



## Presidents Message – September, 2011

Our Saturday night Star Parties have been very popular with the public the last several months. We have been presenting lectures every Saturday evening, and we have had generally good weather for telescope viewing. These evenings draw an average of about 40 to 50 visitors, sometimes more. However, we also have to fill the need for astronomy hobbyists to be able to get assistance with their telescopes, and to learn about the night sky. In an effort to address this we have set aside the first Saturday of each month to be an Open House and telescope clinic Star Party.

September 3rd was our first such evening. We had a strong attendance figure of about 30 persons. People were getting their questions answered and obtaining some good sky viewing. There will be no lectures offered on these first Saturdays. I encourage our members to bring their own telescopes to any Saturday Star Party, but especially so on one of the "Clinic" evenings. The next one will be on October 1st.

There has been quite a bit of interest in having a Messier Marathon this fall. We usually hold it in the spring but October will afford us another opportunity. The object is to try to observe as many of the Messier Catalog of objects that you can in one all-nighter. We've had a lot of fun doing this in the past. This topic will be discussed at this month's membership meeting on Tuesday the 20th, 7 PM at the Observatory.

In other news, the Observatory parking lot repaving project is almost wrapped up. The new pavement is finished, and the handicapped sidewalk and lighting is all done. The only remaining work is the striping of the parking spaces. We hope to have the expansion of the concrete patio area completed before winter. That is a summary of what is going on at the Observatory. If you haven't been there in a while, come on up and take a look.

*Mike Thomas*

August, 2011

### August 2011 Meeting Minutes

- Observatory Director Robert Collier gave those present an update on the progress of the parking lot paving project, and the patio expansion.
- WNAS Member Jim Bean gave a talk on Solar Emissions and the 2012 'end of the world' myth.
- WNAS President Mike Thomas closed the business portion of the meeting in a record 12 minutes!

### *WNAS Officers*

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Speaker info for the **\*\*\*Tuesday, September 20, 2011 @ 7pm \*\*\***membership meeting:

WNAS Member Rick Cooley presents,  
**"Callisto, Arcas, and the Great Asterism"**  
Myths and objects of Ursa Major & Minor

## Events Calendar

~ September 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Dark Skies Star Party
4 Moon 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	5	6	7	8	9	10 Star Party
11	12 Full Moon	13	14	15	16	17 Star Party
18	19	20 <i>WNAS Meeting</i> 7pm JCDO Moon Last Qtr	21	22	23 <i>Autumnal equinox</i> 09:05 UTC	24 Dark Skies Star Party
25 Uranus at opposition	26	27 New Moon	28	29	30	<b>Notes:</b>

~ October 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Star Party
2	3	4 Moon 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	5	6	7	8 Star Party
9	10	11	12 Full Moon	13	14	15 Star Party
16 Comet Elinin Closest Approach	17	18 <i>WNAS Meeting</i> 7pm JCDO	19	20 Moon Last Qtr	21 <b>Orionids meteors</b>	22 Dark Skies Star Party <b>Orionids meteors</b>
23	24	25	26 New Moon	27	28	29 Dark Skies Star Party Jupiter- Opposition
30	31	<b>Notes:</b>				

