

Interview with Boris Zepeda, La Serena, Chile
nPAE World Champion Astro Photographer 2020



nPAE
PRECISION ASTRO ENGINEERING

To celebrate winning the nPAE World Champion Astro Photographer 2020 award we are pleased to present this exclusive interview with Boris Zepeda!

After winning the Southern Hemisphere title, his Pink Floyd “Grito Galactico” image was voted the best in a head to head vote against the Northern Hemisphere winner: The Jelly Fish Nebula.



Here in his own words Boris tells us about his own journey and experiences in astrophotography!

nPAE – Hi Boris, thanks so much for taking part in this interview!

Boris - Hello greetings. Thank you for everything, I am super happy to have been able to participate and even more so to have been crowned champion of the southern hemisphere.

nPAE – When did you start photographing the night sky?

Boris - I am very new to astrophotography but the cosmos has always been my passion. Since I was a child, I always observed the magazines with images of the stars and when I could see a documentary I did not miss it. I have always been attracted to the night sky and since I was a child I only observe by eye . Lunar eclipses were my favourites.

nPAE – What is your favourite astronomical object and why?

Boris - My favourite object is the galactic center to be able to capture all that area I love it transmits a lot of energy. Already deep sky I love Orion Nebula M42.

nPAE – Where do you like to observe / photograph the most, what is good about this place?

Boris - My favourite place for observing and taking astrophotographs is without a doubt La Chupalla in the Andacollo commune, Coquimbo region, Chile. The good thing about this sector is its great field of vision and its quality is in Bortle 3. In the region of Coquimbo there are very good skies, therefore large telescopes are located here. But there are also large mountains, which sometimes limit the vision due to little aperture, however, in La Chupalla that does not happen.

nPAE – With what equipment do you photograph?

Boris – I have a Canon eos rebel t6 camera with 18-55mm lens kit, plus a telescope for astrophotography entry level, iOptron Smart cube II ER 80mm

nPAE – Talk us through some of your favourite images.

This panoramic image of the church was submitted to the Monte Patria natural beauty contest in the clean skies category, where I obtained the first place in my category.

Image made in the commune of Monte patria in Mialqui town where this beautiful church is and in the company of my son Edson Zepeda. We made this beautiful panorama, where the church was artificially lit with a small telephone torch to show its architecture plus the environment.

It somehow immortalizes it in time. Chile being a seismic country, these structures no longer resist so many earthquakes.

Also shows the very good night skies of the Limarí valley.

Canon eos rebel t6 camera 18-55mm
Composition
5 vertical lights 18mm F3.5
20s of exposure
Iso 3200



GALAXIA ANDROMEDA

On the other hand,
with my small 80mm
iOptron Smart cube II
ER astrophotography
telescope, I have been
able to take deep sky.

This image of the
Andromeda galaxy is
part of my work.

Taking place: La
Chupalla Region of
Coquimbo, Chile
Telescope equipment
already mentioned
plus Canon EOS rebel
t6 camera.

94 lights from 29s
exposure
ISO 800
Stacked in sequator
Processed in
Photoshop
No calibration taps

Boris Zepeda Tabilo



Image made in the Chupalla region of Coquimbo, Chile.

Canon EOS rebel t6 camera lens kit 18-55mm.

1 light horizontal to 18 mm F3.5

20s of exposure

ISO 3200

I like to play with the shadows and also incorporated the companion that on that occasion a cousin, stood on the rock with a small flashlight and in the background the center of the Milky Way

nPAE – Wow! Tell us a little more about your life and journey as an astrophotographer.

Boris - That was how since the end of 2018 I began to connect in a different way thanks to social networks, I was observing works of astrophotographers and little by little I felt that the stars and all celestial objects were captured by normal people and that they should not be in NASA or organizations linked to astronomy but natural people like me.

Time passed and little by little I understood that it was complex but not impossible. And more and more attracted, I felt I knew some astrotourism observatories in the vicuña region of Coquimbo, to my amazement, it was that what I observed for years by eye, was just what the guide indicated, that caught my attention and I realized that I was on the right way, the heavens are my thing.

Later 2019, I participated in an event where the starry sky astrophotography section would be held where I already met the photographers who would be there through social networks. That is how at that event I met professionals on the subject and we generated very good ties that last today. Already in 2019 I was able to acquire a reflex camera (Canon eos rebel t6) and I started with my tests and step by step the results were getting better and better, it was not easy but trial and error you get to know the equipment and supported with the editing software images get better. With some little knowledge, I was invited to participate in an astrophotography contest where I got a honourable mention and it was very nice that they recognized me after a few months of practice. Later I got to know more professionals and participated in star lights events in the La Higuera district where I was invited as part of the team of astrophotographers that would carry out the event. And so later with the team we started a group of astrophotographers, physics and astronomy professionals called "Astrocoquimbo", a great team where excellent people and high-level professionals participate and I, a humble man who is fond of the cosmos.

This passion is beautiful but it has a high cost in the equipment and my income does not give to be able to have the ideal equipment, but there are ways to acquire capital by applying for funds from the Chilean state and in 2019 I participated in an organization called Fosis where They supported ventures in the run-up to the total eclipse Chile 2019. That's how I acquired my little wonder iOptron Smart cube II ER 80mm Telescope, with which I made astrophotography of the eclipse. This was my beginning to this astro world. Shortly after I was invited to participate in another astrophotography contest, Monte patria cielos lindo, where I obtained first place in my category Until the invitation to this great contest arrived at an international level, At the beginning I had a lot of nerve to be competing with great astrophotographers, but hey I had to test my skills and love for the skies and be able to transmit my love for astrophotography.

nPAE – What advice do you have for aspiring astro photographers?

Boris - My best advice for a good astrophotography is before taking the shot, know very well the area where the photos will be taken to avoid accidents since the photos will be with little or no lighting, be accompanied, be able to imagine the framing and look for the expression that you want to give the image.

nPAE – What was your inspiration for the Grito Galactico shot?

Boris - My inspiration from Pink Floyd GALACTIC Scream was instantaneous when I saw the image after the shot to take the shot, it was for me impressive to see the framing and instantly the image of Pink Floyd (The wall) came to mind where there is a face raising a cry to heaven ... that's how the name came out. And well, the quality of the sky in the La Chupalla sector helped this beautiful image. I am also a lover of the Pink Floyd band.

nPAE – What's it like being world champion?

Boris - What has undoubtedly overshadowed me being world champion is the amazing the feeling of success and own achievements ... at that moment I thought about the first time that Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo won their first Golden Boot ... I think I felt the same or even better.

That daring today makes me very happy and with great pride I can say I am "WORLD CHAMPION".

TOTAL THANKS nPAE.

