

AUGUST 21, 2017 SOLAR ECLIPSE

I am fortunate to be able to travel around the country and this time was no exception. The eclipse was on my list.

I left Nipomo, Calif., headed east and north towards Idaho Falls Idaho.

I expected a lot of traffic and delays but I had a plan in place. I stayed in Salt Lake City Utah on Sunday night and headed north early Monday morning towards Idaho Falls. I had a three hour trip to get where I wanted to be with an hour extra just in case. Why everyone wanted to turn off in Idaho Falls I don't know but what a mess in that area. I knew that I could go further north and still be in the totality area. I drove about five miles and took a turn off where there was a gas station/store. I WASN'T ALONE. Seems other people had the same idea. Never the less I went down the road a few blocks and found a driveway going to a grain processing company. I backed up to the gate, got out my tripod and camera and got ready. I had 45 minutes till the eclipse started so I just hung out and watched everyone getting out chairs/umbrellas and such. The party had started.

Watching an eclipse is like waiting for paint to dry. It takes a long time. Minute by minute the moon did its thing until a small sliver of the sun was left. I took pictures from start to just after the sun started showing again. I had to keep adjusting my camera shutter speed and f/stop to keep the right amount of light coming in and for the first time doing this it actually worked.

BANG IT WAS DARK!! I MEAN DARK.

The stars were shining and all that was showing from the sun was the ring of fire. It was the most amazing thing I have ever seen for sure. For just over a minute the total lasted then the moon moved out of the way. All of a sudden when the sun started showing again it was like

massive day light. You needed sun glasses just because of the brightness not even looking at the sun. I think all of that sun light had been stored up and sent back to us. I took a couple of pictures of the aftermath then said it's time to beat the crowds. I hit the highway and headed north to my next stop.

I have seem partials before and they are cool but seeing a total is something that is hard to explain. You may have missed this one but there will be others. There is actually a total solar eclipse on this planet every 18 months. You just have to do some traveling to see it. And there are people that do just that by chartering planes to follow the moon blocking the sun. But don't delay. The moon is moving away from the earth and in 650 million years from now there will be no more total eclipses. The moon will be there, the sun will be there but the moon won't block out the sun totally.

Guess I'll take that one off my list.

KD7AAT