

## **ROCC Talk Report**

### **ROCC Annual Meeting**

**12-8-22**

**Kate Kellogg**

We had one ROCC Talk this year, the Dark Skies Event and Star Party at TOP September 16. Val Szwarc organized it in cooperation with the Black Canyon Astronomical Society. About 35 people, both members and non-members attended.

At our last business meeting, members suggested that we organize at least a few ROCC Talks per year since those events further ROCC's mission of educating the public on topics of general interest.

We discussed the possibility of resurrecting the popular Living with Wildlife series that Sara Coulter organized some ten years or more ago. The Living with Wildlife talks featured experts on various animal species native to Colorado including bear, mountain lion, beavers and raptors. The speakers would discuss those animals' behavior, species health, and sometimes need for protection. Rein Van West and I hope to speak with Sara about ideas for wildlife talks and speakers.

A related topic is prevention of wildlife/vehicle collisions and eliminating obstructions to migration routes. What are state agencies doing in that area? Governor Polis signed the bill, "Safe Crossings for Colorado Wildlife and Motorists Act" in June. The legislation provides funding for projects that create safe road crossings (both over and under) and habitat connectivity for wildlife. It directs CDOT to consult with CO Parks and Wildlife and the CO Wildlife and Transportation Alliance about disbursement of the money.

I'd like to know if anything has come of that new law yet and what projects are being planned. A ROCC Talk on this issue could involve the Public Lands Committee.