



# DESERT SKY

## Presidents Message - August, 2007

Astronomers have found another new planet. A group of three telescopes, which included the Lowell Observatory, the Palomar Observatory and the Canary Islands Spanish Observatory identified the planet. The new object has been named TrES-4, and is in the constellation Hercules at a distance of 1,400 light years.

TrES-4 is the largest extra-solar planet discovered so far. It is almost two times the diameter of Jupiter. It is believed to be mostly hydrogen, and not solid, so you'd have to swim to get around on it, instead of walk. It would be like swimming in the hottest hot tub you could imagine because the planet's temperature is estimated to be over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. There have been around 250 extra-solar planets discovered at this point.

Your Observatory Board of Governors has recently set two goals for the next 12 months. One is to work on perfecting color imaging techniques and the other is to study and search for extra-solar planets. So this news about TrES-4 is of interest to us.

Jack Davis, President of the Board of Governors, will bring us up to date on recent board activities at our August 21st monthly meeting. See you there. Mike Thomas.

July 17th Minutes

Mike Thomas called the WNAS meeting to order at 7:05 pm. There were 14 members present. The minutes from the last meetings, as written in the last newsletter were approved. Brian Guerin gave the treasury report, the Society has approximately \$3,973.92, \$1,000.00 of this is to go for two \$500.00 student scholarships later this year. Robert Collier, as JCDO Director said the light blocking wall was back on the schedule, work should start in early August. There was no old business other than discussion of the light blocking wall. New business included a few items: 1. It was recommended that another batch of JCDO/WNAS t-shirts be ordered for future sale, this was agreed to by all. 2. Identification badges for volunteers were recommended, to better identify those folks that visitors could approach with questions. Mike Thomas was going to do further research on this subject. There were no other items from the floor and the WNAS meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

A short break was taken with refreshments before beginning the evening lecture.

Mike Thomas presented an excellent lecture on binocular astronomy. All of us telescopers were a little skeptical of this subject, but Mike turned many into believers. He covered, so many interesting facets of binocular use, viewing, purchasing, mounting, etc, etc, - I couldn't possibly describe everything here.

**Next WNAS General Membership Meeting - August 21st**

### WNAS Officers

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### **August WNAS Membership Meeting GUEST SPEAKER!!**

Chris DeWitt, Restoration Supervisor, Nevada State Railroad Museum, will give a presentation on the restoration of the famous "McKeen Motorcar".

# Events Calendar

Day	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Sunday		20 First Qtr Moon																													
Monday	19			21 WNAS Meeting					27	28 Full Moon																					
Tuesday																															
Wednesday																															
Thursday																															
Friday																															
Saturday																															

August September



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