



DESERT SKY

Presidents Message - April, 2008

The WNAS is a volunteer organization whose task is to support the mission of the Observatory. That mission, of course, is to educate.

The Saturday night star parties and visits by school groups, etc, demonstrate that we certainly are meeting our goals and objectives.

However, your efforts reap other benefits that may not be so evident:

Firstly, you are a role model whenever you do something at the Observatory. Adult and student visitors, and even members of your own families are exposed to your "volunteer ethic". They see you helping to enrich the lives of others, without financial compensation. You exemplify the philosophy that there are other rewards besides money.

Secondly, when you show a child a celestial object, or talk about the mysteries of the universe, you may be starting that youngster on a lifelong path of education. That Observatory visitor might develop an interest in science that sparks a passion for learning. We may never know how much we influence someone by showing them Saturn, for example, but that moment could be a key revelation in their life.

Lastly, when others see what you are doing at the Observatory, they realize that you are demonstrating that education continues throughout our lives, because your curiosity is evident, as is your own wonderment of the things you see.

So you see, volunteering can have real impact on our visitors. Mike Thomas

March 18, Minutes

Mike opened the meeting at 7:05 with 13 members and guests in attendance. Mike presented a review of popular and interesting astronomy websites, commented on the successful evening under the stars during last months lunar eclipse and introduced potential new members.

The previous meetings minutes were approved and Brian reported that the WNAS has approximately \$3200.00 in the treasury. Robert Collier commented on a couple new volunteers he's been talking with to help Gerald and another to work with the radio telescope. Robert later in the meeting reviewed the new purchases made by the observatory board. Robert also reported that the college would like to finish the work on the light blocking fence, this was something the volunteers were prepared to do, we welcome the colleges intent.

Jim Bean, the WNAS webmaster, gave a briefing on the current status of the website and mentioned that he would like to have a section devoted to GRB's (Gamma Ray Bursts). Jim let the group know that Carson High student John Sousa came in second in the Student Olympiad competition in Las Vegas. Jim is a teacher at Carson High and one of his students ranked quite high in one of the competitions.

There were no telescope operator reports. Jack Davis reported that the Jack C. Davis Observatory Board of Directors elections were held last Saturday, Brian Guerin is the new President and Jack will be the VP.

Guest speakers were Jim Bean and Rebecca Badzinski with a lecture on Data Imput and The Meaning of Life, great lecture on the progress being made by Jim's class in the field of earth's magnetic field.

Mike close the meeting at 7:45 and the lecture series continued until 8:45.

The next WNAS meeting will be on Tuesday April 15th at 7:00 pm.

APRIL 15th WNAS Membership Meeting GUEST SPEAKER!!

"The Legend of Wyatt Earp" Lecture and video by Mike Thomas, a little off the topic of Astronomy, but come enjoy a talk on this very interesting topic !!!! Mike's given this to lecture to many service groups and at community gatherings.

WNAS Officers

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

May

April

****Astronomy Day May 10th*

Events Calendar



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