texas and the USA.

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Observational astronomy and turning kids and adults onto astronomy and the big science, set to happen on next generation 30-metre telescopes.

**Observing Instruments:** 15" and 20" Dobs, 8" Celestron

## **ANDREW MURRELL**

**Location:** Umina Beach, NSW – Australia

**Email:** [Andrew@AndrewMurrell.com.au](mailto:Andrew@AndrewMurrell.com.au)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Volunteer with 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safaris since 2004

**Professional Background:** Professional Wedding & Event Photographer

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Deep Sky Visual Astronomy with a specialty in "Faint Fuzzies" and "Horror Lists". Andrew is well known in astronomy circles, particularly following his discovery of a faint planetary nebula which has since been confirmed and named "Murrell 1"

**Observing Instruments:** Custodian of 3RF's 18"  $f/4.5$  & 25"  $f/5$  Obsessions, plus my own 10" and 20" home-made dobs

## **GARY KOPFF**

**Location:** Mt Ku-Ring Gai, NSW – Australia

**Email:** [Gary@Wildcard-Innovations.com.au](mailto:Gary@Wildcard-Innovations.com.au)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Volunteer with 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safaris 2004

**Professional Background:** Electrical Engineer - Managing Director and co-founder of Wildcard Innovations Pty Ltd and co-developer of the Argo Navis™ Digital Telescope Computer (DTC)

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Deep Sky observing and development of the Argo Navis™ Digital Telescope Computer (DTC)

**Observing Instruments:** Custodian of 3RF's 18"  $f/4.5$  Obsession

## **JOHN BAMBURY**

**Location:** Shoalhaven Heads, NSW – Australia

**Email:** [JBambury@bigpond.net.au](mailto:JBambury@bigpond.net.au)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Shoalhaven Astronomers; Volunteer with 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safaris since 2006

**Professional Background:** Finance Manager

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Visual Astronomy with a specialty in "Eye Candy" objects.

**Observing Instruments:** Custodian of 3RF's 18"  $f/4.5$  Obsession and 3RF's 14"  $f/4.5$  SDM, plus my own 2 x 10" Dobsonians





## **DAVID BATAGOL**

**Location:** Kincumber, NSW – Australia

**Email:** [DavidBatagol@hotmail.com](mailto:DavidBatagol@hotmail.com)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Volunteer with 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safaris since 2014

**Professional Background:** Doctor and father of five

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Observational astronomy with particular interests in planetary observing, and interesting galaxies. Also some forays into astro-photography

**Observing Instruments:** Custodian of 3RF's 18"  $f/4.5$  Obsession, plus my own 14½"  $f/7.5$  Newtonian reflector which I built in 2017/18. I built my first telescope at age 16



## **DONNA BURTON**

**Location:** Coonabarabran, NSW – Australia

**Email:** [Donna@Born2Fly.com.au](mailto:Donna@Born2Fly.com.au)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Astronomical Society of NSW; Volunteer with 3RF Australia and the OzSky Star Safari. Volunteer with 3RF and the OzSky Star Safaris since 2013

**Professional Background:** Flying instructor, passionate amateur astronomer, and post-graduate student at the University of Southern Queensland

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Comet Hunting, Sidewalk Astronomy, Extra-Solar Planets and "Spotty Stars"

**Observing Instruments:** Custodian of 3RF's 12"  $f/5$  binocular telescope



## **MATT BIELSKI**

**Location:** Niles, MI – USA

**Email:** [ski82566@gmail.com](mailto:ski82566@gmail.com)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Michiana Astronomical Society; Andrews University Astronomy Club; Volunteer with the OzSky Star Safaris since March 2023

Enthusiastic participant at OzSky "Classic" in 2018, 2019, 2023 (and now 2024); OzSky "Alumni" in 2022, 2023 (and again, later in 2024)

**Professional Background:** Service Manager (Mechanical Contractor)

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Deep Sky general interest; I also enjoy challenge lists, right now I'm working on the Herschel 2500 list after completing the Herschel I Herschel II and Herschel III lists.

**Observing Instruments:** 16" Meade Lightbridge



## **VELLO TABUR**

**Location:** Wanniasa, ACT – Australia

**Email:** [Vello@pcug.org.au](mailto:Vello@pcug.org.au)

**Astronomical Affiliations:** Canberra Astronomical Society; Volunter with the OzSky Star Safaris since March 2023

**Professional Background:** Computer Science & Astrophysics

**Previous Trips South:** I live here in Oz, and have been to five previous OzSky Star Safaris: OzSky "Classic" 2018, 2019 and 2023 (and now 2024!); plus OzSky "Alumni" 2022 and 2023 (and again, later in 2024)

**Astronomy Pursuits:** Observing deep-sky objects & comets, and writing astronomical software to support those interests

**Observing Instruments:** 18" Obsession Classic

**OzSky Wish List:** Clear skies, good company and fun!