



2026 OzSky "CLASSIC" STAR SAFARI

COSMIC JOURNEYS

AN ASTRONOMER'S TRAVELOGUE

MATT BIELSKI

www.OzSky.org

Cosmic Journeys :

An astronomers travelogue

By Matt Bielski





MY COSMIC JOURNEYS

- Jasper Pulaski – Michigan
- Bootleg – Illinois
- Okie-Tex Star Party – Oklahoma
- Nebraska Star Party (NSP) – Nebraska
- Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC) – Arizona
- OzSky “Alumni” Star Safari – Crooked Corner / Markdale, Australia
- OzSky “Classic” Star Safari – Coonabarabran, Australia





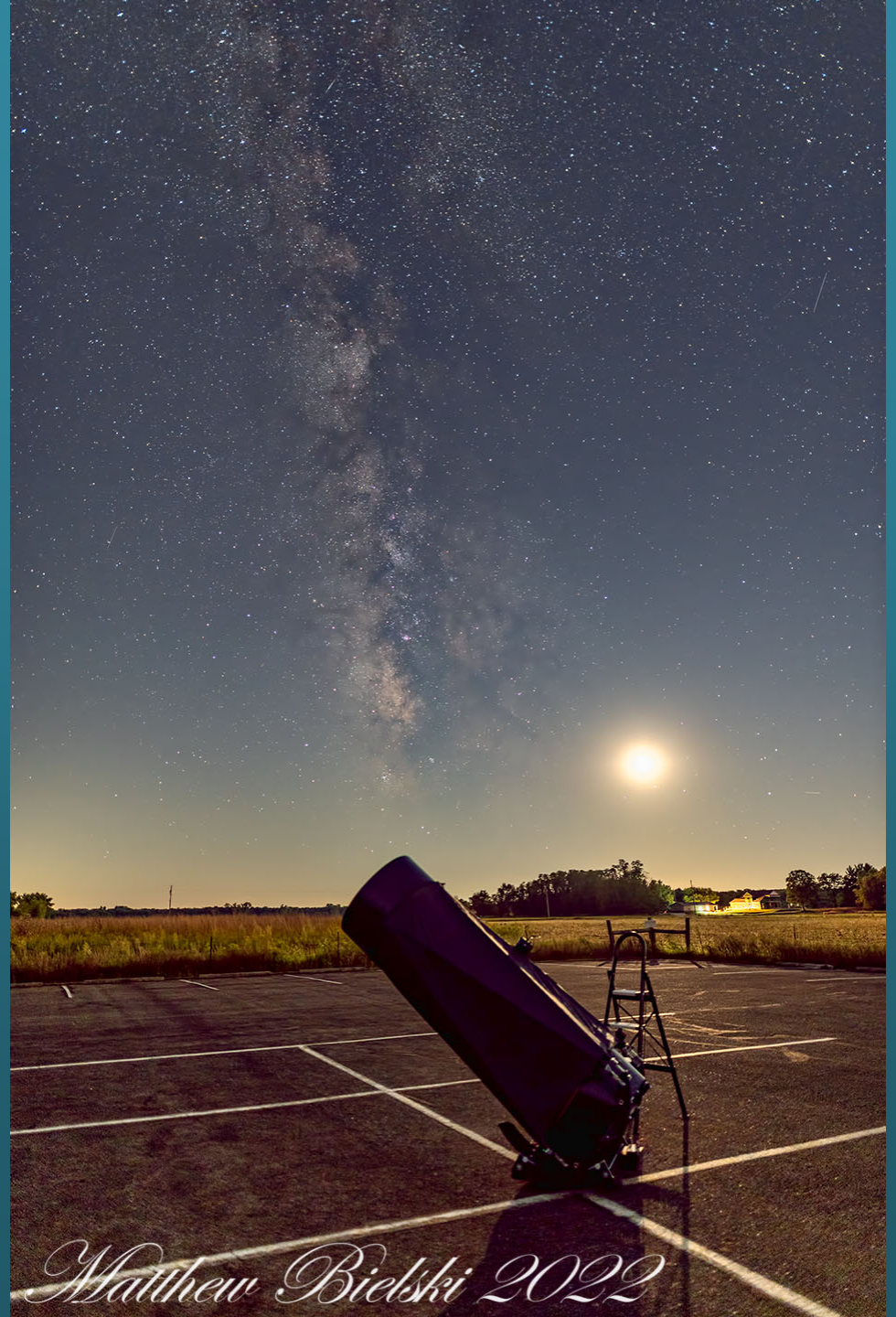
JASPER-PULASKI WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Located approximately an hour south of Michigan City
- Off of Hwy 421 at 1650W and 550N
- Setup: in the sandhill crane observation parking lot
- Cost: free
- Camping: NO (absolutely no camping)
- Facilities: **off sight.** (Bathrooms at ranger station)
- Electric/water: No
- Sky: clear to the south. Slight light dome to the northwest from powerplant.
- Tree line to the east
- SQM readings 20.9 - 21.3









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BOOTLEG STAR PARTY

- Located at Greene river state wildlife area 375 game rd. Harmon Ill
- approximately 6 miles north of Ohio Illinois off of ill rt 26
- Setup: in either the gravel lot or grassy camping area
- Cost: \$35 for a 3 night star party (includes camping and raffle)
- Camping: YES primitive
- Facilities: permanent chemical toilet (flush toilet across road behind ranger station)
- Showers 20 min south and 15 min north at truck stops
- Electric/water: No electric (water hand pump for non potable water)
- Sky: slight hinderance from flashing red lights on surrounding wind turbines
- Clear to south, large tree to the west, and tree lines to the east and north
- SQM reading 21.0 – 21.4





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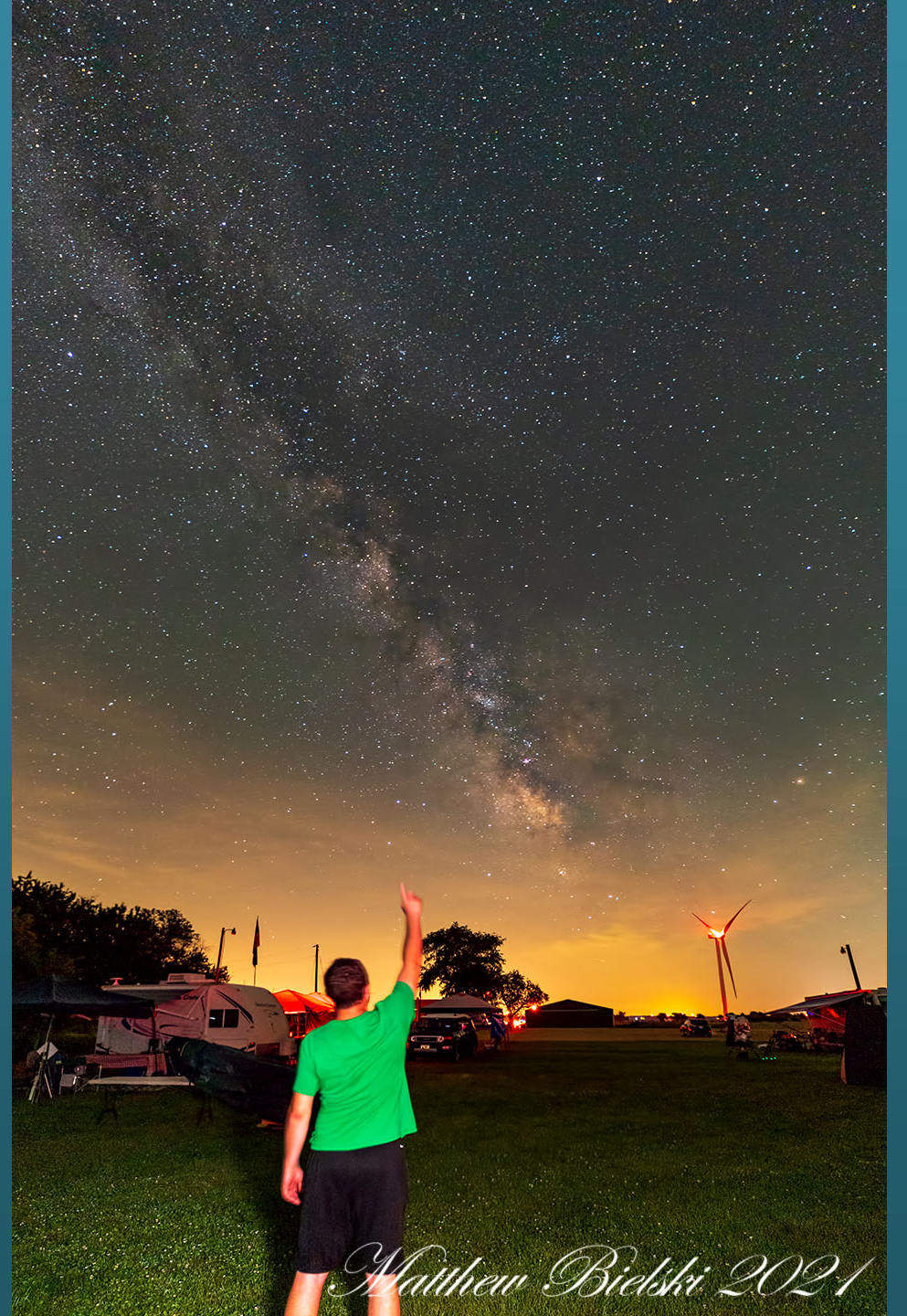
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OKIE-TEX STAR PARTY

- Located at camp Billy Joe southeast of Kenton Oklahoma (off of OK 325 approx. 2 mi from New Mexico)
- Setup: designated camping areas
- Cost: \$100 for a 7 day star party
- Camping: YES primitive (electric for astronomy rigs only)
- Facilities: bathrooms and shower houses, dining hall and meeting room.
- Meals \$10, \$12, \$16 (midnight café also)
- Electric/water: electric for Astro rigs only, water at bath houses
- Sky: mesas to the west and south, (dry conditions 4,400 ft altitude)
- SQM: 21.53 – 21.68



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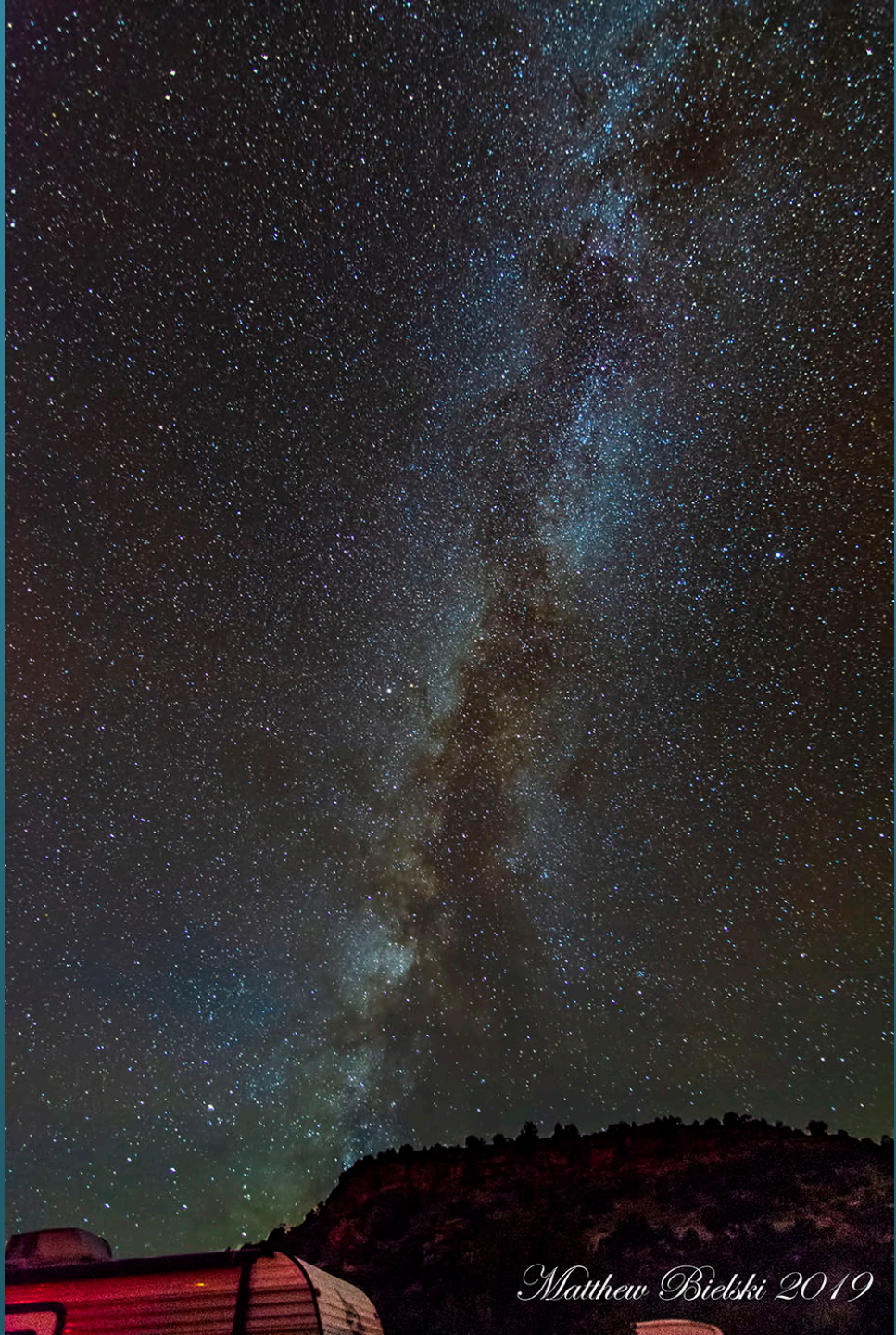
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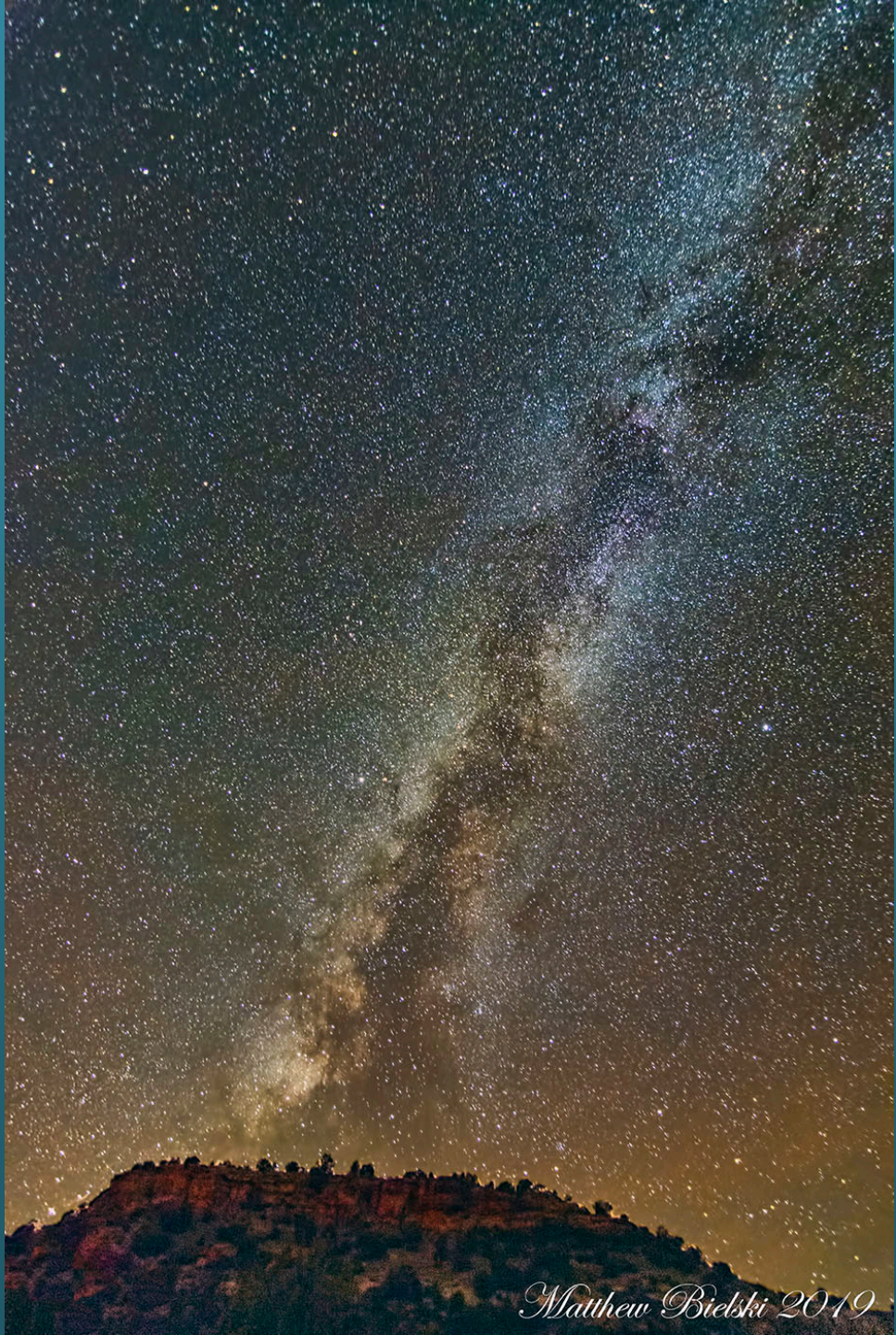
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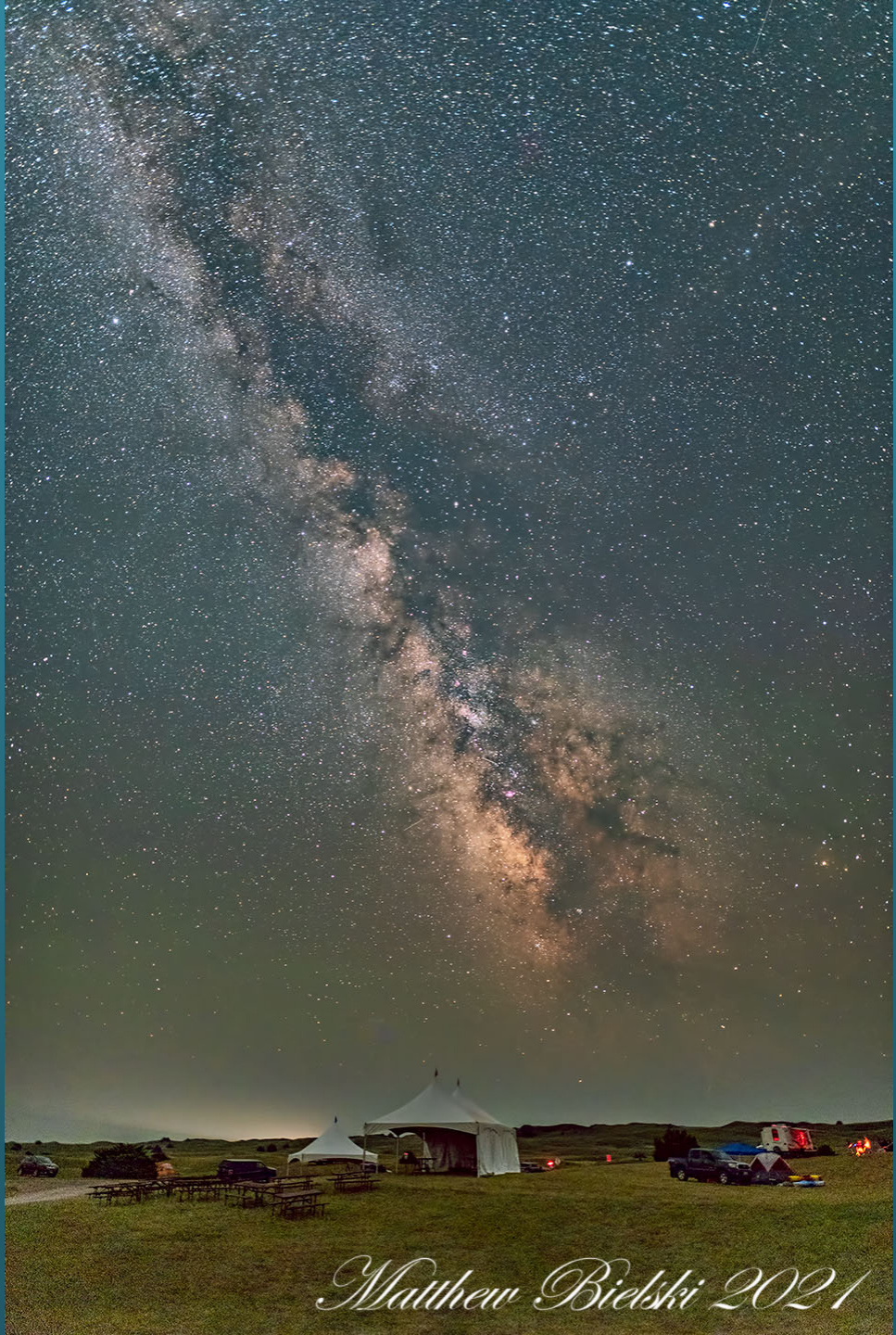
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NEBRASKA STAR PARTY

- Located 23 miles south of Valentine NE on hwy 97... the star party is held at Snake River camp grounds south of Merritt reservoir.
- Setup: any mowed area (huge acreage to setup on) you can also setup on designated camp sights in trees at the reservoir.
- Cost: \$50 for 7 day star party (you will also need an out of state park permit \$60) there is also a per night camping fee \$15
- Camping: YES primitive on site (electric and water hookups off site 10 min drive)
- Facilities: permanent chemical toilet and port-o-pots (showers off site 10 min drive \$1.50) food tent for meals (\$16 dinner selected evenings only)
- Beginners school and programs in Valentine high school 35 min drive
- Electric/water: NO (YES off site 10 min drive)
- Sky: clear horizon all directions approx. 3,000 elevation
- SQM: 21.77 – 21.97 (DARK!)





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CHIRICAHUA ASTRONOMY COMPLEX

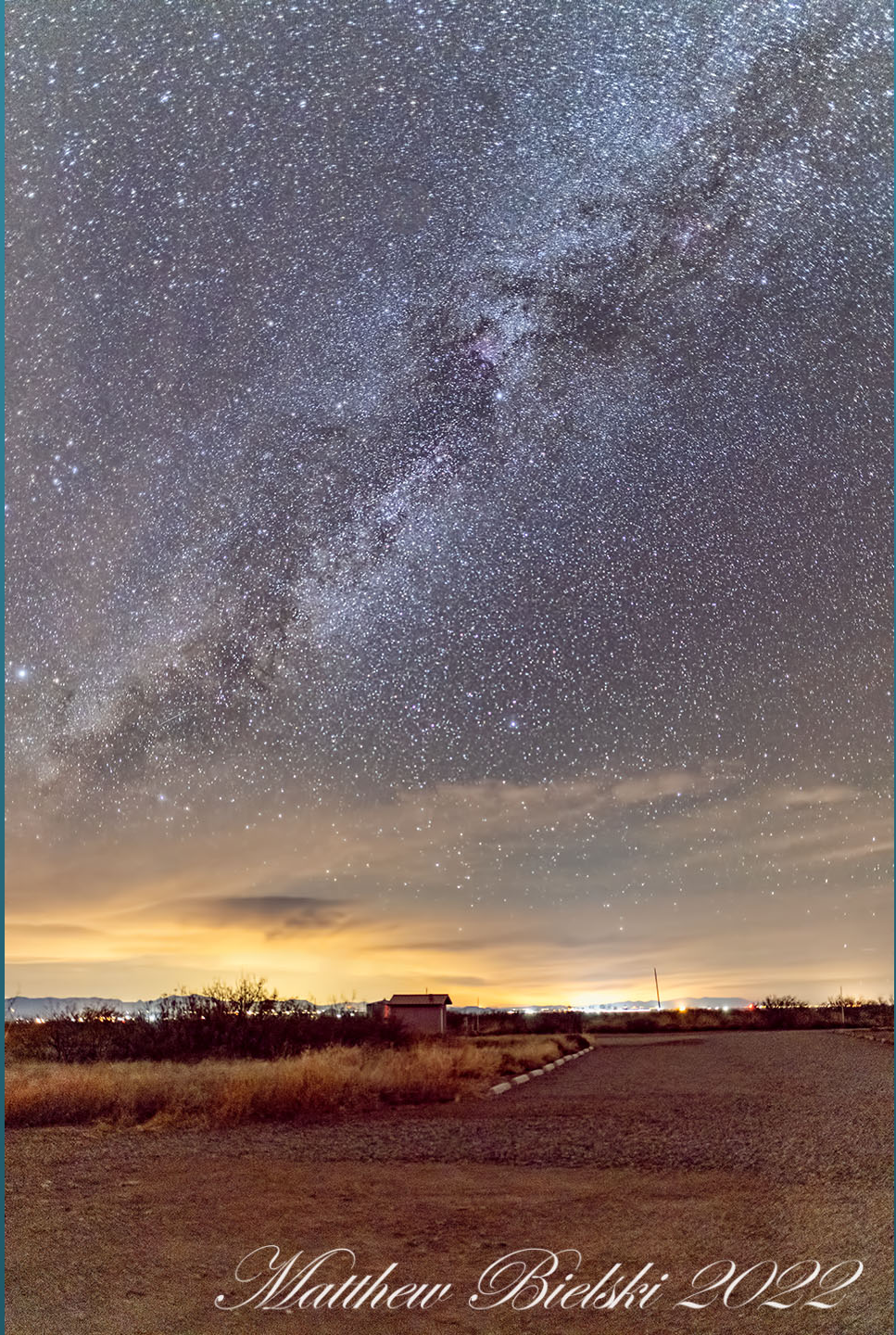
- Located approximately 110 miles south east of Tucson AZ (site is for Tucson area astronomy club members only... anyone can join)
- Setup: concrete pads can be reserved and have electric and internet. RV area with electric hookup. Primitive camping area available, there are bunk houses with a/c and heat for rent also.
- Cost: membership \$30 yr RV 30 amp \$10/night, RV 50 amp \$15/night, warming room cot \$5/night, private room with two beds \$25/night
- Camping: YES electric (primitive also)
- Facilities: warming room, snacks, bottled water, coffee, and hot chocolate... microwave available, shower and flush toilets.
- Electric/water: yes
- Sky: clear horizon all around, slight light dome to the southeast from Agua Prieta Mexico 4800 ft elevation low humidity
- SQM: 21.65 – 21.78







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OZSKY ALUMNI STAR SAFARI

CROOKED CORNER, AUSTRALIA

- Located about 3 hours drive southwest of Sydney this event is held at 6,000-acre sheep station near Crooked Corner NSW - usually Held in September / October / November. Limited to 12-16 attendees
- Setup: all equipment supplied 18", 20" and 25" scopes, eyepieces, equipped with Argo Navis
- Cost: \$1,345 AUD (\$950 USD) this includes accommodations 7-night star party
- Camping: NO
- Facilities: Two stone cottages and one Shearers' Quarters - full efficiency, private and shared bedrooms, microwave, oven, stove, fridge and freezer, coffee pots. Hot showers and flush toilets. Full common area kitchen and common living area
- Electric/water: must have Australian adapter to charge devices
- Sky: scopes set up on flat grass tennis court and are shared among attendees
- slight obstructions around court low to horizon
- SQM: 21.58 – 21.85





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OZSKY CLASSIC STAR SAFARI

COONABARABRAN, AUSTRALIA

- Located near Coonabarabran, a 5hr train ride to Dubbo, where the train tracks end! Then you rent a car, from there its a 2hr car ride to Coona, the event is held at the Warrumbungles Mountain Motel, and limited to 36 observers – it's held in March or April each year
- Setup: all equipment is supplied, scopes from 14" to 25" equipped with Argo Navis are shared, eyepieces are supplied also.
- Cost: \$645 AUD (\$450 USD) 7-night star party plus \$135 AUD/night (\$100 USD) for room private or shared, shared rooms cost is split among those in the room.
- Camping: Limited availability
- Facilities: limited private rooms and shared rooms, full efficiency, microwave, oven, stove, fridge and freezer, coffee pots. Hot showers and flush toilets in each room, meeting room common dining area and dinners to order are available each day, if ordered in advance.
- Electric/water: must have Australian adapter to charge devices
- Sky: slight light dome from Coonabarabran a few trees towards rooms
- SQM: 21.7 – 21.89





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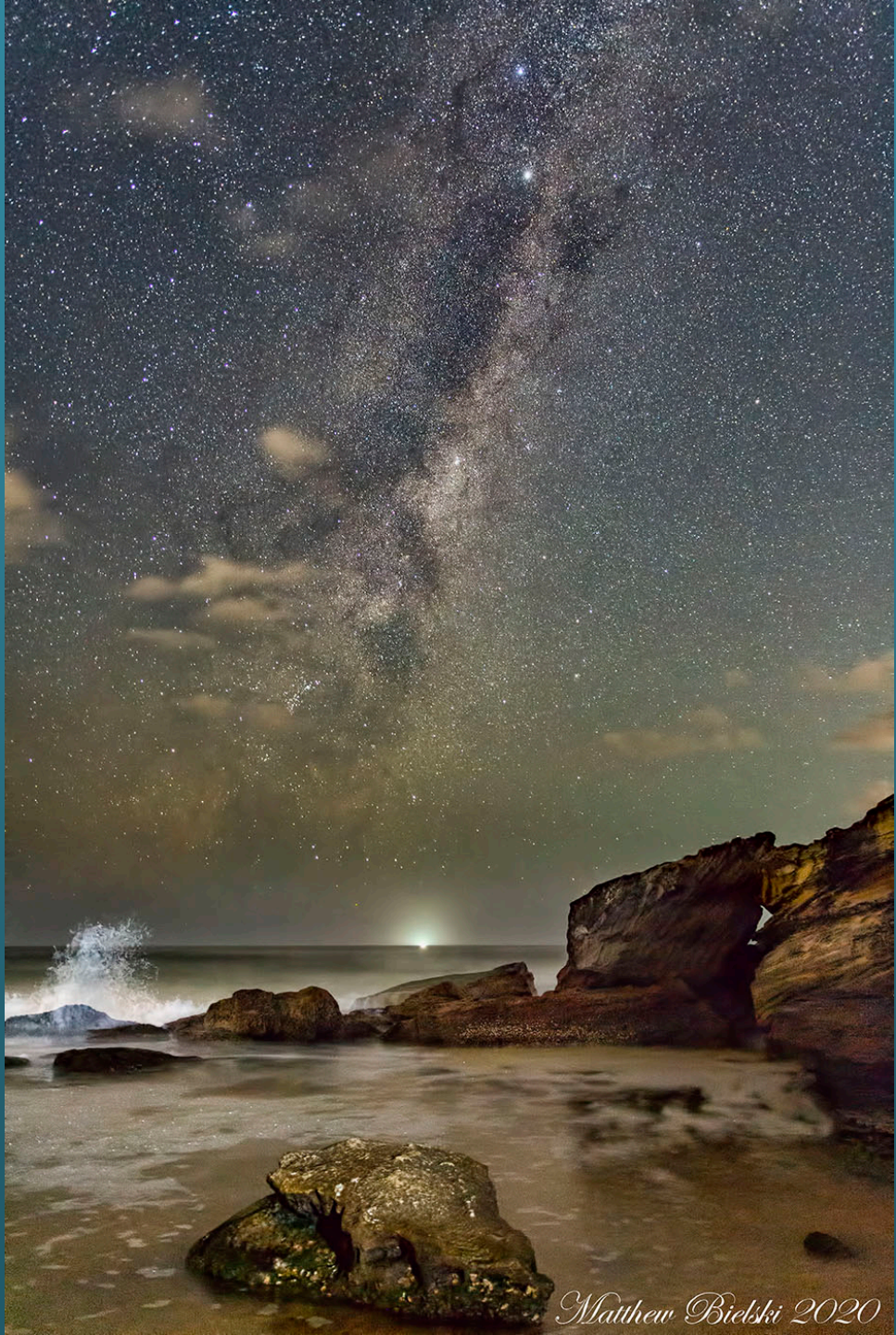
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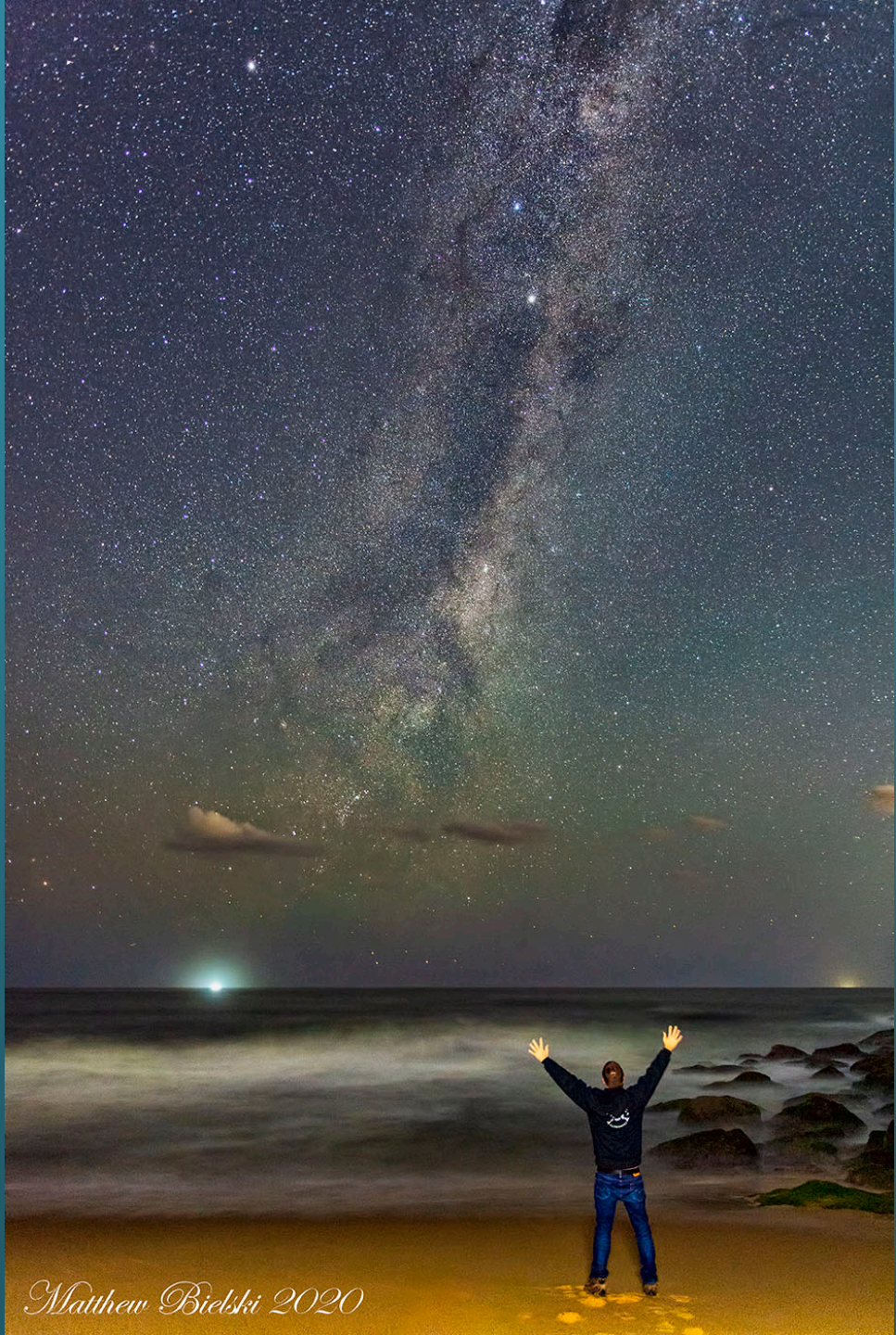




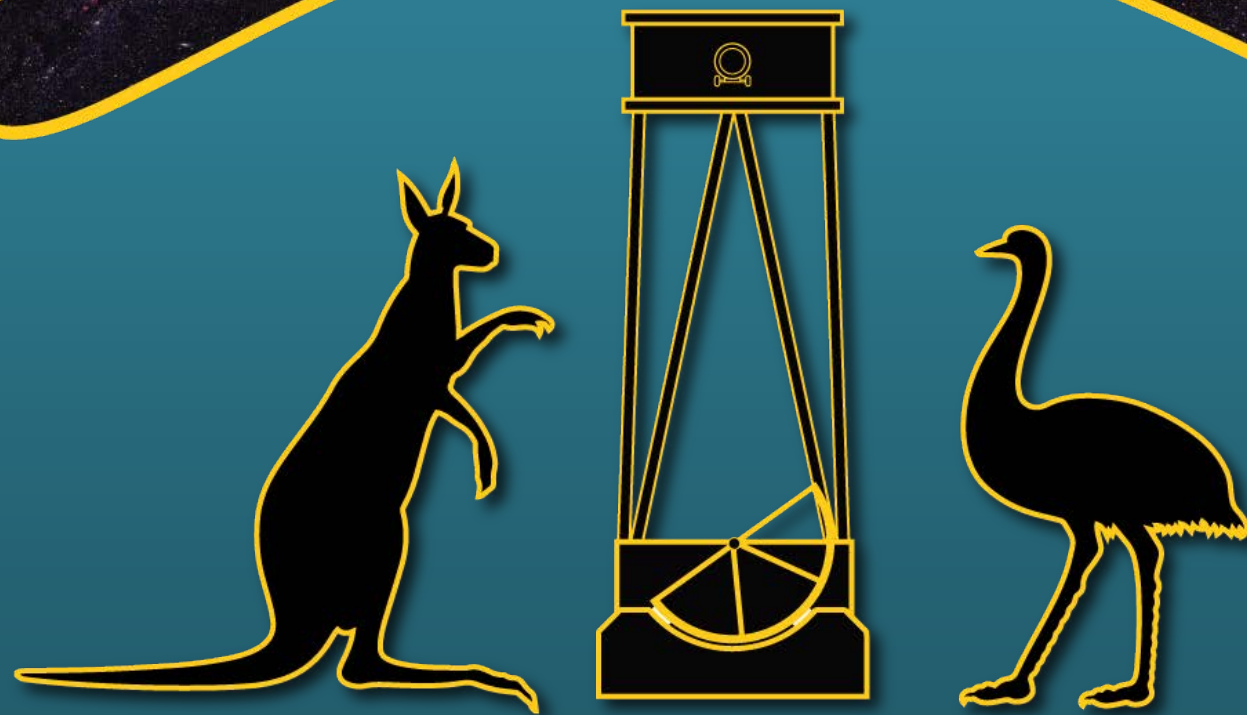




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