



Presidents Message – March, 2011

We were scheduled to do our Messier Marathon this past Saturday, March 5th. That was to be the best opportunity for an observer to locate all 110 celestial objects that Charles Messier cataloged in the late 18th century. We look forward to these once a year all-nighter observing sessions, and this was no exception. People were going to bring snacks, warm clothing, and extra coffee grounds. Everyone also had hopes for good weather, as in "clear skies". I was going to give a lecture about Messier's life and his impact on Astronomy.

Well, we were ready but the sky was not! There was a ninety percent cloud cover and it was windy. Bummer! However, we had a full house of visitors at the Observatory so I gave a slide-show lecture on the Hubble Space Telescope. The presentation included many wonderful Hubble images, and an account of the four repair missions that have kept the space telescope operating.

We have rescheduled the Messier Marathon for the second best observing time period, which is the weekend of April 2nd & 3rd. During the days just prior to that weekend we will keep an eye on the weather forecasts and make a decision on having our marathon Friday or Saturday night. The "Messier" lecture will be given at that time. More on this topic will be discussed at our March meeting, this coming Tuesday, March 15th.

The speaker at our meeting will be Red Sumner (see below). Red is a member of the JCDO Board of Governors, one of our telescope operators, was the first president of our Astronomical Society, and he is our go to guy for any question that starts with, "Where in the sky is.....?". Red will be providing us with a lecture on asteroids, which will feature the work he has been doing at the Observatory. If the sky is clear the, Red will take us outside for some night sky instruction, so just in case, bring a warm coat & hat with you to the meeting.

Mike Thomas

February, 2011

February 2011 Meeting Minutes

- There was a discussion about Dr. Neil de Grasse's recent lecture at UNR.
- Plans were made for what was the upcoming Messier Marathon.
- A motion was made, and passed, to spend up to \$250 for matted prints of some of our member's astrophotography, which will be displayed at the Observatory, and at the main campus.

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Speaker info for the *****Tuesday, March 15, 2011 @ 7pm*****membership meeting:

**Red Sumner presents:
"Asteroids, a Local Perspective"**

Events Calendar

~ March 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 New Moon	5 Dark Skies Star Party
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Star Party Moon 1 st Quarter
13	14	15 <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO</i>	16	17	18	19 Star Party Full Moon
20 Vernal Equinox occurs at 23:21 UTC	21	22	23	24	25	26 Star Party Moon Last Quarter
27	28	29	30	31	Notes:	

~ April 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Dark Skies Star Party
3 New Moon Saturn at opposition	4	5	6	7	8	9 Star Party
10	11 Moon 1 st Qtr	12	13	14	15	16 Star Party
17	18 Full Moon	19 <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO</i>	20	21 Lyrid meteors	22 Lyrid meteors	23 Star Party
24	25 Moon Last Qtr	26	27	28	29	30 Dark Skies Star Party