



DESERT SKY

Presidents Message - October, 2007

Dr. Louis Friedman, Executive Director of the Planetary Society, spoke to the subject of the "Pioneer Anomaly" in a recent mailing. The Pioneer spacecraft, Pioneer 10 and 11, were launched in 1972 and 1973. The two probes completed their missions years ago, but since then, they have given us a mystery that may challenge the laws of physics.

You see, they have both been slowing down and falling behind their planned trajectories. Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientist John Anderson first determined this anomaly, and it has been confirmed by several independent research teams.

Dr. Friedman states, "Obvious causes, like gravitational influences from Kuiper Belt objects, or the effect of solar wind, have been excluded." He goes on to say that if all "conventional" explanations are ruled out then, "we will be left with ground breaking new science." That could possibly be so called "Dark Matter" or "Dark Energy", challenging Newtonian Physics. Something we can't explain is slowing our spacecraft down.

The past couple decades have been a period of exciting explorations and new discoveries, but it seems like the more we learn, the more we are confronted with mystery. Mike Thomas

September 18th Minutes

Mike Thomas opened the general membership meeting at 7:00 pm. There were 17 WNAS members in attendance. A survey was taken to see who would be interested in a field trip and tour at the State Railroad Museum (Carson) and/or the National Automobile Museum (Reno). The results showed that the members in attendance would be interested in one or both field trips. Mike will report on the progress toward that goal at a future WNAS meeting.

Jim Bean and Frank Davis agreed to work on starting up the "Novice Night" program again later this fall. Frank was one of several lecturers in the past at these events and did a great job. The "Novice Night" events provide the public and WNAS members with an introduction to the use of telescopes and the night sky. These events were originally introduced by Jack Davis and were a huge success, it's great to see them return!

Red Sumner, Dana Luterick, Jack Davis and Walt Dillard gave reports on the Saturday night star parties and discussed issues relating to the main observatory telescopes.

Steve Gillett gave a powerpoint presentation on the "Geology of Venus", many thanks to Steve for a great lecture.

Next WNAS General Membership Meeting - October 16th @ 7:00 pm

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October WNAS Membership Meeting GUEST SPEAKER!!

Larry Martin, Airport Authority Board Member & 30 year FAA veteran, presents: "Aviation History in Northern Nevada"

Events Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14		15	16 WNAS Meeting 7:00 pm	17	18	19 First Qtr Moon	20 Star Party
21 Orionid Meteor Shower	22	23	24	25 Full Moon	26	27 Star Party	
28	29	30	31	1 Last Qtr Moon	2	3 Star Party	
4 Daylight Saving Time Ends	5	6	7	8	9 New Moon	10 Star Party, Dark Sky	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Star Party, BOG Meeting @ 3:30 pm	

November

October



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