



DESERT SKY

Presidents Message - December, 2008

She is an American success story. Her mother immigrated to the U.S.A. from Germany, and here father from the Ukraine. She became a scholar and an athlete in high school and college. She graduated from M.I.T with a B.S. and Masters degrees in Mechanical Engineering. She was commissioned as an officer in the Navy after college in 1985, went into diver training, and became a certified diving and salvage expert. She served in the fleet and is a qualified Surface Warfare Officer.

In 1996 she was accepted into NASA's Astronaut Program, and trained to be a mission specialist. Along the way she married and is a mother. In August 2006 she flew on Space Shuttle Mission STS-115, performing two space walks while installing a 17 ton truss for the Space Station's solar panels. Throughout this time she has risen to the rank of Captain in the Navy.

She and her fellow crew members just completed Shuttle Mission STS-126, her second spaceflight, during which she spacewalked once more, doing upgrades on the station. On November 19th, while on an Extra Vehicular Activity, U.S. Navy Captain Astronaut Heide Stefanshyn-Piper had a tool bag, with a couple non-essential items, slip away from her and float off into space. She'll probably always be remembered for that tiny slip up, but in my book she's an American Hero.

Mike Thomas

November 18th Minutes

Mike Thomas opened the WNAS general membership meeting at 7:00 pm with seventeen members in attendance. The previous meetings minutes were approved and the current treasury balance was reported as \$3555.28. Mike started the meeting by mentioning his desire to have a members special event pertaining to the operation and maintenance of the Observatories telescopes. Robert Collier reported that great progress was being made on the Observatory Student Assistant program and that operation cards were being made up for each of the telescopes. Brian Guerin reported that the Annual Board of Governors report to WNC was submitted to the college and was favorable received. There were no issues reported by the Observatory telescope operators, all the equipment seems to be working quite well. Jack Davis gave a summary of the variable stars that are currently be imaged and progress on the data reports to AAVSO. John Sousa (webmaster) reviewed with members the new WNAS site. A motion was passed to pay WNC the postage for the WNAS newsletters in the future. The meeting was followed by an excellent lecture on the Space Program by Mike Thomas.

Next WNAS General Membership Meeting - January 20th

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December WNAS Membership Meeting GUEST SPEAKER!!

Mike Thomas will present Part Two of his lecture on America's Space Program, "Apollo 11, One Giant Step"

Events Calendar

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16 WNAS Meeting @ 7:00 pm	17	18	19 Last Qtr Moon	20 Star Party	
21 Winter Solstice @ 12:04 GMT	22	23	24	25	26	27 Star Party, New Moon, Dark Sky	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 Star Party	
4 First Qtr Moon	5	6	7	8	9	10 Star Party, Full Moon	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Star Party, Last Qtr Moon	

December January



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