



Presidents Message - August, 2010

There are many people I admire and respect, and there is a very short list of persons that are heroes in my book. I'd like to tell you about one of my heroes. His name is Franklin Story Musgrave, and I'm sure most of you have heard about him. He was born in August, 1935, in Boston. He dropped out of High School before graduating, and joined the Marines. He did not turn his back on education however; because he went on to obtain two bachelor degrees, four Masters Degrees, and an M.D. from Columbia University.

He worked for NASA for thirty years, and is their most experienced astronaut. Named to the Astronaut corp. in 1967 he first worked in the Skylab program, and then flew six missions in Space Shuttles. He has a total of 1,282 hours in space. His last shuttle flight was on STS-80 in 1996 at the age of 62. He has flown shuttle missions with 27 different astronauts and is the only astronaut who has flown in all five shuttles.

Musgrave is also a very experienced aircraft pilot. He has amassed a total of 18,000 hours of pilot flight time, in 160 types of aircraft. Musgrave also is a skilled parachutist having done over 800 freefall jumps. In a recent Air & Space Magazine interview he stated that even with all his time in space, flying missions never became routine for him. He said, "You can never get enough of playing in an environment you were not evolved to be in." You would think that a man like Story Musgrave must be too busy for hobbies, nay I say, for his hobbies are: flying, fast cars, chess, gardening, literature, poetry, microcomputers, parachuting, soaring, photography, reading, scuba diving, and running!

Well, I guess you can see why Story Musgrave, "Renaissance Man", is one of my heroes

Mike Thomas

July 2010 Minutes

July meeting...for the minutes:

- Observatory Director Robert Collier gave a report on recent equipment upgrades.
- Mike Thomas reported on the increase in public visitors for our Saturday star parties.
- The topic of "field trips" for the membership was brought up, and it was agreed that it is very difficult to get a group together to go on an organized outing. Mike remarked that attempts to get trips organized for a Carson City Railroad Museum visit and a Reno Automobile Museum visit both failed in the past.
- Robert Collier gave an interesting Astrophysics lecture.

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Speaker info for the *****Tuesday, July 17, 2010 @ 7pm** ***membership meeting:

The lecture/slideshow
"King Arthur"
The telling of the legend and an examination of its historical validity.
Presented by Mike Thomas

Events Calendar

~ August 2010 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Moon Last Quarter	4	5	6	7 Dark Skies Star Party
8	9	10 New Moon (perigee)	11	12 Perseids Meteor Shower	13* Perseids Meteor Shower	14 Dark Skies Star Party
15	16 Moon 1 st Quarter	17 <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO</i>	18	19	20 Neptune at Opposition (closest approach to Earth)	21 Star Party Isaac Newton Lecture 7:30 pm
22	23	24 Full Moon, will be the most distant and therefore the smallest of the year	25 Moon at Apogee	26	27	28 Star Party
29	30	31	Notes: *August 13 th , Triple Conjunction with the Moon, the planets Venus, Mars, and Saturn			

~ September 2010 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Moon Last Quarter	2	3	4 Dark Skies Star Party
5	6	7 Moon at perigee	8 New Moon	9	10	11 Dark Skies Star Party Venus 0.3° north of Moon, occultation
12	13	14	15 Moon 1 st Quarter	16	17	18 Star Party
19	20	21* <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO</i> Jupiter @ Opposition	22 Uranus @ Opposition	23 Full Moon Autumnal Equinox occurs in the northern hemisphere at 03:09 UT	24	25 Star Party
26	27	28	29	30	Notes: *Moon at apogee	