



DESERT SKY

Presidents Message - April, 2007

My name is Mike Thomas, and I am proud to say that I am the new president of the Western Nevada Astronomical Society. It is my intention to try to fill the shoes of outgoing president, Professor Collier, in fact I will depend on him to be a mentor to me.

It is my intention to set some goals for our membership, and work toward the completion of those goals. The members present at the March 15th meeting voted to have membership meetings every month, on the third Tuesday (7:00 pm). I made that motion because I believe we can build a stronger sense of fellowship, and a continuity of purpose through monthly meetings. We will see each other more often, effectively doubling the opportunities to exchange ideas, work on projects and learn more about Astronomy. I also assured the members present that I would schedule interesting guest speakers, who would invigorate the membership, via a broader spectrum of subject matter. These speakers may not always address the topic of Astronomy, for you are a curious, intellectual group, and learning is a lifelong process. I also believe that we can reach out to the community in such a way that more people will experience the wonder of the Celestial Dome.

I know that there has been some discussion about changing the mission of our group. Should we drop the structure of a "society" and just focus on supporting the observatory? There is also a slackening of meeting attendance combined with a general feeling of atrophy, making some feel that maybe we should narrow the scope of our purpose. These issues are valid, and they are an outgrowth of a history of "a few doing the work of many".

Well, now is not the time to step back. Rather it is the time to move forward. This is the moment we must seize and take ;this organization to the next level. I have the conviction that our Astronomical Society will evolve into an entity that will make us all proud.

The first step is to show up. So I hope to see a large turnout at our April meeting. See you there!

March Minutes

Robert Collier opened the meeting at 7:00 pm March 15th. Fourteen members were in attendance. Opening remarks centered around the election of new officers, the future of WNAS and the Societies impact on the community. Last minutes approved, treasury has \$3400.00 approximately. The new WNAS officers are listed below, Mike Thomas, the new President addressed the meeting with a number of excellent ideas for our future. Membership at Mike's request voted to have monthly meetings and a new monthly format for the newsletter, which you are viewing at this time. Guest speaker was Tim Burns, a member of ASN (Astronomical Society of Nevada). Tim gave an excellent lecture on "Star Clusters, Open and Globular." The meeting was closed at 8:30. The next WNAS meeting will be on April 17 (3rd Tuesday of every month) at 7:00 pm.

WNAS Officers

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APRIL WNAS Membership Meeting GUEST SPEAKER!! Ann Maybury is one of the women featured in the book, "The Women of Apollo". She is a mathematician who worked in the Apollo Program and later on the Hubble Space Telescope. Ann will our guest speaker April 17th at our monthly membership meeting. She will be relating her experiences over a long career helping put American astronauts into space and processing images from Hubble. Don't miss this presentation!

Events Calendar

*** *Astronomy Day April 21st*

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April	15	16	17 WNAS Meeting, 7:00 PM, New Moon	18	19	20	21 Star Party, Dark Sky
	22	23 First Quarter Moon	24	25	26	27	28 Star Party
May	29	30	1	2 Full Moon	3	4	5 Star Party
	6	7	8	9 Last Quarter Moon	10	11	12 Star Party
	13	14	15 WNAS Meeting, 7:00 PM	16	17 New Moon	18	19 Star Party, Dark Sky



WNCC Foundation (WNAS)
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