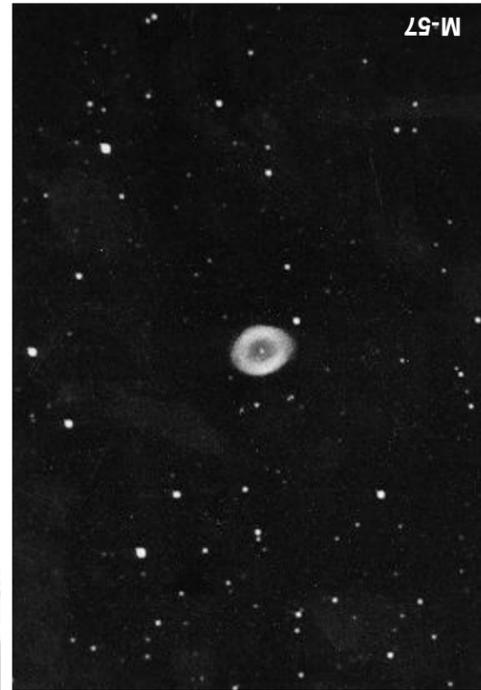




WNCC Foundation (WNAS)  
2201 West College Parkway  
Carson City, NV 89703



## Events Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
July						1	2 Star Party
	3	4	5	6 New Moon	7	8	9 Star Party
	10	11	12	13	14 First Qtr. Moon	15	16 Star Party <b>Novice Class</b>
	17	18	19	20 <b>Bd Of Gov Mtg</b>	21 Full Moon, <b>WNAS Mtg</b>	22	23 Star Party
	24	25	26	27 Last Qtr. Moon	28	29	30 Star Party
	31						
August		1	2	3	4 New Moon	5	6 Star Party
	7	8 Neptune @ Opposition	9	10	11 Perseids Meteor Showers	12 First Qtr. Moon, Perseids	13 Star Party Perseids, Novice Class
	14	15	16	17 <b>Bd of Gov Mtg</b>	18 <b>OPS Mtg</b>	19 Full Moon	20 Star Party
	21	22	23	24	25	26 Last Qtr. Moon	27 Star Party
	29	30	31				

### Dates to Remember:

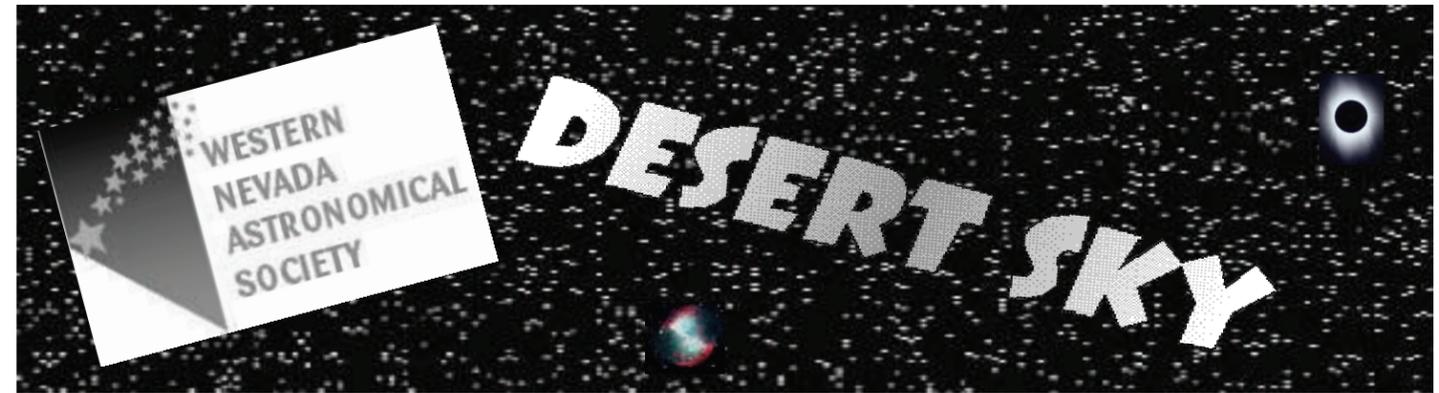
#### July, 2005

6th New Moon, 05:04  
14th First Quarter Moon, 08:21  
16th Novice Training class, 1 hour before dark, open to all.  
21st Full Moon, (Thunder or Hay Moon) 04:01  
21st General WNAS MTG  
27th Last Quarter Moon, 20:20

#### July 21st WNAS General Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.

#### August, 2005

4th New Moon, 20:06  
8th Neptune @ Opposition  
11th - 13th Perseid Showers  
12th First Quarter Moon, 19:40  
13th Novice Training class, 1 hour before dark, open to all.  
19th Full Moon (Grain Moon) 10:55  
26th Last Quarter Moon, 08:19



Volume 4, Number 4

July/August 2005

## Message to the Membership

We are now in the most enjoyable months for viewing the night sky. The number of Saturday night star party visitors has increased with the warmer weather and clearer skies. This is an ideal time to bring up the family and friends to learn about the night sky and the many wonders of our universe.

During July evenings the central bulge of the Milky Way or also known on star charts as the GC (galactic center) is as high as it can be in the southern sky from our latitude. This area also know for the constellation Sagittarius, has many wonderful sights to see, including rich star clouds, nebulas, globular clusters and the famous Teapot asterism. Jupiter is still prominent in the southwest at dusk and will remain in view for the rest of July. Mars is also becoming exciting to view this month, it begins it's rise at the midnight hour and will slowly find its way to opposition in November.

August is one of the pleasantest months for viewing and is full of wonderful sights. Besides the rich views of the Milky Way, the Summer Triangle is high in the night sky, Mars is rising as early as 10:30 pm and Neptune will be at opposition on the 8th. The moon sets early enough on the 12th for fine views of the Perseid meteor shower in the early pre-dawn hours. If you happen out in those predawn hours, look east and see the first glimpses of approaching winter, Orion.

## Jack C. Davis Observatory to hold Novice Observer Training

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered "what is that bright object"? Do you have a telescope that you have no idea how to use? Have you been thinking about buying a telescope, but don't know what to buy or even what questions to ask? You are not alone and you have a resource right here in Carson City.

Volunteers of the WNAS will be holding seminars and providing one on one training for novices to help you feel more confident with equipment, orient you to the night sky, and hopefully, jump start a hobby that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

The Jack C. Davis Observatory at 2699 Van Patten Ave. in Carson City (behind the Western Nevada Community College) is open to the public every Saturday night, but on July 16<sup>th</sup>, Aug 13<sup>th</sup>, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, and Oct 8<sup>th</sup> about 1 hour before dark, they will be specifically addressing the novices issues. Bring your telescope or just your curiosity and prepare to be introduced to a fascinating hobby that just might excite your imagination. (This was part of a press release to the local papers)

### Inside the Newsletter

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WNAS web site:  
<http://western-Nevada-astronomical-society.com>

## Ask Jack

This is the memberships column to ask questions about WNAS activities, the JCD Observatory and the field of Astronomy. Please submit questions to the Editor at [www.zapkgbg@msn.com](mailto:www.zapkgbg@msn.com) or at the next WNAS membership meeting on **July 21**.

**Q: In reference to the planets, what is meant by “Superior” and “Inferior?”**

These are terms to describe the position of the planets in relation to the earth and the sun. Superior planets are those with orbits beyond that of the Earth, that would be Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Inferior planets are those with orbits inside that of Earth, that would be only Mercury and Venus. This question brings up one interesting term that you will often hear when observing the moon and the inferior planets with a telescope, “phases!” The moon has it’s obvious phases that we can all readily observe with the naked eye - new, crescent, half, gibbous and full. The inferior planets also show phases from a slender crescent to a fully illuminated disk when observed through a telescope. Only two of the superior planets will show any perceptible phase, Mars will show quite a marked gibbous phase and Jupiter a very slight gibbous phase. Planets beyond Jupiter will show no discernable phase.

**Q: What is meant by “Opposition and “Superior Conjunction”** If you look at the monthly calendar for August you will see that Neptune is at opposition on the 8th! What that means for amateur astronomers is that Neptune is now at its closest to Earth, opposite the sun in relation to Earth and its the best night of the year to take a look at it through a telescope. Many people and probably WNAS members don’t realize that Neptune is a fairly easy target for telescopes. Neptune appears green/ bluish color in telescopes and has few other noticeable features, it does have rings and moons that are not observable from Earth. Inferior planets never reach opposition because they are inside Earth’s orbit. Superior conjunction applies to all the planets and this is simply when a planet is farthest from the Earth on the far side of the Sun. The inferior planets Mercury and Venus can be at inferior conjunction (directly between the Earth and Sun) and at superior conjunction! Getting confused? Come on up to the Observatory on any Saturday night and let one of the volunteers give a visual presentation of just how this works.

## WNAS Information Board - Past and Future Events

First off, I would like to remind all members that July 21st will be the next general membership meeting of the WNAS. We hope to see a good crowd and it would be great if everyone could arrive by 7:00 pm at the Observatory. The special guest speaker Gary Cole will be giving a talk on “The Birth of Astrophysics.” Gary is a local businessman and physicist, the talk will discuss how using light from a star, scientists in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century figured out how to determine the temperature, composition and speed of the star being observed. A spectrograph used to conduct this type of stellar investigation will be on display at the meeting for all to see. This should be an informative and very interesting talk.

I would like to reiterate the article on the previous page, if you missed Novice training on July 16, the next training event will be August 13th one hour before dark at the Observatory, bring along all your questions and hopefully we can spark your interest in astronomy.

On June 16th the Operating Board for the WNAS met at the Observatory for it’s regular bi-monthly meeting. Jack L. Davis our Vice President and acting President called the meeting to order. It was announced at this meeting that Roger Block has resigned as the WNAS President, the Operating Board and Membership appreciated all that Roger has done for the WNAS and hope that he will continue to be an active member in the Society. Robert Collier announced he will develop a single page brochure to describe the relationship between WNCC (Western Nevada Community College) and WNAS. The brochure will also describe the history and purpose of the Observatory, a generous supply will be on hand at the Observatory along with the current WNAS newsletter.

## Objects in the Night

Can you identify the celestial objects in the Desert Sky logo? See page 3.



*“It’s somewhere between a nova and a supernova... probably a very good nova.”*

**Note from the Editor:** Some of the pictures may not come out as clear as we would like in the newsletter, go to our website for the best resolution. We’re anticipating a change in our method of distributing the newsletter in the coming months.

## Jack C. Davis Saturday Night Star Party’s



Check the WNAS website for a better defined version of these photos!



### Just what is a Star Party?

I guess the most simple definition would be a fun time under the stars.

Star gazing like a lot of other activities sometimes is more fun if enjoyed with a group of people. Members of the Western Nevada Astronomical Society hold star parties every Saturday night at the Jack C. Davis Observatory. These Saturday night events are for the general membership and the public is invited, all free of charge. Many people find star parties are excellent opportunities to become acquainted with the hobby of astronomy. Star parties held by the WNAS are fun for all ages and a great way to spend the evening as a family.

### What to bring?

Bring your favorite telescope or pair of binoculars. Perhaps some of you have telescopes you have never used, bring them up, the Observatory volunteers will help you set up and get you started on exploring the night sky. If you don’t have a telescope, don’t worry, you can look through one of ours. It’s often very cool at the Observatory, even during these very pleasant summer months, so bring a little extra clothing just in case!

### Etiquette

You mean you have rules? Well no, but here are some guidelines that will make your time more enjoyable.

When driving into the Observatory parking lot, dim your lights if you’re comfortable doing that, otherwise don’t hesitate to find a parking spot and then turn off your cars headlights.

Please ask someone before you look through their telescope. Our members are more than happy to assist you but please extend them this common courtesy.

We maintain a family friendly atmosphere where folks can feel great about bringing their kids, but small children must be carefully watched around the equipment.

Please refrain from using regular white light flashlights. White light is detrimental to night vision. You can easily make a red filtered flashlight with a piece of red cellophane secured over the end of the flashlight with a rubber band.

### Photos top to bottom:

A small crowd deciding what they will view next in the night sky and wishing I hadn’t just ruined their night vision with the flash of my camera, the crowd watching for a flare from a Iridium satellite, folks getting setup for the night, and last, a view of Jupiter overhead while the night slowly darkens.

WNAS star party times: Every Saturday night at dusk.  
JCD Observatory is located behind the community college in Carson City at 2699 Van Patten Avenue.

Objects in the Sky answers: M-27 Dumbell Nebula and in the upper right, Eclipse of the Sun