



# Lights in the Sky!

review by John Dennis

The Aurora Borealis have been seen in magazines, videos and even from above in satellite photos, but stereographs of them are rare at best. Those attending last year's Stereo Theater at the NSA

## Prelude Lake

by Bryan Rich White, Nitescapes 3-D Publishing 2008.

ISBN 978-0-9820149-0-5 Hardback, 12.25" x 12.25", 167 pages, 75 color stereoviews, 75 color enlargements.

Includes lorgnette viewer and music CD by Jonn Serrie. \$64.95 from Nitescapes 3-D Publishing, [www.preludelake.com](http://www.preludelake.com)  
PO Box 631280, Highlands Ranch, CO 80163-1280.

convention in Grand rapids were treated to the show "Nightscapes 3-D" by Byran White that included stereos of comets

Hyakutake and Hale-Bopp as well as several Aurora Borealis views taken in Yellowknife, NWT Canada. Now those Northern Lights stereographs and many more are available as full size views in White's book *Prelude Lake*, Volume one in a promised Nitescapes 3-D series.

Taken at Prelude Lake on the Ingram Trail (of the History Channel's "Ice Road Truckers" fame) near Yellowknife, these views were taken with a pair of Olympus OM2 cameras, mostly using Fuji Provia

film. Foregrounds of trees, snow banks or rocks are included in every image, with separations ranging from nine to twelve inches and exposures from 20 to 40 seconds. Illuminated by light from the auroras, the trees and snow provide an earthly anchor and multiple planes of depth for a dramatic visual experience. Each of the book's 75 stereos is accompanied by an enlarged (10" x 6.5") half on a facing page, with some blown up even larger on the 12" x 12" pages for maximum impact of the sky-filling lights.

I suppose those with only a minor interest in the Aurora Borealis could find the views repetitive, but each one is really quite different (representing an infinite

*(Continued on page 23)*

*"Northern Lights fill the arctic sky" from page 162 of Prelude Lake by Bryan R. White. Trees near Yellowknife, some made ghostly in this hyperstereo time exposure, frame stars and the multicolored Aurora Borealis © 2008 Nitescapes 3-D*

nitescapes 3-D



Northern Lights fill the arctic sky  
Prelude Lake, NWT - March 2004 - #75  
Bryan Rich White

nitescapes 3-D



Northern Lights fill the arctic sky  
Prelude Lake, NWT - March 2004 - #75  
Bryan Rich White

## Lights in the Sky! (Continued from page 19)

variety of constantly changing patterns), with those reproduced in the book a tiny fraction of the over 4,000 stereos of the lights the author has taken in recent years. Naturally, the slight hyperstereo effect provided by the separation used doesn't affect the sheets and swirls of light themselves. Capturing those in effective stereo would require synchronized cameras separated by at least 1.5 to 2 miles as the lights are about 50 miles up, and in most cases far off toward the horizon requiring even greater separation. We can hope that a later expedition involving a larger crew and radio contact between volunteers aiming wide lenses at interesting formations above open areas will lead to a later book in the series.

Bands of light in yellows, greens and reds are seen through and above the trees in nearly every imaginable combination of color and pattern in every direction. (In Yellowknife, you can point your cameras south and get as dramatic a light show as looking north.) The curtains of light reaching far beyond the coverage of the widest angle lenses are impressive enough, but some narrow to single, twisting shafts of light like glowing tornados sweeping through the woods. Others appear to hug the horizon, brighter at the bottom. When these are red, the impression is that of a distant volcano seen through the forest. Most amazing of all are the huge spiral or loop formations that fill the sky, as well as the intriguing gaps in otherwise solid curtains of light

through which the stars of the clear night sky can be seen. One loop formation takes the shape of a perfect lasso, the ghost rider holding the other end of the rope invisible somewhere over the pole.

A lorgnette viewer is included in a pocket in the heavy back cover, but below that is a first for a book of stereoscopic images. The music from the soundtrack of the digital projection show is included on a CD for listening while you leaf through the book! It's from the album *Century Seasons* by Jonn Serrie, a Grammy nominated composer of electronic music whose work has been heard on the Discovery channel, PBS, and in the Hayden Planetarium and an IMAX film of Hubble images. The description "space music" was used in the

*(Continued on page 26)*

## Lights in the Sky! (Continued from page 23)

publisher's ad in a recent issue of *Stereo World*. For me, playing the CD while viewing the stereos didn't quite provide the same impact that the music had in a darkened auditorium with the images on a large screen, but it may enhance the book experience for some people - especially wearing headphones. (I know that certain music can acquire an uncanny and very subjective association with specific images. For some unknown reason, a view of Creede, Colorado in 1938

on a Tru-View filmstrip is solidly linked in my head with the tune "A Tribute to the Philosophy of James Estell Bradley" on the album *It Takes A Year* by guitarist William Ackerman. Go figure.)

At just over one foot square with 167 coated pages, *Prelude Lake* more than qualifies as an elegant and unique coffee table book. It needs adequate space and light for viewing, but the reward is well worth the effort. 📖