



DESERT SKY

Presidents Message - June, 2008

As I write this we're being blessed with warm weather and cloudless nights. For the first time in quite a while we have good "viewing". At the start of each month I go to www.skymaps.com and print the month's free Evening Sky Map off their website. The two pages you print include a user friendly planisphere and a listing of interesting celestial objects viewable that month. The objects list is divided into Naked Eye, Binocular and Telescope categories. We always try to have copies of these available at the Observatory on the table next to the Visitor Book.

The June Sky Map is filled with many viewing suggestions. Sagittarius is visiting us again, rising in the South-eastern sky. It's big "teapot" shape is easy to spot and it is full of nebulae and star clusters. Jupiter is passing through at this time as well. Of course, you are also looking toward the center of our galaxy when you are observing Sagittarius.

High in the sky is Hercules, with it's "Keystone" asterism. Midway along the Keystone's West boundary is the magnificent Hercules globular star cluster (M13).

Throughout June you will see Mars and Saturn move closer together in the constellation Leo, but you better be quick because Leo is setting in the West early in the evening.

Scorpius is prominent in the Southern sky with the giant reddish star Antares shining bright. The name "Antares" is from the Greek, meaning "Rival of Mars". It is called that because it is found close to the planetary ecliptic and it is red in color.

Get outside tonight and have a look, Mike Thomas

May 20th Minutes

Mike Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mike presented to the group a series of astro-images taken by observatory staff on CD. Eight members attended the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and the Treasurer reported the WNAS has a \$3,966.71 balance. The WNAS efforts for Astronomy Day and Telescopes around town were reviewed and discussed.

The telescope operators reported no major problems. The BRC needed re-syncing, which Red Sumner and Brian Guerin corrected, hopefully this was a temporary glitch and won't reoccur. Gerald has successfully imaged the Sun using the 90mm Coronado Solar telescope in the dome behind the observatory.

Jim Bean wasn't present, but has requested astro-images, taken by observatory volunteers, for a WNAS gallery on the web site, Mike Thomas said he would provide him with some.

Old business consisted of a request for volunteers for the Taylor Creek lectures at S. Lake Tahoe, no volunteers came forward. Discussion of the WNAS scholarship program was deferred until Robert Collier is present. There were no further comments from the members on old business.

New business consisted of electing Mike Thomas to another year term as WNAS president. Brian Guerin mentioned that if any members are interested in the newsletter editor position, let him know. There were no further comments concerning new business and the meeting was adjourned at 07:35 pm.

Mike Thomas gave a great lecture on Swat Team operations in law enforcement.

Next WNAS General Membership Meeting - Tuesday June 17th @ 7:00 pm

June WNAS Membership Meeting GUEST SPEAKER!!

Retired science teacher Jim Corley will present a lecture on "Galileo, the Astronomer"

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Events Calendar

Day	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Sunday																														
Monday																														
Tuesday																														
Wednesday																														
Thursday																														
Friday																														
Saturday																														

July
June



WNCC Foundation (WNAS)
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