



## Presidents Message – December, 2010

I have read that the two scientific endeavors that are advancing faster than all others are Medicine and Astronomy. Looking back over the past few years that certainly seem true. Discoveries are brought to our attention continuously in both disciplines. Lately there have been some developments in Astronomy & Biology that may prove to be the stories of the year, if not the stories of the decade, or more! The evening's program at this month's membership meeting on Tuesday the 21st will focus on these recent discoveries. I believe you all will find the presentation to be very interesting, as it may change the way you have viewed the universe and its potential for harboring life.

The winter solstice is this coming Tuesday the 21st, the same day as our upcoming meeting. We will experience a total lunar eclipse that runs from about 10:30 PM Monday evening to about 1:00 AM Tuesday morning, the solstice. If you were a druid in England 45 centuries ago this would be an ominous event which would very likely convince you that doom was eminent. We know that we need not worry; rather we hopefully will be able to observe a wonderful celestial event. This all will depend on weather of course, so keep your fingers crossed. The Observatory telescope operators will be observing and recording the eclipse that evening and early morning. We will have the facility open to members and the public throughout the event. If there is some clear sky, we will open the Observatory at 6:00 PM Monday evening the 20th and there will be telescopes on the patio for viewing. If the sky is clear enough for lunar observing we will remain open until the eclipse ends around 1:00 AM Tuesday morning, the 21st.

Observing heavenly happenings like this eclipse is what amateur astronomy is all about, so if the weather is kind to us we hope to see you Monday evening. Also, don't miss the monthly meeting at 7:00 PM Tuesday evening, the 21st. The lunar eclipse will be reviewed, and the program will expand your knowledge of recent major discoveries.

**Mike Thomas**

November 2010

### November meeting minutes:

- Professor Collier reported on the upcoming patio expansion project.
- Mike Thomas gave a PowerPoint presentation on his recent trip to Egypt.

### *WNAS Officers*

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Speaker info for the \*\*\*Tuesday, December 21, 2010 @ 7pm\*\*\*membership meeting:

**"Counting Stars, Earth's New Life Form, and Saturn's Rings"**  
**Presented by Mike Thomas, Professor Robert Collier, and Dr. Jack Davis.**

# Events Calendar

~ December 2010 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Star Party Dark Skies
5 New Moon	6	7	8	9	10	11 Star Party Dark Skies
12	13 Moon 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Geminids Meteor Shower	14 Geminids Meteor Shower	15	16	17	18 Star Party
19	20 <b>Full Moon- Lunar Eclipse</b> 9:27p-3:06a	21 <i>WNAS Meeting</i> <i>7pm JCDO</i> Winter Solstice	22	23	24	25 Star Party
26	27	28 Moon Last Quarter	29	30	31	Notes: * <b>Full Moon- Lunar Eclipse</b> 9:27p-3:06a

~ January 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Star Party
2	3 Sun closest to Earth (0.98 AU) Quadrantids Meteor Shower	4 New Moon Quadrantids Meteor Shower	5	6	7	8 Star Party Dark Skies
9	10	11	12 Moon 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	13	14	15 Star Party
16	17	18 <i>WNAS Meeting</i> <i>7pm JCDO</i>	19 Full Moon	20	21	22 Star Party
23	24	25	26 Moon Last Qtr	27	28	29 Star Party Dark Skies
30	31	Notes:				