



# DESERT SKY

## Presidents Message - July, 2007

Most of us amateur astronomers started out looking at the night sky, curious about the wonders there. Then we probably received a cheap department store telescope which both frustrated us and provided a few great moments of discovery. Time would pass and perhaps your interest in the hobby would ebb and flow, while building a career and raising a family. Many of us would then purchase a higher quality scope, then perhaps upgrade again. I'm sure that some of us have several different telescopes stashed in closets, unused.

I'm that typical amateur. I've been in and out of the hobby, and I have an inexpensive "department store" refractor, and a newer high tech "goto" Meade telescope.

However, my most used astronomical instrument is binoculars. I've spoken with many amateur astronomers and it seems that I'm not alone. Binoculars are easy and quick to use. I keep a pair in the trunk of my car, and next to my patio door.

Binoculars must be the most underrated scientific instrument in existence. Dr. Mike Reynolds, of the Chabot Space and Science Center, wrote a terrific book titled, "Binocular Stargazing". This month's membership meeting guest speaker segment will be a binocular workshop, in which Reynold's book will be discussed. I encourage all members to bring binoculars, if they have them. If anyone has a parallelogram binocular mount, please bring it as well. If you don't normally use binoculars, I think you will find this to be an interesting and "eye opening" part of the hobby.

I'll be the facilitator of this session, and I'll give a brief overview of the history and use of this astronomical tool. See you all there!!

### June 19th Minutes

Mike Thomas called the membership meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Attendance was very good with 17 members attending. Mike asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell a little about their astronomy interests. The June 19th WNAS meeting date was incorrectly stated in the June newsletter and I (the editor) apologize to all for that mistake, especially those that showed up on that date! Mike took a few steps in crisis management to correct this situation: 1. The website was correctly updated, 2. Mailed the newsletter out as quickly as possible and 3. Called all the membership, a monumental task—Thanks to Mike!! This exercise did prove there is a positive line of communication between the officers and general membership when the situation arises.

Status of the Saturday night star parties was discussed, support by WNAS members and others has continued to make these very positive public events. Robert Collier let all know that the Jack C. Davis Observatory website is about to go online and that the light blocking wall has been delayed once again. Brian Guerin gave a treasury report (\$2600.00) and the May minutes were approved.

Jim Bean requested help on July 7th (Saturday) with a class of students coming up to the observatory, several volunteers stepped forward. Frank Davis gave a review of this years Riverside Telescope Makers Conference.

Harold Mason gave an excellent lecture on variable stars. Thank you Harold from all the membership!!

**Next WNAS General Membership Meeting - July 17th**

### WNAS Officers

**President**

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**July WNAS Membership Meeting GUEST SPEAKER!!** This meeting will be a binocular workshop presented by society members.

# Events Calendar

	July					August	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
15	16	17 WNAS Meeting	18	19	20	21 Star Party, First Qtr Moon	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Star Party	29 Full Moon
	30	31	1	2	3	4 Star Party	5 Last Qtr Moon
							12 New Moon
							13 Perseid Meteor Showers & Neptune at Opposition
							14
							15
							16
							17
							18 Star Party, BOG Mtg 6:00pm



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